

## THE INFLUENCE OF WEED *SPIRULINA PLATENSIS* ON PRODUCTION AND PROFITABILITY OF MILKING COWS

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**Summary.** The objective of this experiment was to determine the potential influence of microweed *Spirulina platensis* on production and profitability in milking cows. The experiment was performed at the small farm in Šilutės district, Lithuania between April and June 2007. Twenty cows were divided by stratified random sampling according to the age and productivity into 2 groups (control and experimental) each of 10 cows. Two experimental diets were formulated based on forage (control group) and on forage with 200 g/day of feed supplement with 5% of weed *Spirulina platensis* (experimental group). During 90 days forage plus weed fed experimental cows exhibited 6 kg/day increment in average amount of milk compared to the control cows on forage diet ( $P < 0.05$ ). In experimental cows there was advantage of 378 Litas or 21% additional income for milk production compared to the controls. It was shown, that feed supplementation with weed *Spirulina platensis* for 1 Litas allowed to receive 8.4 Litas additional income for milk production.

**Key words:** microweed *Spirulina platensis*, cows, milk production.