

THE EFFECT OF PROBIOTIC STRAINS OF LACTOBACILLUS ON THE MICROBIOLOGICAL PARAMETERS IN THE FAECES OF NEONATE CALVES

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Summary. The experiment was carried out with neonate calves at the Research Center of Digestive Physiology and Pathology, Lithuanian Veterinary Academy and the Center of Practical Training and Experiments. The aim of this investigation was to define the effect of a lyophilized mixture of probiotic preparations of *Lactobacillus plantarum* U-14 and *Lactobacillus fermentum* U-5 on the microbiological parameters in the faeces of clinically healthy neonate calves. The mixture of lyophilized probiotic strains consisting of 6×10^8 CFU/g (colony forming units) *L. plantarum* and 2×10^7 CFU/g *L. fermentum* was given to the calves of the experimental group (n=6) in the form of a solution of 2 g twice daily with colostrum or milk for 15 consecutive days. Samples of faeces were taken after morning feeding throughout the experiment. The calves of the control group (n=6) were not given probiotic preparations.

It was observed that both probiotic strains of lactobacillus positively affected the microflora of the digestive system of neonate calves: the count of colifermentic bacteria decreased ($p < 0,05$) while the count of bifidobacteria tended to increase ($p < 0,05$).

Key words: calves, lactobacillus, faeces, mikroflora.