

Application of rapeseed-containing feeds in nutrition of rabbits and their influence on meat quality

Dorota Kowalska, Paweł Bielański

Summary

The aim of the undertaken studies was to determine the possibilities of applying rapeseed cake, rapeseed meal and rapeseed oil in nutrition of rabbits. The effect of the employed feed additives on the quality of the obtained meat was examined. Rapeseed cake and rapeseed meal are very good protein feeds, utilized in nutrition of ruminants, including fattened cattle and the sheep. The mentioned products are also successfully used in nutrition of poultry; on the other hand, the studies on their application in nutrition of rabbits are very scarce. The obtained results of the studies allow stating that the introduction of rapeseed cake, rapeseed meal and rapeseed oil to the feeds for rabbits did not have any negative impact on the obtained rabbit meat. Decrease of PUFA *n*-6: PUFA *n*-3 ratio, with 5% addition of rapeseed meal or rapeseed cake and significant lowering of the level of cholesterol, with 5% addition of rape cake or 3% addition of rape oil should be considered as the most favourable changes from the point of view of human dietetics.

KEY WORDS: rabbits / nutrition / rapeseed cake / rapeseed meal / rape oil / meat / quality