

**EFFECTS OF THE COMMERCE SECTOR TRANSFORMATION ON THE NUTRIAS BREEDING STATUS
IN THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC**

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Summary

Transformation of the Slovak economy negatively influenced nutria's breeding status. Number of fair nutria's has declined from 18 000 animals in the year 1990 to 500 animals in the year 1995. Fur production declined from 80 000 to 3 500 pieces. After the common association of farmers, traders and furriers came into existence, number of animals and production in following years has softly increased. Main causes of farms breakdown were recession of Breeder's union activity, state grant-in-aid absence for breeders, decay of manufacturing capacities and price-cut of fur. Groundwork for further development of nutria's sector in Slovakia are high quality and production of fur, utilisation of cheap native feeds, breeding practise extension to new agroregions as a part of its economic prosperity.

Key words: economic transformation, nutria's breeding, fur production.

Introduction

Fur animal husbandry is an important part of the special animal production in Slovakia. The most important of its part under our condition is nutria's breeding, developed traditionally within small private breeds. Based on data from Kukla /1991/, yearly production of nutria's furs in former Czechoslovakia was 450 000 pieces. From that Slovakia itself produced around 80 - 100 000 furs /Toèka, 1998/. Long-time cultivation work ensured high quality of furs produced /Suvegová-Mertin, 1996/. Transformation of the business sector in the 90's negatively influenced all sectors of agriculture. In our study we have zoomed our attention on evaluation of main factors partook in recession of the nutria's breeding as well on perspectives of its further development.

Materials and methods

Following data were analysed as a frame of monitored nutria's breeding subjects:

- history of nutria's number within the years 1990 - 2000;
- history of fur production within the years 1990 - 2000;
- main causes of nutria's production decline;
- possible perspectives for nutria's breeding advancement.

Results

History of the nutria's numbers and fur production within the years 1990 - 2000 are stated in Table 1 and Graph 1.

Following the data of basic flock number we can enunciate emphatic decline of the animals kept. The strongest tendency is displayed between the years 1991 - 1992, when depressed from original 18 000 to 4 700 animals, which represent 26,1%. During following years this negative trend continued up to year 1995, when number of animals reached limit of gene pool exposure. Establishment of The fur animals breeders association in the Slovak republic /at the Research Institute of Animal Production in Nitra/ was the reaction on this situation. Intra-associated were next to breeders also representatives of processing and commerce subjects and researchers. Results of such co-operation were manifested by sequential increase of nutria's number. This tendency was however still affected by negative economic situation.

Adverse balance in animal numbers went along with situation in fur production. Original production in the 1990 failed from 80 000 pieces to 3 500 in the 1995, which represent just 4,3 % from the original production. In the following period fur production softly increased.

Situation analyse shown as an main factors of the negative status in nutria's breeding and production following causes:

- unconcern of resort authorities to fur animal husbandry, in particular cancellation of the breeding service and utilitarian control;
- swoon of the Slovak Breeders Union activities;
- transformation and disintegration of monopolist enterprises on the field of fur purchase and processing;
- insufficient advancement and highness of sequential commerce sector on the field of nutria's fur processing;
- low fur prices.

References

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TOČKA, I. : 1999. Chov nutrií na Slovensku. In : Slovenský chov, roč. 3, 1999, č. 10, s.19.

Table 1 Number of animals, sexual ratio and nutria's fur production in the Slovak republic within the years 1990 - 2000

Year	Number of animals				Furs produced	
	Females	Males	Total	%	Pieces	%
1990	15 000	3 000	18 000	100	80 000	100
1991	12 000	2 500	14 500	80,5	60 000	75
1992	4 000	700	4 700	26,1	25 000	31,2
1993	2 000	400	2 400	13,3	10 000	12,5
1994	1 500	300	1 800	10,0	8 000	10
1995	500	100	600	3,3	3 500	4,3
1996	800	150	950	5,2	5 500	6,8
1997	1 000	200	1 200	6,6	8 000	10
1998	1 200	250	1 450	8,0	9 000	11,2
1999	1 300	300	1 600	8,8	9 500	11,8
2000	1 500	300	1 800	10,0	9 800	12,2

INFLUENCE OF BIOLOGICAL ADDITIVES ON NUTRIENT CONTENT IN ALFALFA SILAGES

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Summary

In the experiments were verified the influence of biological additive application to nutrient content in alfalfa silages with different content of dry matter. In the experimental alfalfa silages with lower content of dry matter addition of lactic acid bacteria increased significantly the dry matter in comparison to nontreated silages. Application of biological additive significantly increased content of crude protein in silages by 12,3 g. The silages with additional homofermentative lactic acid bacteria had significantly the lowest content of nitrogen free extract (NFE) and reduced sugars. In the experimental alfalfa silages with higher content of dry matter the addition of biological additive increased significantly content of dry matter by 7,7 g in comparison to control silages. As well as in the first series of experiments, in the silages with biological additive was the lowest content of NFE and significantly lowest content of reduced sugars. Experimental silages in both levels of dry matter had the lowest content of organic matter.

Key words: biological additive, alfalfa, silage, nutrient content

Introduction

Effectivity of cattle milk and meat production is significantly influenced by quality of fodders. Alfalfa belongs to the most important protein fodders because of stable and high dry matter production. In the balanced diets altogether with maize make alfalfa the main portion of fodder (Bíro, 2000). At present we are able to in Slovakia produced around 2 800 thousand tones of fodder dry matter and out of this there are 720 thousand tones dry matter from yearly fodders, 800 thousand tones dry matter from more years fodders and 1 270 thousand tones dry matter from permanent fodders (Sommer, 2000). Out of whole year needs of fodders are in our condition (60 – 70 %) conservated fodder and the rest 30 – 40 % is feeding fresh (Bíro, 1995). The composition of conservated fodders is cca 40 – 45 % silaged and 15 – 20 % is hay (Gallo, 1999 b). The decision problem in Slovakia is quality of silages, while one of the factors which can improve the quality of silages is use of silages preparations. The suggestion of silages preparations either chemical or biological is small in comparison to other countries. At present there is in Slovakia allowed only 9 biological and 4 chemical preparations (Gallo, 1999 a).