

INVESTIGATION OF A NEW RAISING TECHNOLOGY FEEDING CALVES ON MILK

Jurgis Kulpys, Algirdas Januškevičius, Janina Černauskienė

Department of Animal Nutrition, Lithuanian Veterinary Academy, Tilžės str. 18, LT-47181 Kaunas, Lithuania

Tel. +370 37 36 34 08

Summary. To reduce the milk utilization the conventional method of calves raising based on an abundant amount of whole milk (200-300 kg) started to be substituted by a new rising technologies, which are based on milk replacers or special additives and compound feeds (starters). These materials are enriched with highly digestible proteins, lipids, free fatty acids and easily soluble fibre. The aim of performed study was to investigate the potential influence of commercial milk additive „Maiki Fiber“ and special compound feed „Mulli Maikki 1E“ (Finland) on calves live weight, overweight and general condition. Twenty-four calves were divided into two groups (experimental and control) of 12 calves in each. The calves of the both groups had restricted access to colostrum and milk for a week. Afterwards, control calves were assigned to the milk, accustomizing to hay and mixture of barley, peas and premixes. The experimental calves were fed with a mixture of milk supplemented with „Maikki Fiber“ accustomizing to hay, and a special compound feed „Mulli Maikki 1 E“. The calves in the both groups were fed the same amount of digestible energy and the amount of digestible proteins per day.

In experimental group daily weight gain was on 14% higher compared to controls ($p < 0.01$). It was suggested that in order to raise calves profitably, it is reasonable from 1 week to 2 month old to feed with milk supplemented with „Maikki Fiber“ (20 g in 1 liter of milk) and with „Mulli Maikki 1E“. It enables to get 1 kg weight gain with reduced utilization of energy and feed (10MJ and 11 %, respectively).

Keywords: milk additives, technology of raising, calves.