

## EFFECTIVITY OF ASSIMILATION OF DIETARY PROTEIN IN RABBITS DIGESTIVE TRACT

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**Summary.** It was determined, that increment of crude protein content in feed enhances digestibility of crude protein, because part of endogenous nitrogen in total faecal nitrogen content decreases. Besides, composition of protein in feed with high crude protein content (leguminous crop feed) is generally less resistant to digestion.

Applying diets, digestibility rate of crude protein depends more on feed ingredients than on its chemical structure. In addition, digestibility of dietary crude protein depends on animal age. Tests when digestibility was determined at different age (from weaning i.e. 28 days up to 11 weeks) showed, that crude protein digestibility in rabbits decreases after weaning and reaches a constant level at 8<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> week. This effect is the same for all dietary ingredients.

**Keywords:** rabbits, growth dynamics, protein, digestibility.