

Studies on the possibility to use crushed triticale meal in mink nutrition

S u m m a r y

Studies on the possibility to use crushed triticale meal in mink nutrition and the effects of such dietary supplementation on the growth of young animals as well as nutrient and energy digestibility were conducted on 60 standard minks. The experimental factor was differentiated feeding. The animals of group I were fed a diet in which the plant component was wheat meal, commonly used under standard production conditions in Poland. The animals of group II received a diet containing triticale meal. The body weights of minks were determined at the beginning (10 weeks of age) and at the completion (24 weeks of age) of the experimental period. Digestibility tests were performed in September, on 10 females selected from 5 litters. The animals were divided into two equal groups comprising of representatives of all litters. The minks were placed in single cages adapted for quantitative feces' collection. Feed leftovers and feces samples were weighted and frozen. The entire collection was partly dried and the nutrient content was determined by the Weende method. Nutrient and energy digestibility were calculated by the balance method. The results of the study show that wheat meal replacement with triticale meal had no effect on the chemical composition and nutritive value of diets. Neither the growth and final body weights of mink nor nutrient and energy digestibility were affected by the kind of cereal grain added to the diets.