

FEEDING VALUE OF SOYABEANS GROWN IN LITHUANIA

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Summary. In 2000-2001 a study was conducted at the Lithuanian Institute of Animal Science to determine the chemical composition and feeding value of soyabeans grown in Lithuania. The purpose of the trials was also to determine the effects of soyabean meal inclusion in the diets on rumen fermentation of nitrogenous matter and carbohydrates and milk production of cows. Two different compound feeds have been formulated. In the diets for the experimental group of cows, rapeseed cake was replaced (equally by proteins) with 22 % of pelleted soyabean meal. The study indicated that soyabeans of cultivar "Progres" contained 35.9 % of crude protein, 18.8 % of fat, 25.3 g of lysine and 7.47 g of methionine per kg DM. The energy value per kg DM amounted to 14.6 MJ of metabolizable energy for livestock. Pelleting of soyabeans at 120 oC has only partially reduced the urease activity, and, thus, unfavourable effects of antinutritive matter on rumen microflora and cow productivity have not been eliminated.

Keywords: soyabeans, urease activity, rumen, lactating cows.