

## **Milk thistle in animal nutrition Summary**

Silymarin, and in particular its main component silybinin, obtained from the fruit of milk thistle (*Silybum marianum* L. Gaertn.), are used for hepatoprotection in humans and can also be used as a feed additive to improve animal health and productivity. This paper describes the biologically active substances found in the fruit of milk thistle and discusses their usefulness in the feeding of farm animals. The content of basic nutrients, amino acid profile, fatty acid composition and mineral content in milk thistle were determined by chemical analysis. The metabolizable energy value for pigs and broiler chickens was calculated as well.

**KEY WORDS:** milk thistle, nutrients, energy value, fatty and amino acid composition