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Influence of selected feed supplements on the growth and health of calves

The aim of this study was to prove the hypothesis that the growth and health of calves are dependent on feed supplements with an antidiarrhoeic effect, in relation to sex, season of birth, and number of the dam's lactations. A total of 186 calves were included in the experiment. After birth the calves were divided into three treatment groups: *Ascophyllum nodosum* (brown seaweed hydrolyzate, prebiotics), *Lactobacillus sporogenes* (probiotics), and the control group. All calves were weighed within two hours after birth. The growth and health were investigated from the birth to the fourth week of age. Compared to the control, a significant effect of applied feed supplements was found in the *Lactobacillus sporogenes* group in the body weight at 28 days of life ($P<0.01$) and in the average daily gains ($P<0.001$). We concluded from the analysis that only the use of *Lactobacillus sporogenes* had a positive influence on increasing the growth. Neither of the two supplements had a positive impact on the health of calves.

Biography

Lubos Zabransky works as an Assistant Professor with academic title for feeding livestock at the Department of Animal Husbandry Sciences. His specialty is mainly calves nutrition and the use of probiotic, prebiotic, symbiotic and other additive feed additives in livestock nutrition. He is Head of Diploma and Bachelor thesis, Co-investigator of grants NAZV QJ 1210 144, NAZV QJ 153 00 58, NAZV QJ 1210 375, filed two patents, authored or co-authored four articles impacted, one certified methodology, many peer-reviewed articles and contributions to proceedings with international participation.

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