

THE IMPACT OF DIFFERENT FEEDING TECHNOLOGIES ON FEED INTAKE, MILK PRODUCTION AND COST

Ingrida Monkevičienė, Rasa Želvytė, Jonas Laugalis, Antanas Sederevičius, Saulius Makauskas
Lithuanian Veterinary Academy, Tilžės 18, LT-47181 Kaunas, Lithuania
Phone: (+370~37) 36 36 92; fax. (+370~37) 36 24 17; e-mail: ingrm@lva.lt

Summary. The present study was designed to assess the impact of different feeding technologies on feed intake in dairy cows, milk productivity and cost of production. The experiment was undertaken during the indoor period with twenty two Lithuanian Black & White dairy cows. The animals were randomly divided into 2 experimental groups (Group 1 and 2) and for 75 days were assigned to the conventional ration balanced according to the Lithuanian standard diet of the indoor period. In addition, the cows in Group 1 were fed with unchopped forage and the animals in Group 2 with mixture of forage chopped by the special feeding equipment – „OptiMix™“.

It was observed that cows fed by the special feeding equipment (Group 2) increased feed intake on 2.48 %, milk productivity on 1.28 % and milk production cost on 4.2% compared to the animals given forage as separate components (Group 1). However, the differences between groups were not significant.

Key words: cows, feeding technology, milk productivity and cost.