

DYNAMICS OF GROWTH, BIOCHEMICAL BLOOD PARAMETERS, CARCASS AND MEAT CHARACTERISTICS OF FODDERING NUTRIA (*MYOCASTOR COYPUS*) INFLUENCED BY PROTEINS DIET

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Abstract. The main task of this work was to determine the influence of different dietary protein levels on wellness of nutrias (having in mind growth and food intake) and biochemical blood parameters in combination with meat composition. Forty five nutrias at two months of age after the end of lactating period were selected (thirty males and fifteen females) and randomly divided into three groups (ten males and five females in each). The amounts of proteins in the diet were 21 %, 25 %, 29 %, respectively. The dependence of the amount of the protein in the diet on the growth of nutria was characteristic both for females and males from the age of four months. The male nutrias of the 3rd experimental group reached the weight of 6.10 kg while the average weights of the nutrias of the 1st and the 2nd groups were 5.38 and 5.58 kg respectively. The weights of females of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd groups were 4.66, 4.98 and 5.20 kg respectively. The decrease of glucose, cholesterol and urea in the blood serum by increase of the protein content in the diet was observed. The carcass weights of males were higher comparing with females for each group. But the differences in weight between sexes in groups did not differ and the amount of protein in the diet produced no influence on this parameter. The amounts of proteins in meat samples were 23.58, 24.40 and 25.46 % for males and 22.34, 22.67 and 22.76 % for females for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd investigated groups, and the crude fat amount in meat varied from 1.83–2.01 % for males and 1.86–2.04 % for females of all groups.

Keywords: nutria, carcass yield, proximate composition, biochemical parameters