

THE EFFECT OF PROCESING TECHNOLOGY ON THE QUALITY PARAMETERS OF FORAGE

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Summary. The aim of the research was to determine the effect of mechanical processing of red clever on quality parameters of silage and hay. Such parameters as humidity, amount of carotene, organic mater digestibility (OMD) and metabolizable energy of red clever hay, silage and the mats were investigated. It was determined that in dried to 15-17 % of humidity mats, the amount of carotene decreased 1,2-1,3 times if to compare to the amount of carotene in fresh cut grass. Mechanical procrssing of red clever increased forage OMD in the rumen of cattle. The OMD of hay produced of red clever mats was in 2 – 5% higher than in hay produced of unprocessed clever. The silage produced of red clever mats was of rather high quality and its chemical composition satisfied the requirements for the I class of silage, OM digestibility was 74,87%.

Keywords: red clever, hay, silage, mats, humidity, organic mater digestibility, metabolizable energy, cattle.