

Results of research on fattening performance and meat quality of lambs fed silage prepared from various plant materials

Summary

In this study we determined the effects of feeding lambs silage prepared from red clover, alfalfa or grass. Different types of silage were found to have different effects on the growth rate and meat characteristics of lambs. The best fattening performance was obtained using alfalfa silage. The use of red clover silage also yielded better results in this regard in comparison with grass silage. The meat of lambs fed silage from plants of the Fabaceae family was of higher quality. The use of red clover silage increased the content of intramuscular fat, but the fatty acid profile was the most beneficial due to the higher concentration of n-3 PUFA and lower concentration of n-6 PUFA. Content of vitamins A and E was also higher than in lambs fed alfalfa silage. A tendency towards reduced meat quality was observed in lambs fed grass silage, in terms of drip loss, thermal drip, flavour, juiciness, tenderness, and cholesterol content.

KEY WORDS: lambs, feeding, silage, growth, meat quality