

CARCASS TRAITS AND MEAT QUALITY OF LITHUANIAN BLACK AND WHITE BULLS OFFERED DIFFERENT SILAGES

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Summary. In 2001, a trial of 143 days involving three groups (n=6 per group) of fattening bulls was carried out at the Lithuanian Institute of Animal Science to determine carcass quality, chemical composition of meat and growth rate of bulls fed silage, which was made using different technologies and different silaging material. The yield of carcass including abdominal cavity fat of bulls fed maize and maize+15% mixture silage, was by 0.3% and 0.51% and muscling score was by 0.09 and 0.2 units higher compared with the group fed baled grass silage. Grass or maize silage had no significant influence on the composition of ground meat or *M. longissimus dorsi*. Feeding of maize or maize+15% mixture silage has increased water binding capacity by 3.54% and 1.49%, and protein value index - by 0.74 and 0.22 units, and decreased cooking losses of meat by 1.93 and 2.51%. Daily weight gains of bulls fed maize+15% mixture silage were by 1.35% higher and of bulls fed maize silage - 1.32% lower in comparison with baled grass silage.

Keywords: big bale silage, maize, mixture, muscling score, daily weight gain.