

DYNAMICS OF GLUCOSE IN POSTNATAL ONTOGENESIS IN CALVES IN ASSOCIATION WITH AGE AND FEED

Aija Ilgaža, Edīte Birģele

Latvian University of Agriculture, Jelgava, Latvia

Abstract. Forty eight calves of different age were used for the experimental research. Animals were divided into seven groups depending on their age and diet starting from the first day of life to four months of age, and two years old adult cows. The level of glucose in blood was determined at 6 o'clock before their morning feed, as well as 30 min., 60 min. and 90 min. after feeding. It was found that the level of glucose in blood affected either by the age or the type of feed as the time after feed. In neonate calves just after birth the level of glucose in blood is very low. Five to six hours after colostrums intake, the level of glucose increases radically. In older calves that are not fed on whole milk or milk replacer any more, the level of glucose in blood is significantly lower in comparison with animals in the period of milk diet ($P < 0,05$).

Keywords: calves, postnatal ontogenesis, glucose.