

O USO DE ALIMENTOS SUPLEMENTARES NÃO CONVENCIONAIS PARA ALIMENTAÇÃO DE BOVINOS E GALINHAS POEDEIRAS

THE USE OF NON-CONVENTIONAL SUPPLEMENTARY FEEDS IN CATTLE AND LAYER DIET

ПРИМЕНЕНИЕ НЕТРАДИЦИОННЫХ КОРМОВЫХ ДОБАВОК В РАЦИОНАХ КРУПНОГО РОГАТОГО СКОТА И КУР-НЕСУШЕК

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RESUMO

Foi realizado um estudo sobre os efeitos da introdução de novos suplementos alimentares vegetais não convencionais nas dietas de vacas leiteiras e galinhas poedeiras industriais. As plantas não são cultivadas para a sua produção, mas referem-se a culturas selvagens que crescem no habitat natural em quantidades suficientes. O objetivo da pesquisa foi determinar o efeito da introdução de suplementos alimentares vegetais não convencionais sobre as qualidades produtivas de vacas e galinhas poedeiras; qualidade dos produtos (leite, ovos); digestibilidade de nutrientes (uso) de poedeiras e funções reprodutivas de vacas; e para identificar a eficiência econômica do uso desses alimentos suplementares, alterando a taxa de conversão alimentar. A composição dos suplementos alimentares para as vacas incluiu a pele do mar, agulhas de pinheiro rastejantes, líquens. Suplementos alimentares, compostos por farinha de peles marinhas e culturas silvestres, foram introduzidos na dieta de galinhas poedeiras: arbustos de erva-de-são-joão ou rosebay, urtiga e agulhas de pinheiro-rasteiro. Os estudos foram conduzidos em empresas agrícolas. Os experimentos foram realizados em vacas Ayrshire e Holstein de diferentes períodos de lactação e em poedeiras Hisex White de diferentes idades e períodos produtivos. Regimes randomizados foram utilizados, incluindo 2-5 níveis de alimentação. Os grupos de vacas foram formados por método de pareamento; Galinhas poedeiras foram formadas para o agrupamento e foram mantidas em condições zoidióticas iguais. Durante a formação do grupo, não houve diferenças significativas no peso corporal e produtividade entre os grupos formados foram revelados ($P > 0,05$), o que indica a seleção correta de grupos para a pesquisa. Como resultado, as vacas melhoraram as funções reprodutivas, aumentaram a produção de leite, gordura do leite e conversão alimentar; as galinhas mostraram a intensificação dos processos metabólicos, contribuindo para o aumento da produtividade, conversão alimentar e qualidade dos ovos ($P < 0,05$), o que indica a efetividade do uso de novos suplementos alimentares.

Palavras-chave: *Poedeiras Industriais, Vacas Leiteiras, Alimentos Suplementos Vegetais, Conversão Alimentar, Funções Reprodutivas.*

ABSTRACT

It was undertaken a number of studies on the effects of introducing new non-conventional vegetable supplementary feeds in the diets of dairy cows and industrial laying hens. Plants are not cultivated for their production, but they refer to wild crops growing in the natural habitat in sufficient quantities. The purpose of the research was to determine the effect of introducing non-conventional vegetable supplementary feeds on the productive qualities of cows and laying hens; quality of products (milk, eggs); nutrient digestibility (use) of laying hens and reproductive functions of cows; and to identify the economic efficiency of using these supplementary

feeds by changing feed conversion ratio. The composition of supplementary feeds for cows included sea furbelow, creeping pine needles, lichens. Supplementary feeds consisting of sea furbelow flour and wild crops were introduced into the diet of laying hens: fireweed or rosebay willowherb, stinging nettle, and creeping pine needles. The studies were conducted at the agricultural enterprises. The experiments were performed on Ayrshire and Holstein cows of different lactation periods and the Hisex White laying hens of various age and productive periods. Randomized regimens were used, including 2-5 levels of feeding. The groups of cows were formed by the analog to pair matching method; laying hens were formed by the analog to group matching method and were kept in equal zoohygienic conditions. During group formation, no significant differences in body weight and productivity between the formed groups were revealed ($P > 0.05$), which indicates the correct selection of groups for the research. As a result, cows improved reproductive functions, increased milk yield, milk fat content and feed conversion; hens showed the intensification of metabolic processes, contributing to an increase in productivity, feed conversion and egg quality ($P < 0.05$), which indicates the effectiveness of using new supplementary feeds.

Keywords: *Industrial Laying Hens, Dairy Cows, Vegetable Supplementary Feeds, Feed Conversion, Reproductive Functions.*

АННОТАЦИЯ

Авторами был проведён ряд исследований по изучению влияния ввода в рационы коров молочного направления продуктивности и промышленных кур-несушек новых нетрадиционных кормовых добавок растительного происхождения. Растения для их изготовления не являются культурными, а относятся к дикоросам, произрастающим в природе в достаточно больших объёмах. Цель исследований: определение влияния ввода нетрадиционных кормовых добавок растительного происхождения на продуктивные качества коров и кур-несушек; качество производимой продукции (молока, яиц); переваримость (использование) питательных веществ корма организмом кур-несушек и воспроизводительные функции коров; а также выявление экономической эффективности их применения за счёт изменения конверсии корма. В состав кормовых добавок для коров были включены бурые морские водоросли, хвоя стланика кедрового, лишайники. В рацион кур вводились добавки, состоящие из муки бурых морских водорослей, дикорастущих растительных ресурсов: иван-чая узколистного, крапивы двудомной, хвои стланика кедрового. Исследования проводились на базе сельскохозяйственных предприятий. На опыты были поставлены коровы айрширской и голштинской пород различных периодов лактации и куры-несушки кросса Хайсекс белый различных возрастных и продуктивных периодов. Были использованы рандомизированные схемы, включающие в себя 2-5 уровней кормления. Группы коров были сформированы по методу пар-аналогов; кур-несушек – групп-аналогов и содержались в равных зоогигиенических условиях. При формировании групп достоверных различий по живой массе и продуктивности между сформированными группами не выявлено ($P > 0,05$), что говорит о корректном подборе групп для проведения исследований. В результате у коров улучшились воспроизводительные функции, повысился удой, жирность молока и конверсия корма; у кур выявлена интенсификация обменных процессов, способствующая повышению продуктивности, конверсии корма и качества яиц ($P < 0,05$), что свидетельствует об эффективности применения новых кормовых добавок.

Ключевые слова: промышленные куры-несушки, коровы молочного направления продуктивности, кормовые добавки растительного происхождения, продуктивность, конверсия корма, воспроизводительные функции.

1. INTRODUCTION

Along with the task of fulfilling the genetic potential of the livestock productivity laid during the breeding works, agricultural producers face an important mission of creating conditions for the production of environmentally friendly products with improved consumer properties. Since virtually all the livestock can transfer

nutrients required for human nutrition from combined fodder to the products, their quality and consumer properties may vary depending on the composition of rations. Through diets enriched with natural supplementary feeds, products with a higher concentration of biologically active substances can be obtained (Schöne *et al.*, 2017, Opaliński 2017, Suray, 2010, Schöne and Rajendram, 2009). In our studies, the

concentration of carotenoids in the egg yolk increased by 58%, the iodine content in eggs became 8.6 times as high, and the conception rate of cows after the first insemination reached 80%, which significantly exceeds the performance of similar studies.

The problem of improving the quality of rations can be solved by using new supplementary feeds from plant resources: sea furbelow (kelp – *Laminaria*), creeping pine needles (*Pinus pumila*), lichens (gray reindeer lichen – *Cladonia alpestris*, Iceland moss – *Cetraria islandica*), fireweed (*Chamaenerion angustifolium* L.), and stinging nettle (*Urtica dioica*). All these components contain a wide range of biologically active substances and can be applied both in pure form and in the form of complex supplementary feeds. The novelty of livestock diets enriched with the above-mentioned supplementary feeds lies in the fact that all their components belong among wild crops and do not require significant costs for their conservation and preparation for feeding.

Natural feed materials from wild plant resources can be used as an alternative to traditional synthetic antibiotics, which has recently become quite relevant. Antibiotics were used for therapeutic and prophylactic purposes and as a stimulator of growth and productivity when feeding livestock in the latter half of the 20th century (Gustafson and Bowen, 1997). Using them to kill microorganisms or suppress their proliferation in a host organism can lead to changes in the immune system development of this organism (Schokker *et al.*, 2017, Mulder *et al.*, 2011, Mulder *et al.*, 2009). Regular and excessive use of synthetic antibiotics leads to enhanced bacterial resistance. This bacterial resistance interferes with the treatment of both animals and humans since antibiotic resistance genes can be transmitted. Excessive or improper use of synthetic antibiotics in livestock husbandry leads to their accumulation in hyperadmissible quantities in food staples (including crop production after fertilizing the land with poultry litter), which poses a threat to human health, causing dysbiosis, allergies, and a decrease in immunity (Goryacheva, 2013). At the end of the 20th century, a campaign was launched to limit the use of synthetic antibiotics in Europe, which is due to the fact that product quality and its environmental safety are becoming increasingly important.

The use of synthetic antibiotics (AGP) as prophylactic doses in fodder was banned within some jurisdictions, such as in the European

Union (the EU Regulation, No. 1831/2003). An outright AGP ban was introduced in Europe in 2006 due to a growing public concern. Meanwhile, this ban became a global trend with many countries outside the European Union being on their way to restricting or banning their use in animal feed (Steiner and Syed, 2015; Niewold, 2007). Thus, there is a need to find alternatives to synthetic antibiotics to maintain the intestinal ecosystem balance, as well as to improve the overall livestock productivity. In order to solve these problems across the world, including Russia, there was an intensive search for means to do so (Huyghebaert *et al.*, 2011; Goryacheva, 2013; Tajodini *et al.*, 2015).

In this regard, interest has increased in studying the use of natural plant (phytogenic or botanical) additives in diets that contain a biocomplex that makes it possible to obtain environmentally friendly products that would not trigger a large number of “drug diseases” arising after treatment, including transmitted through egg, milk and meat (Dedkova and Avdyukhin, 2007; Hafeez *et al.*, 2016; Moubayed *et al.*, 2017; Bate *et al.*, 2018).

Earlier studies of vegetable stock showed that non-conventional phytogenic ration ingredients possessed antimicrobial, antioxidant, and anti-inflammatory properties (Windisch *et al.*, 2008; Gheisar and Kim, 2017). In addition, they had a stimulating effect on the digestive system by enhancing the secretion of digestive enzymes and increasing the feed conversion efficiency as a result of liver function improvement (Hernandez *et al.*, 2004, Prakash and Srinivasan, 2010, Abou-Elkhair *et al.*, 2014).

In *Laminaria*, antibiotic, growth-promoting, and medicinal substances are found, with a high biological activity that is often a sequence higher than the respective content of substances derived from terrestrial plants and animals; they are characterized by a chemical structure that is unparalleled with compounds derived from terrestrial organisms. Historically, *Laminaria* was used to treat various infectious diseases; in recent years, many studies were conducted on its biological activity, which confirmed its effect on the body. It is a rich source of natural antioxidants; their inhibitory activity against the lipooxygenase enzyme that oxidizes unsaturated fatty acids that make up the cereal plants of the livestock diet is their feature (Starikova, 2005; Matanjun *et al.*, 2008; Zhao *et al.*, 2008; Al-Amoudi *et al.*, 2009; Abdu-llah Al-Saif *et al.*, 2014; Balina *et al.*, 2016; Moubayed *et al.*, 2017).

Urtica dioica that contains a wide range of biologically active substances in a readily available form is used in a number of countries as an alternative to feed antibiotics, which does not have negative effects on the body and contributes to improved immunity and productivity (Rabazanov, 2003; Egorov, 2014; Meimandipour *et al.*, 2017).

Pinus pumila contains effective and safe antibacterial components, which makes it suitable for processing into antiseptic preparations to antisepticise food and fodder products and for medical use. *Pinus pumila* exhibits antioxidant activity, the ability to remove free radicals and to inhibit oxidative damage to the DNA and body cells (Lantto *et al.*, 2009; Feng *et al.*, 2010; Zeng *et al.*, 2014).

The first Russian antibiotic, the sodium salt of Usnic acid, was derived from Lichens; referred to as "Binan", it is recommended for use in veterinary medicine. Its bacteriostatic effect manifests in relation to *Staphylococcus aureus*, streptococci, anaerobes, pneumococci and tubercle bacilli (Müller, 2001; Podterob, 2008; Freysdottir *et al.*, 2008; Bate *et al.*, 2018).

Numerous observations show that antibiotics and phytobiotics that are part of the plant components are effective as a powerful factor stimulating the growth and development of animals and have a positive effect on the immune system, nutrient absorption, product quality, fatty acid composition and oxidative stability of muscles. The stimulating effect of these components on the feed intake is conditioned by its improved organoleptic indicators (taste and smell), which also leads to an increase in the livestock productivity (Saki *et al.*, 2014; Gheisar and Kim, 2017).

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

2.1. Biologically active substances that are part of plant materials: *Laminaria*, *Pinus pumila*, *Cladonia alpestris*, *Cetraria islandica*, *Chamaenerion angustifolium L.*, and *Urtica dioica*.

The composition of supplementary feeds derived from non-conventional plant sources includes a wide range of biologically active substances required for the vital activity of livestock and having a beneficial effect on metabolic processes, the immune system, the productivity, and the quality of products since they are in non-antagonistic combinations (Table 1).

Amino acids are the basic structural units of protein molecules. To ensure amino acids in a

diet, it is necessary to include components containing a complete protein with essential amino acids. Limited availability of fish meal and whey protein concentrate in livestock diets has a negative impact on the total feed cost. Enriching the diet with amino acids that are part of natural plant components to activate the immune system allows one to replace expensive protein supplements and reduce feed cost in agricultural production (Goodband *et al.*, 2014; Zhao *et al.*, 2014).

The issue of supplying ruminants, including cattle, with amino acids is solved by intake of any protein and even non-protein nitrogenous matters. For a complete provision of laying hens, it is necessary to normalize their diet in terms of the content of 12 essential amino acids that are available and are used to perform a variety of functions (Lemesheva, 2006). The proteins in the components of the plants under study, namely, *Laminaria* (Starikova, 2005; Bazes *et al.*, 2009), *Urtica dioica* and *Chamaenerion angustifolium L.* (Rabazanov, 2003; Egorov, 2014), and *Pinus pumila* (Rogachev and Salakhutdinov, 2015) contain a wide range of amino acids, including all the essential ones. Amino acids actively influence all the vital functions in the body of cattle and hens, such as the formation of structural and protective tissues and metabolic control. They play the role of precursors of many important non-protein constituents in the body and affect the productive and reproductive functions (Gonzalez-Esquerria and Leeson, 2001; Starikova, 2005).

Vitamins that are part of plant resources are high-molecular-weight organic compounds of varying chemical nature with high biological activity. They are nutritional factors that ensure a normal course of biochemical and physiological processes by participating in the metabolic control of the whole body. A lack of vitamins leads to impaired functioning of its various systems.

Algae, including *Laminaria*, contain a large amount of vitamins C, D, E, K, vitamin B complex, and provitamin A (carotene). Biologically active substances rare in nature, such as taurine, citrulline, chondrin, and their compounds, which play an important role in the metabolic processes, were found in them (Starikova, 2005; Sharvadze *et al.*, 2009; Makkar *et al.*, 2016; Madeira *et al.*, 2017).

Vitamins C, H, E, K, vitamin B complex, and provitamin A were found in *Urtica dioica* and *Chamaenerion angustifolium L.* Introduction of

grass flour and *Urtica dioica* flour into diets increases the accumulation of vitamin C in the liver and adrenal glands and the respective accumulation of vitamin A in these organs. Carotene is found in several forms in such flours, whereby β -carotene is the most active (68-83% of the total carotenoids), since it forms two molecules of vitamin A, while the other forms form only one. The author is aware of the opinion of scientists and practitioners about the so-called "grass flour factor" that consists of healing properties of herbs (Rabazanov, 2003; Yegorov, 2014).

Pinus pumila contains a wide range of active substances; it is a supplier of carotene, vitamin B complex, vitamin C, and sterols (sources of vitamin D). Its needles contain chlorophyll and xanthophyll that play an important role in the metabolic processes, as well as a significant amount of phytoncides that protect the body from intestinal diseases. Terpenoids contained in *Pinus pumila* are called "atmospheric vitamins of the forest", since they activate enzymes in the body and are intermediate components in the biosynthesis of vitamins, steroids, and enzymes. *Pinus pumila* has long been used in traditional Chinese medical practice to treat various diseases since it possesses antibacterial and antiseptic properties, among others (Starikova, 2005; Lantto *et al.*, 2009; Feng *et al.*, 2010; Zeng *et al.*, 2014; Rogachev and Salakhutdinov, 2015).

Lichens are a rich source of vitamins B₁₂ and C essential for the vital activity of an animal. It was found that anemia can develop and productivity can decrease with a deficiency of vitamin B₁₂. Some polysaccharides contained in Lichens enhance the production of nitrous oxide by macrophages and change the levels of production of anti-inflammatory cytokines by macrophages and dendritic cells. They can induce immunomodulatory reactions in macrophages and dendritic cells due to the antioxidant, antimicrobial, and antitumor activity of some major metabolites. Due to a high content of various biological substances, Lichens have practical application in medicine, including as sources of medicinal substances (Ingolfssdottir *et al.*, 1994; Manojlović *et al.*, 2012; Shrestha *et al.*, 2015; Bate *et al.*, 2018).

It was proved that the presence of vitamins C and E in the ration plant ingredients under study have a synergistic effect of biologically active substances; the function of one is important for effective action of another. The antioxidant function of fat-soluble vitamin E and

water-soluble vitamin C can prevent the production of oxidative substances in the liver, blood, and ovarian follicular fluid by increasing the amount of glutathione peroxidase, an enzyme that protects tissues from oxidative damage, removing peroxides that convert to free radicals, especially in thermal stress. Tocopherol has a positive effect on both the antibody-mediated and cell-mediated immune response of poultry (Pompeu *et al.*, 2008; Dobbelaar *et al.*, 2010; Steinberg and Rucker, 2013; Engelking, 2015; Surai *et al.*, 2016; Schäfers *et al.*, 2018).

Vitamin C contained in the supplementary feeds under study enhances gastric secretion, significantly increases the digestive capacity of pepsin, and controls the output of corticosterone by the adrenal glands, reducing its production and secretion. But, during stress, endogenous vitamin C is depleted in the adrenal glands, causing systemic secretion of this potent adrenal glucocorticoid. Adding vitamin C from an exogenous source helps in reducing the effects of stress and minimizes its negative impact on productivity (Abdin *et al.*, 2017). It is essential in enhancing the metabolic processes, in particular, in removing reactive oxygen intermediates, as well as in the synthesis of collagen, adrenaline, and bile acids. It is known that cows can synthesize vitamin C, and it is not an essential nutrient for dairy cows; there is evidence that vitamin C is associated with mastitis. Cows with mastitis have a lower concentration of vitamin C in the plasma and milk, and the clinical manifestation rate correlates with the magnitude of reduction in its concentration (Weiss and Hogan, 2007; Steinberg and Rucker, 2013; Skřivan *et al.*, 2013).

Minerals are inorganic components that are included in fodder composition and in the livestock tissue structure. Their distribution in the body tissues and inside the cells is not random and uniform, which reflects their various functional roles. Minerals have no nutritional value, but they are catalysts for many biochemical reactions that proceed in the body and are inextricably linked to their form and state (Fisinin *et al.*, 2009).

Nutritionists and livestock feeding specialists are faced with the task of finding effective natural sources of supplementary feeds. This is related to the fact that synthetic additives were criticized for their potentially detrimental effect on the food chain (Giannenas *et al.*, 2018).

The currently available supplementary feeds include *Laminaria*, *Pinus pumila*,

Chamaenerion Angustifolium L., and *Urtica dioica*, that contains almost all of the minerals required for normal animal life, including essential oils (Starikova, 2005; Steiner and Syed, 2015). Introduction of phytogetic (botanic) additives in diets can contribute to livestock productivity, mainly by improving feed conversion rate. Enhanced microbial activity in the small intestine may enhance the activity of digestive enzymes under the influence of the active substances of phytogetic supplements (Hafeez *et al.*, 2016).

The main active ingredient of *Laminaria* is iodine that is an indispensable element in the livestock rations. Its deficiency is of particular importance in the poultry since it is more susceptible to thyroid disorders. There is evidence of a positive effect of thyroid hormones on the poultry genitals. This is due to the fact that during an intensive growth of gonads and puberty, the thyroid gland activity decreases slightly and increases again during the period of full egg production. The poultry that is distinguished by a medium and high activity of the thyroid gland has higher productivity at the adult stage and is more productive in progeny. Against the background of iodine deficiency in poultry, profound disorders occur in the protein, lipid, carbohydrate, and mineral metabolism, which leads to a decrease in feed digestibility and nutrient availability. As a result, the poultry health deteriorates, the egg production decreases, and the nutritional quality of eggs decreases (Spiridonov and Kislova, 2011). The positive effect of Algae on the thyroid function, the reproductive functions, the sperm quality, and the livestock productivity was also revealed (Fomichev *et al.*, 2017). The content of iodine in products (such as eggs and milk) can be increased by including iodine-containing natural ingredients in the diet. Iodine-enriched eggs and milk are a promising solution to preventing iodine deficiency in humans (Schöne and Rajendram, 2009; Makkar *et al.*, 2016; Madeira *et al.*, 2017; Opaliński, 2017; Schöne *et al.*, 2017).

Recently, the feed industry has recognized the potential of vegetable components for various animal species. Phytogetic supplementary feeds containing essential oils (herbs and wild crops) combine bioactive ingredients and flavoring substances and are classified as “sensory additives” in accordance with European legislation. They improve the growth rate, nutrient availability, and the intestinal health of animals (Steiner and Syed, 2015).

The value of nutrients entering the body of animals as part of plant materials is that they have an organic form and a certain ratio. This allows them to easily assimilate and have an active effect on all the biological and physiological functions, including productivity and product quality (Starikova, 2005). The therapeutic and stimulating effect of the studied supplementary feeds on the livestock is also associated with their containing biologically active substances with various composition: alkaloids, coumarins, saponins, flavonoids, phytoncides, pectins, terpenoids, cardiac glycosides, essential oils, mucus, and organic acids, belonging to different classes of chemical compounds and having a different impact. The publications studied by me confirm the hypothesis about the positive influence of plant resources on the effectiveness of their use in livestock diets aiming to increase the metabolic rate, the productivity, the reproductive functions, the product quality, and the feed conversion rate. Our studies were carried out to determine the effect of input of non-conventional supplementary feeds vegetable made from sea furbelow (*Laminaria*), *Pinus pumila*, *Lichenes*, *Chamaenerion Angustifolium L.*, and *Urtica dioica* on the productive qualities of cows and laying hens, the feed conversion rate, the product quality (milk and eggs), and the availability (use) of feed nutrients by laying hens and reproductive functions of cows. All the studies were conducted by a randomized method, including 2-5 levels of feeding. Three experiments were carried out on Ayrshire and Holstein cows in different physiological periods, and three experiments were performed on Hisex White cross laying hens in different age periods.

2.2 Experimental studies

2.2.1 Studies of the supplementary feeding in cattle diet.

Random schemes including 2 - 4 feeding levels were implemented in studying the supplementary vegetable feeds in cows' diet. Ayrshire and Holstein cows of different physiological phases were studied in terms of three experiments. For the experiment, the animals were selected in accordance with their breed, age, insemination term, and productivity.

The cows of the control group received the basic diet (BD) of feeding used in the farms, as well as the test group animals were fed with supplementary vegetable feeds according to schemes 1, 2 and 3.

Experimental scheme 1. Two groups of the Ayrshire cows (in milk period, the second

lactation and stall-feeding period) were formed by the analog to pair matching method of eight animals each. The test group of animals received Laminaria supplementary feed in the amount of 200 g per animal per day in addition to the farm diet. The duration of the experiment was 82 days.

Experimental scheme 2. Four groups of the Ayrshire cows (the last two months in the period between lactations, two months of in milk period, the third lactation and stall-feeding period) were formed by the analog to pair matching method of eight animals each. In addition to the farm diet, the test group of animals received Laminaria supplementary feed in the amount of 50 g and Lichens supplementary feed in the amount of 40, 50 and 60 g per animal per day respectively. The duration of the experiment was 120 days, including 60 days of lactation.

Experimental scheme 3. Two groups of Holstein cows (from one to three months after calving, the second lactation and stall-feeding period) were formed by the analog to pair matching method of ten animals each. In addition to the farm diet, the test group of animals received creeping pine needle supplementary feed in the amount of 550 g per animal per day. The duration of the experiment was 94 days.

The preparation period of 10 days was defined before the experiment for the animals' adaption and accurate formation of the test groups. It was determined that there were no significant differences in live weight, productivity, and milk quality between the groups ($P > 0.05$). Feed intake was registered monthly during two adjacent days using the group method. Test milking was conducted once in ten days period, milk quality test (fat, protein) was conducted monthly. The effectiveness of the feeding was estimated in accordance with the expenditure of metabolic energy of the feed (MJ) per 1 kg of milk. The following criteria were estimated: the gross output of milk, quality of milk (fat, protein), feed energy expenditure per 1 kg of milk, the duration of the service period, conception rate and fertilization from the first insemination.

Feed conversion was estimated in accordance with the expenditure of metabolic energy of the feed for the production of 1 kg of milk with 3.6% of fat. The statistic results analysis included the calculation of the arithmetic average and errors of the average. The probability value $P < 0.05$ was accepted as the statistically significant one, the fundamental differences between the groups were tested with Student criterion.

2.2.2 Studies of the supplementary vegetable feeding in laying hens diet.

Random schemes including 4 - 5 feeding levels were implemented in the scientific research of the supplementary vegetable feeds in laying hens diet in egg factories. Three experiments were conducted on Hisex White laying hens of different ages. The laying hens under analysis were divided into analog groups for 36 birds each. Six neighbor cages (with six birds each) were accepted as the experimental unit. All zoohygienic requirements were met in accordance with the laying hens' age and productive period. The test groups of birds followed the basic farm diet (BD) according to the specified age. Alongside with BD, the test group of animals received supplementary vegetable feeds according to the schemes 4, 5, and 6.

Experimental scheme 4. Four groups of the Hisex White laying hens aged from 38 to 64 weeks were analyzed. In addition to BD, the test group of animals received Laminaria flour supplementary feed in the amount of 3.0%, 4.0%, and 5.0%. The duration of the experiment was 189 days.

Experimental scheme 5. Four groups of the Hisex White laying hens aged from 21 to 47 weeks were analyzed. The test group of animals received the supplementary feed of fireweed herbal flour in the amount of 2.0%, 3.0%, and 4.0%. Alongside with the herbal flour, the fourth test group of animals received brown seaweed flour in the amount of 1.0%. The duration of the experiment was 175 days.

Experimental scheme 6. Five groups of the Hisex White laying hens aged from 23 to 40 weeks were analyzed. The following multi-component supplementary feeds were included into the BD of the test groups: 2.0% of fireweed + 0.5% of creeping pine needle + 1.0% of Laminaria; 3.0% of fireweed + 0.5% of creeping pine needle + 0.5% of Laminaria; 2.0% of stinging nettle + 0.5% of creeping pine needle + 1.0% of Laminaria; 3.0% of stinging nettle + 0.5% of creeping pine needle + 0.5% of Laminaria. The second and the fourth groups were defined as the parallel to the substitution composition of the herbal flour. The duration of the experiment was 120 days.

The preparation period of 10 days was defined before the experiment for the laying hens' adaption and accurate formation of the test groups. It was determined that there were no significant differences in live weight and productivity between the groups ($P > 0.05$). Feed

intake and eggs gathering were registered daily during the experiment. The effectiveness of the feeding (feed conversion) was estimated in accordance with the feed cost of 1 kg of the egg mass.

At the end of the research, 40 eggs from each group of birds were selected randomly for chemical compound and nutritive value tests. Carotenoid content of vitellus was identified in terms of all the experiments. In the context of the fourth experiment, additionally, the iodine content of the egg was identified. For that purpose, ten eggs from each group of birds were analyzed. The laying hens' feeding nutrient intake was analyzed in terms of physiological (balance) tests. For that purpose, six laying hens from each group were examined.

The following criteria were estimated: the nutritiousness and chemical compound of the feed, laying hens' live weight, gross egg production, egg production intensity, production of the egg mass, eggs quality, feed consumption, feed conversion, the utilization (digestion) of the feed nutritional substances.

The production of the egg mass was estimated by multiplying the egg mass on the egg production intensity.

The feed conversion was defined in accordance with the feed consumption in kilograms for the production of 1 kg of the egg mass.

The statistic results of the laying hens' productivity and eggs quality analysis included the calculation of the arithmetic average and errors of the average. The unilateral dispersion analysis was conducted to analyze the metabolism test results. The following criteria were estimated: the feed nitrogen utilization, protein, and fat digestibility, nitrogen-free extractive substance (NES). The probability value $P < 0.05$ was accepted. The differences were tested with the Student criterion.

3. RESULTS:

3.1 Productivity and efficiency of feeding

The supplementary vegetable feeds implemented in lactating cows' diet influenced positively their productivity, quality of milk, and its consumer performance, as well as the cows' reproductive functions. The gross yield of milk during the experiment increased by 8.8-15.9% ($P < 0.05$); the gross yield of milk of the basic fat content (3.6%) and milk fat yield by 12.0-19.6% as well as fat and protein content in milk up to 0.4% ($P < 0.05$). The expenditure of metabolic

energy of the feed for the production of 1 kg of milk with 3.6% of fat decreased to 14.5%. The researches have shown that the use of natural supplementary feeds improves the cows' reproductive functions.

Experiment No. 1 has shown that the cows fed with Laminaria supplementary feed in the amount of 200 g had the service period shorter by 12.6 days ($P < 0.05$), the insemination index was by 1.0 lower than in control ($P < 0.05$), the conception rate was by 11% higher ($P < 0.05$). The decrease of the coefficient of variability (Cv, %) of the service period and insemination index means the significant uniformity of these characteristics of the cows under analysis (Table 2).

The use of the Laminaria supplementary feed in the amount of 50 g and Lichens supplementary feed in the amount of 40, 50 and 60 g (Experiment 2) provided the decrease of the service period for the test groups cows. The insemination index (the quantity of the inseminations for each fertilization), as well as the coefficient of variability (Cv, %) of the service period and insemination index for the test groups' cows, were much lower than in control, while the 1st insemination fertility became higher. The best results were shown by the cows of the 2nd test group (Figure 1).

The use of the creeping pine needle supplementary feed in the lactating cows' diet in the amount of 550 g (experiment 3) contributed to the decrease of the service period by 10%. The quantity of the inseminations decreased by 0.8 times for each fertilization case; the 1st insemination fertility value increased by 20%. The coefficient of variability (Cv, %) of the service period decreased by 17.9, and the insemination index decreased by 1.8

The researches have shown that the most effective form of the cows' diet nourishing is the use of Laminaria in the amount of 200 g, which contributed to the gross yield of milk increase by 15.9% and feed cost decrease by 14.5% in relation to control.

The vegetable supplementary feeds introducing in laying hens' diet influenced positively their live weight that was significantly higher for all the tested laying hens ($P < 0.001$) than in control but complied with the standards. The use of the new diet contributed to the gross egg production and egg mass yield increase as well as the intensity of the egg-laying capacity improvement. The best results of the production value improvement were indicated in Experiment

5 (test group 4) where the supplementary feed of fireweed in the amount of 2.0% and Laminaria in the amount of 1.0% was introduced (Figure 2).

Feed cost of 1 kg of egg mass decreased by 5.1-15.4%. The lowest feed cost was identified in experiment 4 test group 3, that received 4.0% Laminaria supplementary feeds (Table 3).

The studied supplementary feeds introduced in laying hens' diet influenced the production quality positively, namely: the average mass of the egg increased up to 7.2% ($P<0.05$ ÷ $P<0.001$). That is 1.6% higher than in Krasnoschekova et al. research (2014). The analysis of the eggs from the test group laying hens showed the nutritional content improvement, namely the increase of the crude fat, crude protein, and NES ($P<0.05$). The amount of carotenoid in the egg vitellus increased up to 1.6 times ($P<0.05$ ÷ $P<0.001$). In the eggs from the laying hens from experiment 4 that were fed with the pure Laminaria supplementary feeds, the amount of iodine increased up to 8.6 times ($P<0.01$ ÷ $P<0.001$). This exceeds the results obtained by Evtuhich and Lebedeva (2005), Antonyuk et al., (2010) in 3.3-5.7 (Figure 3, Table 4)

3.2 The utilization of the nutritional substances of the laying hens' feed

At the end of each experiment, the physiological (balance) tests were held to identify the quantity aspect of the laying hens' metabolism. For that purpose, six birds from each test groups were selected randomly. The record period lasted for three days. During this period, the amount of the consumed feed and excreted litter was accurately registered. The laboratory tests and the analysis of the obtained data and calculations contributed to the identification of the digestibility and utilization of the nutritional substances of the laying hens' feed. It was determined that in the test groups of laying hens, the metabolism intensification took place. The utilization (digestibility) of the feed nutritional substances was better than in test groups of birds, namely: nitrogen utilization to 13.6%, protein utilization to 3.1%, fat to 9.2% and NES to 6.3%. (Table 5)

4. DISCUSSION

At present special attention is paid to the study of non-conventional vegetable components of the farm animals and poultry feed. The antibiotic, growth stimulating, antioxidant, antimicrobial, and anti-inflammatory activities were under analysis (Gustafson and Bowen,

1997). Schokker et al., (2017), Gheisar et al., (2017) declared that the substitution of the synthetic antibiotic in feeding farm animals and poultry for the natural vegetable supplementary feeds with antibiotic characteristics would exclude the negative influence of the antibiotics on the animals' organisms as well as the health of people who consume the agricultural products. Gheisar and Kim, (2017), Saki et al., (2014) defined the stimulating influence of the vegetable components with phytobiotic characteristics on the feed palatability that contributes to the increase in farm animals and poultry productivity.

Our research is devoted to studying the influence of non-conventional vegetable supplementary feeds on the cows and laying hens' productivity, production quality, feed conversion, the utilization of the nutritional substance by the laying hens' organisms and cows' reproductive function. The results of the research are confirmed by the specialists working with the farm animals and poultry diet enrichment with natural supplementary feeds that provides an increase in productivity, production quality, and feed conversion.

The introducing of the fir-tree and pine flour supplementary feeds in dairy cows' diet contributed to the shortening of the service period by 6.5-7.7% (Yegorov et al., 2007).

Zharikov and Hurshkaynen (2011) declared that the use of the fir-tree supplementary feeds contributed to the increase in the average daily milk yield of dairy cows by 1.5-3.5 and shortened the service period by 7 days on average. As a result of our research, the use of the creeping pine in the cows' diet provided the service period shortening by 11 days.

According to Dursenev et al., (2017), the use of the fir-tree needles supplementary feed influences positively on the animals' parturition and puerperium as well as the quantity and quality of the dairy products. The gargets appeared 2 times less in the test groups in relation to control. In conclusion, milk fat content in the test groups increased by 2.7-4.9%, and protein content in milk increased by 6.9-11.4%.

Studies by Naumova and Shukyurova (2011) proved that the use of Laminaria flour in newly-calved dairy cows' diet provides the increase in the average daily milk yield by 14.5% and fat content by 20.0%.

Androsova (2000) claimed that the use of Laminaria in the cows' diet provides the

avoidance of the milk-fever, gargets, and infectious interruption of pregnancy; in addition, the calving becomes easier. Milk productivity was improved by 10%, milk fat content was increased by 1.0%, besides the service period was shortened to 18 days, and the first insemination fertility increased up to 23%; furthermore, the feed conversion improved to 25%. Our experiments provided the improvement of milk productivity to 15.9%.

Dedkova et al., (2007) stated that nowadays, the quality of the agricultural products and their ecological safety were of great importance, hence the agricultural products with low consumptive qualities were uncompetitive. Vegetable supplements and nettle, in particular, could be a substitute for synthetic antibiotics.

They do not cause negative effects on the poultry bodies as they contain the vitamins and mineral substances in available form. The use of nettle substances improves poultry resistance, livability, and productivity.

It was defined that the use of Laminaria supplementary feed in Hisex White laying hens' diet provided the improvement of the egg production intensity by 12.3% and egg weight increase to 5.7% (Krasnoschokova et al., 2014)

The research by Babuhadiya (2015) devoted to the use of Laminaria flour in laying hens' diet revealed that crude protein digestibility improved by 5.1%, crude fat digestibility increased by 0.5%, NES digestibility - by 1.1%, egg production intensity - by 5.2-11.6% and egg mass yield – by 8.2% and 16.4%.

Mammaeva (2002) identified that the use of Laminaria supplementary feed in Hisex White laying hens' diet provides the improvement of the egg production intensity by 11.8%, egg weight increase by 10.3% and egg mass yield – by 10.7%. As a result of our research, the use of Laminaria in hens' diet contributed to egg mass yield increase by 17.1%.

According to Naumova (2017), the use of Laminaria supplementary feed in laying hens' diet conducted the improvement of protein digestibility to 2.6%, fat digestibility increase to 2.4%, egg production growth - by 5.9% and egg laying intensity by 4.8%; in addition, the feed consumption for the production of 1 kg of egg mass decreased to 7.8%.

The use of the composite supplementary feed that includes Laminaria determined the increase in egg production to 16.4% and egg laying intensity to 11.6%. Feed protein

digestibility increased to 11.8%, and fat digestibility increased to 7.3% (Sharvadze et al., 2009).

Evtuhich et al., (2005) conducted a scientific experiment on industrial laying hens that received with Japanese Laminaria supplementary feed. The iodine content in the eggs increased in 2.4-2.6 times.

Antonyuk et al., (2010) in their research on the use of Laminaria in laying hens' diet confirmed that iodine content in the eggs of the test groups hens increased in 1.5 times. The experiment conducted according to our method provided this figure increase by 8.6 times.

The activation of metabolic processes in laying hens' bodies, the improvement of their productivity and eggs quality with the use of herbal flour in the diet are confirmed by a number of the researchers. Abou-Elkhair et al., (2018) revealed the positive influence of the vegetable (phytobiotic) supplements use in the laying hens' diet contributing to the egg laying intensity improvement to 9.1%, egg mass yield growth to 16.7% and feed conversion ratio increase to 10.9%.

According to Saki et al., (2014) the use of the phytogetic supplementary feed in the laying hens' diet provided egg laying intensity improvement to 3.1%, egg mass yield growth to 10.0% and feed conversion ratio increase to 1.8%.

The use of the herbal flour in the laying hens' diet contributed to the increase of carotenoid content in the egg vitellus in 2.0-2.5 times and the amount of vitamins A and E growth in 1.2-2.1 times (Yegorov and Strukova, 2013).

The experiment conducted by Lukashenko and Velichko (2013) revealed that the use of the herbal flour in the laying hens' diet contributed to the increase of vitamin A content by 0.3-1.0 mcg/g and carotenoid content increase by 10.4-37.8 mcg/g in relation to control.

Manukyan (2008, 2012) studied the use of various doses of the herbal flour in hens' diet. The following indicators were determined: nitrogen utilization by the hens of the test groups improved by 1.3-2.4% in relation to control, fat digestibility raised by 1.4-2.9% and egg laying intensity enhanced by 2.9-8.7 pieces per hen; in addition, the carotenoid content in the egg vitellus increased in 2.0-2.5 times.

Our research revealed that the use of the herbal flour in laying hens' diet provides the egg mass yield growth to 17.6%. The feed conversion

ratio increased to 17%, which exceeds similar figures in the analyzed works.

The research on the use of 2% stinging nettle flour in broiler chicken diet revealed that their live weight increases by 5.9%, feed conversion enhances by 6.8% and livability raised by 3% (Rabazanov, 2003).

The surveys of the stinging nettle use in broiler chicken diet confirmed its positive effect on the resistance of the body, livability and reproductive functions indicators namely: the average daily live weight gain growth by 5.3%, broiler chicken live weight increased by 5.2% and birds livability improved by 4% (Dedkova and Avdyuhin, 2007).

The use of 1.0-5.0% of stinging nettle flour in broiler chicken diet provided the live weight increase by 3.4-3.5%, livability enhanced by 2.0-4.0%, feed conversion by 3.2-5.1% and muscle mass of the egg mass yield growth by 2.2-4.4% (Ahmedhanova, 2003).

The use of 2% of stinging nettle flour in broiler chicken diet provided the live weight increase by 5.9%, livability enhanced by 3.0%, feed conversion by 6.8%. Accumulation of vitamin C in the liver of adult specimens increased by 0.41-2.04 mg/g, in kidneys by 1.01-1.96 mg/g and in adrenals by 0.64-2.31 mg/g. As a result, the amount of vitamin A in these organs increased that contributed to the improvement of the availability of feed biologically active substances, namely lysine availability increased by 12.3%, methionine availability by 6.7% and cystine availability by 1.4% (Yegorov, 2014).

The definite balance of the biologically active substances in the supplementary vegetable feeds is of great importance for the living organisms. The authors confirmed that the use of vegetable supplements contributes to the improvement of the reproductive functions, the increase of productivity, and carotenoid content in the egg vitellus.

According to the results of our research, a number of patents for inventions providing the studied supplementary feeds implementation were obtained, namely:

- Patent ⁽¹⁹⁾RU⁽¹¹⁾ 2 655 210 ⁽¹³⁾ "The ways to improve the quality and consumption properties of the table eggs";

- Patent ⁽¹⁹⁾RU⁽¹¹⁾ 2 534 307 ⁽¹³⁾ "Composition of the biologically active supplementary feeds for laying hens, providing the productivity increase and eggs quality improvement";

- Patent ⁽¹⁹⁾RU⁽¹¹⁾ 2 534 266 ⁽¹³⁾ "Biologically active supplementary feeds for laying hens";

- Patent ⁽¹⁹⁾RU⁽¹¹⁾ 2 629 993 ⁽¹³⁾ "Laying hens' diet, providing the productivity increase and consumption properties of the production (eggs) improvement

- Patent ⁽¹⁹⁾RU⁽¹¹⁾ 2 599 564 ⁽¹³⁾ "Supplementary feeds for cattle providing the immunomodulatory effect."

5. CONCLUSIONS:

The article reveals the results of the researches on the effects of introducing new non-conventional vegetable supplementary feeds in the diets of dairy cows and industrial laying hens. The composition of supplementary feeds included kelp, creeping pine needles, lichens, fireweed, and stinging nettle both in pure form and as a part of the component additives.

The authors have studied the effect of supplementary feeds on the productive qualities of cows and laying hens; quality of products (milk, eggs); nutrient digestibility (use) of laying hens and reproductive functions of cows; and have identified the economic efficiency of using these supplementary feeds by changing feed conversion ratio.

As a result, the most suitable doses were identified for introducing the (studied) supplementary feeds which significantly improve the productive qualities of cows and laying hens; quality of products (milk, eggs); feed conversion; nutrient digestibility (use) of laying hens and reproductive functions of cows. It was identified that the effectiveness of introducing the analyzed non-conventional vegetable supplementary feeds in the diets of dairy cows and industrial laying hens depends on the feed base (structure and nutritional value of the diet), reasonable selection of the components included into the diet and the schemes of their use. The required result can be achieved while strictly following the zoohygienic conditions for farm animals and poultry keeping.

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Table 1. The content of basic active ingredients in the components under study (in 100 g of air-dry substance)

<i>Laminaria flour</i>			
Indices	Contained	Indices	Contained
Essential amino acids, %			
Lysine	0.39	Histidine	0.28
Methionine	0.18	Glycine	0.40
Threonine	0.41	Isoleucine	0.23
Tryptophan	0.07	Leucine	0.47
Arginine	0.56	Phenylalanine	0.45
Valine	0.36	Tyrosine	0.27
Minerals:			
Manganese, mg	1.05	Copper, mg	0.83
Zinc, mg	1.45	Selenium, mg	0.02
Iron, mg	60.5	Iodine, mg	43.3
Vitamins:			
E, mg/g	up to 650	B ₂ , mcg/g	up to 23.08
B ₁ , mcg/g	up to 4.60	C, mg/g	26.00
Carotenoids, mcg/g	20.32		
Other active ingredients:			
% to protein substances		Chondrin, mg %	up to 190
Fatty acids	0.65	Taurine, mg %	up to 220
Alginic acids	40.00	Citrulline, mg %	up to 240
Mannitol	28.00		
Fucoidin	5.00		
<i>Pinus pumila flour</i>			
Indices	Contained	Indices	Contained
Essential amino acids, %			
Lysine	0.09	Histidine	0.12
Threonine	0.16	Leucine	0.23
Tryptophan	0.25	Tyrosine	0.24
Arginine	0.15		
Minerals:			
Sodium, g	0.054	Phosphorus, g	0.19
Calcium, g	0.27	Iron, g	0.04
Vitamins:			
B ₁ , mg	19.1	E, mg	up to 540
B ₂ , mg	5.9	C, mg	up to 4850
B ₃ , mg	27.7	H, mg	0.15
B ₅ , mg	141.9	B _C , mg	8.0
B ₆ , mg	2.0	Carotenoids, mg %	31.8
Other active ingredients:			
Glycolipids, %	14.1	Aspartic acid, mg %	up to 187
Phospholipids, %	5.6	Glutamic acid, mg %	up to 326
Chlorophyll, mg %	493.5	Stearins, mg %	10.0
<i>Chamaenerion angustifolium L. flour</i>			
Indices	Contained	Indices	Contained
Essential amino acids, %			
Lysine	0.68	Histidine	0.29
Methionine	0.20	Glycine	0.74
Threonine	0.67	Isoleucine	0.66
Tryptophan	0.24	Leucine	1.06
Arginine	0.72	Phenylalanine	0.68
Valine	0.76	Tyrosine	0.55
Minerals:			
Calcium, g	1.27	Potassium, g	2.03
Phosphorus, g	0.51	Sodium, g	0.09
Vitamins:			

B ₁ , mg/kg	up to 3.0	B ₆ , mg/kg	up to 7.5
B ₂ , mg/kg	up to 17.0	B _c , mg/kg	up to 3.0
B ₃ , mg/kg	up to 30.0	E, mg/kg	up to 70.0
B ₄ , mg/kg	up to 1800	K, mg/kg	up to 18.0
B ₅ , mg/kg	up to 58.0	H, mg/kg	0.3
Carotenoids, mg %	8.62	Vitamin C, mg %	12.3

Urtica dioica flour

Indices	Contained	Indices	Contained
Essential amino acids, %			
Lysine	0.87	Histidine	0.65
Methionine	0.49	Glycine	0.11
Threonine	0.85	Isoleucine	0.82
Tryptophan	0.25	Leucine	0.16
Arginine	0.25	Phenylalanine	0.82
Valine	0.95	Tyrosine	0.50
Minerals:			
Calcium, g	1.40	Zinc, mg	0.45
Phosphorus, g	0.50	Manganese, mg	0.92
Magnesium, g	0.40	Copper, mg	0.14
Potassium, g	5.50	Iron, mg	76.0
Sodium, g	0.05	Cobalt, mg	0.12
Vitamins:			
C, mg	up to 2000	B ₂ , mg	12.0
E, mg	up to 104.4	Carotenoids, mg %	42.0
K, mg	up to 25.0		

Lichens

Indices	Contained	Indices	Contained
Crude protein	3-5		
Essential amino acids, % to crude protein			
Lysine	3.3	Leucine	2.6
Methionine	0.5	Phenylalanine	1.4
Threonine	1.8	Isoleucine	1.9
Valine	2.5		
Vitamins:		Minerals:	
Vitamin C, mg/100 g	11.4	Calcium, %	0.02
β-carotene, mg/100 g	10.3	Phosphorus, %	0.01
Other active ingredients:		Iron, %	0.01
Usnic acid, %	1.08	Potassium, %	0.02
		Magnesium, %	0.01

Table 2. The cows' productive functions characteristics

Groups	Service period, days		Insemination index		1 st insemination fertility (%)
	M ± m	Cv, %	M ± m	Cv, %	
Experiment 1					
Control	92.3 ± 10.2	20.3	2.4 ± 0.04	12.6	66.7
Test	79.7 ± 6.3	15.3	1.4 ± 0.02	10.5	77.8
Experiment 2					
Control	119.3 ± 13.5	33.9	3.0 ± 0.53	50.0	62.5
1 st test	101.4 ± 10.4	20.2	2.5 ± 0.32	36.8	75.0
2 nd test	89.7 ± 6.5	15.8	2.25 ± 0.25	31.5	87.5
3 rd test	98.6 ± 7.2	17.0	2.7 ± 0.36	37.4	62.5
Experiment 3					
Control	120.1 ± 4.8	36.5	2.6 ± 0.05	12.6	60.0
Test	109.1 ± 2.6	18.6	1.8 ± 0.03	10.8	80.0

Table 3. The productive value of the laying hens

Values	Groups				
	1 st control	2 nd test	3 rd test	4 th test	5 th test
Experiment 4					
Live weight at the end of the experiment, g	1702.6	1785.6	1790.5	1789.0	-
Gross egg production, pcs.	4425	4639	4773	4456	-
The intensity of the egg-laying capacity, %	78.24	84.24	85.58	83.48	-
Egg mass, total, kg	225.64	251.03	264.29	233.13	-
Feed conversion coefficient	2.83	2.47	2.38	2.58	-
Experiment 5					
Live weight at the end of the experiment, g	1718.4	1758.3	1770.8	1773.6	-
Gross egg production, pcs.	5425	5642	5835	5902	-
The intensity of the egg-laying capacity, %	86.45	89.56	92.62	93.68	-
Egg mass, total, kg	275.0	299.7	323.4	334.2	-
Feed conversion coefficient	2.74	2.60	2.43	2.33	-
Experiment 6					
Live weight at the end of the experiment, g	1603.3	1670.3	1658.6	1680.0	1661.4
Gross egg production, pcs.	3571	3759	3728	3860	3848
The intensity of the egg-laying capacity, %	82.66	87.01	86.30	89.35	89.07
Egg mass, total, kg	166.96	192.68	188.52	201.84	195.76
Feed conversion coefficient	3.10	2.69	2.75	2.57	2.65

Table 4. Eggs quality

Values	Groups				
	1 st control	2 nd test	3 rd test	4 th test	5 th test
Experiment 4					
Average weight of egg, g	63.0	65.5	65.9	64.1	-
Crude fat, %	8.1	8.5	8.4	8.4	-
Crude protein, %	11.2	12.0	12.0	11.7	-
NES, %	2.3	2.5	2.7	2.4	-
Carotin, mg/g	4.34	4.36	5.02	5.10	-
Iodine, mg %	80.54	117.04	319.48	692.41	-
Experiment 5					
Average weight of egg, g	61.3	65.7	64.8	65.1	-
Crude fat, %	7.0	7.2	6.9	7.2	-
Crude protein, %	12.1	12.3	12.1	12.2	-
NES, %	2.4	2.4	2.5	2.1	-
Carotin, mg/g	4.53	4.57	4.97	5.02	-
Experiment 6					
Average weight of egg, g	59.0	59.8	59.74	60.5	60.3
Crude fat, %	8.6	9.1	9.0	9.0	9.0
Crude protein, %	11.3	11.3	11.6	11.6	11.7
NES, %	2.9	3.0	3.0	3.2	3.0
Carotin, mg/g	9.1	10.0	10.6	14.0	14.4

Table 5. The utilization of the feed nutritional substances

Values	Groups				
	1 st control	2 nd test	3 rd test	4 th test	5 th test
Experiment 4					
Feed nitrogen utilization, %	40.50	50.96	47.67	47.97	-
Protein digestibility, %	87.82	90.47	90.65	90.52	-
Fat digestibility, %	67.37	69.52	69.67	69.51	-
NES digestibility, g	74.16	75.91	75.66	74.85	-
Experiment 5					
Feed nitrogen utilization, %	35.19	48.78	42.77	43.66	-
Protein digestibility, %	89.60	91.22	91.09	91.20	-
Fat digestibility, %	67.73	68.11	69.79	69.51	-
NES digestibility, g	69.83	76.13	72.82	73.28	-
Experiment 6					
Feed nitrogen utilization, %	35.97	47.59	44.48	46.80	44.72
Protein digestibility, %	88.70	91.53	91.61	91.77	91.42
Fat digestibility, %	55.64	61.97	64.82	61.81	61.01
NES digestibility, g	71.79	74.67	74.46	75.66	75.26

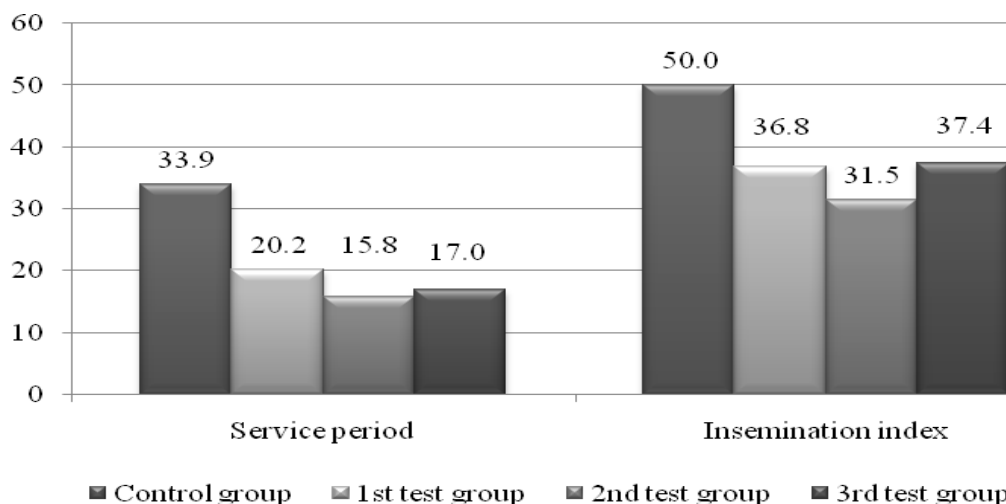


Figure 1. The coefficient of variability of the cows' reproductive function in Experiment 2, %

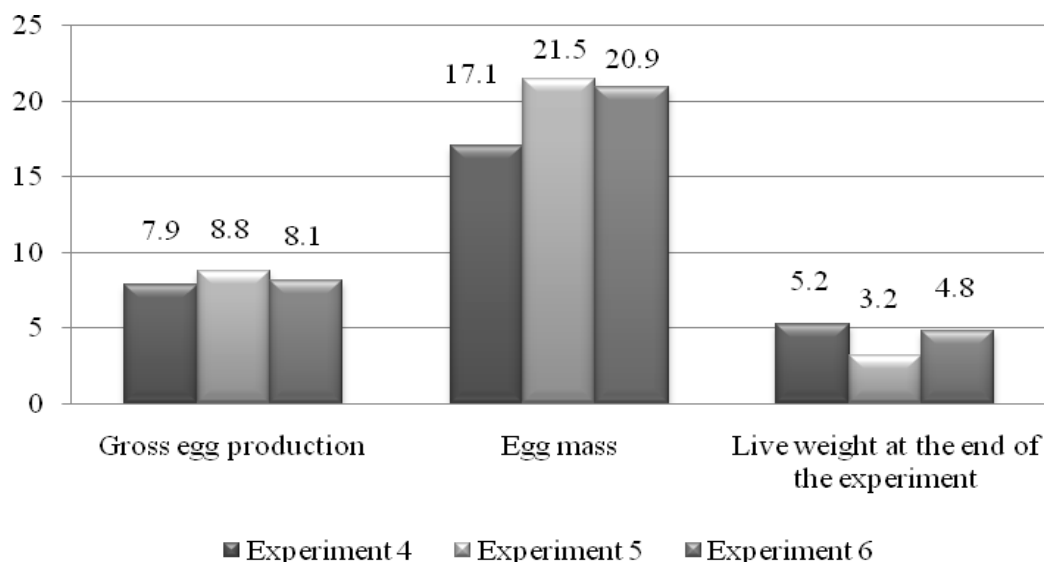


Figure 2. The productive value of the laying hens' growth, % (in relation to control)

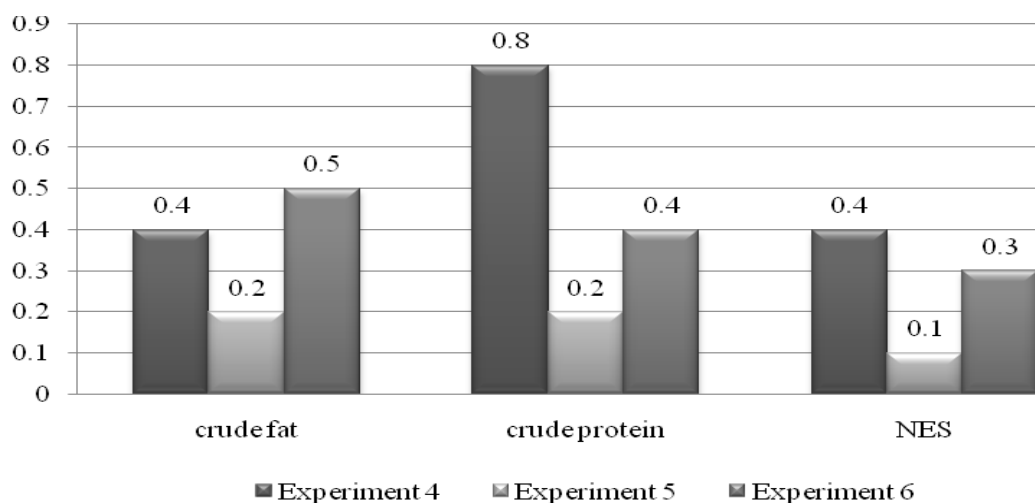


Figure 3. Eggs nutritiousness improvement in relation to control, %