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Efficiency of metabolizable and net energy in growing bulls fed diets with maize silage

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ABSTRACT

The experiment was carried out on 80 Black-and-White Lowland bulls with an average 75% (50.0 to 87.5%) HF blood share and average initial body weight (BW) of 175 ± 5.0 kg fattened to 500 ± 10 kg final BW. The animals were divided into two groups of 40 bulls according to an analogue method based on BW and HF blood share, and fed rations consisting of maize silage and concentrate in an average ratio 64: 36% in DM for Group N fed according to the net energy system (IZ INRA, 2001) or 57:43% in DM for Group M fed according to the metabolizable energy system (DLG, 1997). Within each group, four subgroups of 10 animals were formed and fattened at a different level of production providing daily BW gains (BWG), g: 800 (subgroup S₁), 1000 (S₂), 1200 (S₃) and 1400 (S₄). The (PDIE-PDIN)/UFV ratio in the ration for Group N was markedly smaller (-1.84 g/UFV) than in group M (+8.52 g/UFV). Daily BWG of animals of Group N in the respective subgroups were 1003, 1169, 1266, 1400 g and of Group M, 1109, 1170, 1308 and 1345 g, but differences in BWG between the parallel subgroups of Groups N and M were statistically insignificant (P>0.05). Performance of animals fed according to both systems, net or metabolizable energy, did not differ markedly, however, formulation of the diet according to the IZ-INRA system compared with the DLG system resulted in superior balancing of energy and protein, as rations formulated according to ME contained markedly more concentrate and less roughage than according to the NE system.

KEY WORDS: fattening bulls, net energy, metabolizable energy, performance

INTRODUCTION

Contemporary energy systems of ruminant feeding are based on Blaxter's (1962) experimental results demonstrating that metabolizable energy (ME) is the principle factor for energy evaluation in feeds for ruminants and their energy requirements. Meeting of energy requirement of animals depends on the degree of utilization of ME for net energy. The coefficient of ME utilization for net energy, taking into account maintenance and production requirements in fattened bulls, is positively correlated with metabolizability of gross energy and negatively with the level of production. All systems of ruminant feeding used in European countries take into account the efficiency of ME maintenance and production processes but only some of them formulate feed energy value as ME (AFRC, 1993; DLG, 1997) though they take into consideration the degree of its utilization for net energy (NE).

Feeding standards for ruminants accepted in Poland (IZ-INRA, 2001) adapted from the French system (INRA,1988) are based on ME content in individual feeds but take into account the efficiency of ME for NE and a production level of 1.5. However, they estimate the energy value of feeds and requirements of fattened bulls, similarly as the majority of energy systems (Van der Honig and Alderman, 1988), i.e. as NE, expressing it in terms of units for maintenance and meat production (UFV). The energy value expressed in UFV depends less on the level of production than that expressed in terms of net energy units (Gay and Micol, 1988).

Some authors investigating factors influencing net energy deposition are of the opinion that fattening cattle based on metabolizable energy is more justified as it allows predicting the results of production with higher precision (Gabel and Papstein, 1995a,b; Papstein et al., 1995). Our earlier study (Strzetelski et al., 1996) demonstrated that balancing rations for fattened bulls on the basis of ME according to ARC (1980) standards corresponds less to anticipated and obtained body weight gains than balancing according to INRA (1988) standards.

Accepting maize whole plant silage as the most effective roughage for fattened bulls and taking into consideration the recent results of investigations concerning the energy requirements of these animals, it seemed worthwhile to investigate the effect of differentiated energy content in the ration formulated in terms of ME or NE on the performance of fattening bulls.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Animals and feeding

The experiment was carried out on 80 Black-and-White Lowland bulls with an average 75% (50.0 to 87.5%) HF blood share and average initial weight of 175±5.0 kg

Composition of concentrate mixture

fattened to 500 ± 10 kg final body weight (BW). The animals were divided into two groups of 40 bulls according to an analogue method based on BW and HF blood share, and fattened on rations consisting of whole plant maize silage and concentrate in a ratio of 64:36 % in DM for group N fed according to NE or 53:43% in DM for Group N fed according to ME. Within each group, four subgroups of 10 animals were formed and fattened at different levels of production providing daily BWG of, g: 800 (subgroup S₁), 1000 (S₂), 1200 (S₃) and 1400 (S₄). Initial and final BW were determined as mean weights before the morning feeding for two successive days. The animals were kept in individual stalls equipped with automatic drinking bowls and a slatted floor lined with rubber matting.

The bulls were given diets containing whole-plant maize silage, pelleted ($\emptyset = 8 \text{ mm}$) concentrate mixture (Table 1), and rapeseed oilmeal as a high-protein supplement. The maize silage and concentrate were given separately. The net energy (UFV) and protein value of feeds, components of the concentrate mixture and daily rations for group N were established according to IZ-INRA (2001) feeding standards using WINWAR ver. 1.6 (2000), WIMIX ver. 1.7 (2000) and INRAtion ver. 2.63 (1998/99) software, and for group M according to the DLG (1997) system using L. Mroczko metabolizable energy for fattening Ruminant Feeding ver. 2000 software.

Pellets of concentrate mixture were produced using Type H-10 Rofama-Rogoźno (Poland) equipment after treatment at 185°C and 6 atm. for 1 sec with steam. Pellet batches were stored for no longer than 3 months.

Before the experiment started, daily rations were established on the basis of the results of chemical analysis of feed components for Group N for each 30 kg BWG compartment using the IZ-INRA (2001) system and for Group M, 50 kg (DLG, 1997) ranges of BWG according to the software programs. Daily rations in particular groups were changed in different periods depending on daily BWG. The animals were fed once daily and feed refusals were collected daily. The BW of the animals was checked after each 30 days of the experimental period.

<u> </u>	
Feeds	%
Triticale grain, ground	60.0
Rye grain, ground	16.0
Rapeseed oilmeal	7.0
Soyabean oilmeal	10.0
Sugar beet molasses	3.0
Premix 3111 of Cargil firm ¹	2.7
CaHPO ₄	1.0
Binder	0.3

¹ in 1 kg: P 95, Ca 205, Mg 50, g; J 120, Zn 5000, Cu 1000, Fe 1000, Co 50, Se 20, mg: IU - vit. A 880000; vit. D, 160000; vit. E 1100

Analysis and calculation

The chemical composition of feeds was determined according to AOAC (1990) methods. Maize silage was sampled and analyzed before and after each 30 days and other feeds after each 2 months of the experimental period. The results were subjected to statistical analysis according to the GLM procedure of SAS (1989) software.

The gross energy (GE) content in the concentrate mixture was calculated according to the equation given in INRA (1988) and in rapeseed oilmeal according to the equation given by Hoffman (1971). GE and ME contents in components of rations were estimated on the basis of Feed Composition Tables IZ-INRA (2001), these values and mean feed intake were used for calculation of GE and ME intake.

The content of net energy in daily rations was given in terms of UFV and for each group and subgroup of animals the following were calculated:

- metabolizability of rations, q = ME/BE
- level of feeding, AFL = [(MEm + MEf)/MEm]
- level of production APL = [(NEm + NEf)/NEm]
- coefficient of ME for NE efficiency in processes of maintenance and production, kmf
- accepting that ME for maintenance requirements in fattened bulls is 538 kJ/ BW^{0.75} (DLG, 1977) and NE for maintenance requirements is 368 kJ/BW^{0.75} (INRA 1988), the efficiency of ME and NE for production was also calculated for each group and subgroup.

RESULTS

The average content of nutrients and energy value of feeds for bulls is given in Table 2. In all subgroups, daily rations ingested by the bulls in Group M contained more concentrate (P<0.0001) and less maize silage (P<0.05) than consumed by the animals in Group N (Table 3). The animals of Group M ingested more dry matter and net energy (UFV) in successive subgroups and less crude protein, PDIN and PDIE, however, differences in means between the analogous subgroups of both groups did not always reach statistical significance (P<0.05). A similar dependence in mean values was also found between Groups N and M (Table 4). The animals of Group M ingested about 12% less maize silage daily, but about 14% more concentrate and 15% less crude protein and PDI (P<0.0001). Differences between the groups in DM and energy (UFV) intake appeared to be not significant statistically.

Nutrient content in 1 k	cg dry matte	r of feeds												ΔT	ABLE 2
Feeds	Dry matter	Crude proteir	e Etl n extr	her ract	Crude fibre	As	sh ey	N-free xtracti- ves	Gross energy	° ≓ ∑	etabo- zable 1ergy	UFV		PDI ² , g	
	%	60		50	G	0.0		IJ	MJ		Ш		PDIN	H	DIE
Maize silage ¹	36.0	90.5	33	3.0	198.6	48	0.5	629.7	18.53		0.63	0.83	55		69
Concentrate mixture	86.7	176.5	5 16	5.6	38.7	27	, 6.7	740.2	18.70	1	2.76	1.18	120		121
Triticale grain, ground	86.2	133.6	5 15	5.3	27.0	23	3.3	800.8	ı			1.25	06		111
Rye grain, ground	87.6	112.2	18	3.6	26.0	26	5.4	822.8				1.22	75		104
Soyabean oilmeal	87.4	487.9	18	8.1	78.9	70	.4	344.7	'			1.17	347		248
Rapeseed oilmeal	88.9	365.8	37	7.4	120.2	76	.4 .	400.2	18.82	1	1.84	1.08	237		157
Sugar beet malasses	76.0	56.6				123	3.1	820.9				1.09	84		71
16.000		S ₁ -800		1001	S ₂ -1	000	II gamo II	one ain t	S ₃ -	1200	, E uu y		S_{4} -14	001	
TICILI	Groups	ЦG	Ē	Gro	sdn	цр	Ē	Grc	sdno		ļ	Gro	sdnc	L L	
	N	1 SE	Ш Д	z	M	S E	 24	z	Μ	о Г	U.	z	Μ	0 E	 1
Maize silage, kg	9.91 8.	87 0.32	0.0001	10.74	9.89	0.17	0.007	11.99	11.49	0.17	0.048	11.98	10.33	0.28	0.0001
Concentrate mixture, kg	0.60 2.	53 0.22	0.0001	1.23	2.80	0.20	0.001	1.96	3.09	0.13	0.0001	2.71	3.88	0.14	0.0001
Rapessed oilmeal, kg	1.27 0.	0 0.005	5 0.0001	1.08	0.0	0.018	0.0001	0.83	0.03	0.09	0.001	0.71	0.05	0.08	0.0001
Dry matter, kg	5.21 5.	38 0.06	0.0004	5.90	5.99	0.05	0.40	6.75	6.85	0.08	0.62	7.29	7.14	0.06	0.07
Crude protein, g	828 676	23.52	0.0001	889	751 1	17.82	0.0001	954	857	9.59	0.0001	1036	944	12.27	0.0001
PDIN, g	529 440	14.04	0.0001	571	489 1	0.56	0.0001	619	558	5.77	0.0001	672	621	7.16	0.0001
PDIE, g	488 486	5.74	0.42	549	541	3.41	0.22	621	616	5.14	0.022	684	673	4.19	0.021
UVF	4.80 5.	24 0.04	0.005	5.51	5.83	0.056	0.004	6.39	6.63	0.084	0.0004	7.03	7.11	0.04	0.005
at P≤0.05 difference.	s are statisti	cally sign	ificant												

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TABLE 4

Daily feed and nutrient intake in the groups of bulls fed according to net (N) and metabolic (M) energy

Itom	0	Broups	SE	D-
Item	Ν	М	- 5E	P-
Maize silage, kg	11.18	10.27	0.16	0.08
Concentrate mixture, kg	1.64	3.07	0.07	0.0001
Rapeseed oilmeal, kg	0.97	0.02	0.01	0.0001
Dry matter, kg	6.28	6.38	0.09	0.86
Crude protein, g	928	810	13.35	0.0001
PDIN, g	598	529	8.62	0.0001
PDIE, g	587	582	8.77	0.48
UFV	5.98	6.22	0.08	0.03

at P<0.05 differences are statistically significant

The ratio of maize silage to concentrate in the diet for Group N averaged 64 : 36% in DM and gradually decreased with increasing production level from 68 : 32% (subgroup S_1 - 800) to 59 : 41% in DM (subgroup S_4 - 1400), but in Group M this ratio was averaged 57 : 4 3% in DM and was similar in the first three subgroups (59 : 41 % in DM) and equalled 52 : 48% in DM in subgroup S_4 - 1400.

The average content of GE in rations for bulls of both groups was similar (117.8±0.5 MJ) but increased in successive subgroups from 98.4 ± 1.5 MJ to 133.9 ± 1.6 MJ. The content of ME in rations for group N was 71.0 MJ and increased from 57.9 MJ in subgroup S_1 -800 to 83.2 MJ in subgroup S_4 -1400. In Group M the respective values were: 73.4 MJ and increased from 61.9 do 83.0 MJ. In both groups, as average daily BWG increased, the metabolizability (q = ME/GE) of rations increased somewhat as well. The average value of q was slightly higher in ratio M (0.62) than N (0.60). The average feeding level (AFL) gradually increased in subgroups from 1.4 (Group N) or 1.5 (Group M) to 2.0 in both groups, with respective average values of 1.7 and 1.8. The increase of daily BWG in subgroups was parallel to the increase in production level (APL), from 1.2 (Group N) or 1.3 (Group M) to 1.7 in both groups and averaged 1.5 and 1.6, respectively. The decline in the efficiency coefficient of ME for NE (kmf) gradually diminished in the subgroups of both groups: from 0.67 in N and 0.66 in M group to 0.60 and 0.61, respectively. Average kmf values for these groups were 0.62 (N) and 0.63 (M). The average value of BW^{0.75} for both groups was 78.8 kg. The efficiency of ME in production processes varied in the successive subgroups from 27 (Group N) or 32 (Group M) to 49% in both groups; the average for the respective groups was 41 and 42%. Efficiency of NE for production was on average about 3 percentage units higher in Group N (35%) than in Group M (32%) and increased as daily BWG increased in successive subgroups from 16 to 42% when feeding bulls according NE standards and from 22 to 42% in animals fed according requirements for ME. The biggest differences in NE efficiency for production processes between groups N and

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TABLE 5

Body weight, daily body ding to net (N) or metab	/ weight { olisable e	gains ar mergy (id feeds M)	s and nuti	ients coi	iversion	for ass	umed d	aily bod	y weigł	nt gains	of bull	s fed rati	on form	nulated	accor-
					Assume	d body w	eight ga	ins in th	e subgrou	ps of gro	. g 'sdno	day ⁻¹				
Itom		S ₁ -	800			S ₂ - 10	00($S_{3} - 1$	200			$S_4 - 1_2$	00†	
IICIII	Gro	sdn	10	Ē	Gro	sdn	L C	Ļ	Gro	sdr			Gro	sdn	Ľ	
	z	Μ	0E	Ш Ш	z	Μ	0E	11 11	z	Σ	0E	11 11	z	Μ	0E	11 11
Initial body weight, kg	177.7	176.2	3.57	0.84	176.7	171.9	1.89	0.22	177.2	176.9	2.92	0.96	176.0	178.4	3.05	0.70
Final body weight, kg	493.7	495.8	1.33	0.44	501.3	497.0	2.24	0.35	497.0	503.2	2.13	0.15	505.8	503.0	2.65	0.61
Feeding days	315.0	288.2	6.14	0.52	276.6	278.0	5.86	0.77	252.6	249.4	4.91	0.28	235.0	241.3	5.66	0.26
Body weight gain, g day ^{1}	1003	1109	23.19	0.48	1169	1170	23.70	0.53	1266	1308	21.86	0.14	1400	1345	27.61	0.16
Feed and nutrients conver-	sion per 1	kg gain:														
maize silage, kg	9.91	8.00	0.46	0.0001	9.19	8.46	0.39	0.586	8.94	9.17	0.21	0.96	8.56	7.68	0.30	0.15
concentrate, ¹ kg	1.87	2.28	0.06	0.0001	1.98	2.39	0.06	0.0001	2.20	2.38	0.04	0.11	2.44	2.92	0.09	0.0002
dry matter, kg	5.19	4.85	0.16	0.0001	5.04	5.12	0.14	0.49	5.14	5.37	0.10	0.73	5.21	5.31	0.15	0.58
crude protein, g	825	609	33.87	0.0001	760	642	20.39	0.008	737	667	15.59	0.0009	740	674	18.03	0.56
PDI, g	486	397	20.90	0.0001	470	418	12.0	0.019	478	434	18.20	0.001	480	462	12.47	0.76
UFV	4.78	4.76	0.124	0.28	4.71	4.99	0.133	0.17	4.89	5.18	0.09	0.46	5.02	5.28	0.148	0.247
¹ - mixture + rapessed oi	l meal															

¹ - mixture + rapessed oil meal at $P \le 0.05$ differences are statistically significant

METABOLIZABLE AND NET ENERGY FOR BULLS

M was found between analogous groups S_1 -800. The efficiency of NE for production of 1 kg BW ^{0.75} in this subgroup of group M was about 7 percentage units higher.

The (PDIE-PDIN)/UFV ratio in the ration for Group N was markedly smaller (-1.84 g/UFV) than in group M (+8.52g/UFV) and in successive subgroups of Group N it increased starting from -8,54 to +1.71 g/UFV. In Group M, it was on a similar level in all subgroups (8.78 to 7.31g/UFV).

Daily BWG of animals in Group N in respective subgroups equaled 1003, 1169, 1266, 1400 g and in Group M 1109, 1170, 1308 and 1345 g. Differences between analogous subgroups in average daily BWG were not significant (P>0.05), although in some subgroups, the bulls in Group M grew faster than in Group N (Table 5). BWG of bulls of Group M (subgroup S_1 -800 and S_3 -1200) were 10 and 5%, respectively, higher than in Group N. Intake of concentrate and maize silage, crude protein and PDI per kilogram BWG was significantly lower (P<0.0001) in all subgroups of Group N than Group M, but the differences in DM and energy (UFV) intake between groups were not statistically significant (P>0.05), although a slight tendency towards better utilization in subgroup S_1 -800 of group M and worse utilization in the remaining subgroups developed as compared with the subgroups of Group N.

Daily BWG in subgroups S_1 -800, S_2 -1000 and S_3 -1200 of group N were higher than assumed by about 20, 15, and 5% and in Group M by 28, 15 and 8%, respectively. Bulls of subgroup S_4 -1400 gained as was assumed.

A tendency towards better BWG in the bulls of Group M than in Group N during the whole experimental period (Table 6, Figure 1) was marked.

Itom	Grou	ıps	SE	
item –	Ν	М	- 5E	P=
Initial body weight, kg	176.9	176.0	1.47	0.68
Final body weight, kg	499.4	499.8	1.11	0.86
Feeding days	267.0	262.7	3.89	0.43
Body weight gain, g day-1	1208	1232	17.92	0.44
Feed and nutrients conversion per 1 kg	of gain:			
maize silage, kg	9.25	8.35	0.16	0.0001
concentrate, kg	2.16	2.50	0.04	0.0001
dry matter, kg	5.20	5.17	0.07	0.32
crude protein, g	768	652	11.61	0.0001
PDI, g	486	428	0.06	0.0001
UFV	4.95	5.05	0.06	0.68

TABLE 6 Body weight, daily body weight gains, feed and nutrients conversion in groups of bulls fed according to net (NE) or metabolizable (ME) energy

at P≤0.05 differences are statistically significant



Figure 1. Changes in daily body weight gain in fattening period

DISCUSSION

The assumed and achieved daily BWG in analogous subgroups S_1 -800, S_2 -1000, S_3 -1200 in both groups indicate that both feeding systems for bulls, DLG (1997) and IZ-INRA (2001), overestimated the requirements of fattened bulls. Higher than assumed daily BWG might be caused by higher than designed nutrient intake. The proportion of maize silage and concentrate in daily rations for animals in the respective ranges of BW were established assuming that the composition of rations would be similar throughout the experimental period. However, chemical analysis demonstrated that the nutrient content in the ration was variable over the course of the experiment, especially in relation to maize silage, as its initial DM content of 28% increased markedly with time to 41%. In both groups, as BWG increased in successive subgroups, the difference between the expected and obtained gains declined. It seems that at a higher rate of BWG (1200 - 1400 g/day) the supply of nutrients did not exceed or only slightly exceeded the requirement for the assumed BWG.

The gradual increase of GE metabolizability of rations (q) and AFL and APL values as the BWG increased in consecutive subgroups of both groups, accompanied by a parallel decrease of the kmf coefficient value, is consistent with the assumption of both bull fattening systems applied in the experiment (INRA, 1978; Geay et al., 1987; Gabel and Papstein, 1995b).

Slightly lower metabolizability of rations and kmf coefficients in Group M compared with Group N suggest that bulls fed according to ME requirement should grow faster than those fed rations formulated according to the NE system.

Indeed, in bulls of Group M, particularly in some subgroups, a tendency towards higher BWG was marked compared with group N, but these differences did not

reach statistical significance (P>0.05). It is possible that in respect to the wider ratio of concentrate to roughage in Group M compared with Group N, the negative interaction of concentrate x roughage was marked more strongly. This could decrease the real energy value of the ration, which could limit the animal's rate of growth.

Lack of significant differences in daily BWG between bulls fed according to the metabolizable energy (DLG, 1997) and UFV (IZ-INRA, 2001) systems and, at the same time, better utilization of ME and NE per kg BW^{0.75} and a wider ratio of (PDIE - PDIN)/UFV in Group M than N suggests that BWG in this group contained more fat than protein. The utilization ME/kg BW^{0.75} (Gabel and Papstein, 1995b) obtained in both groups was similar to the value that can be obtained determining the requirement for ME according to DLG (1997) standards, accepting the average BW^{0.75} as 78.8 kg and daily BWG 1200 g/day in both groups. The INRA (1988) system assumes a maintenance requirement for bulls of dairy breeds 502 kJ ME/kg BW^{0.75} and beef breads 577 kJ ME/kg BW^{0.75} and on such assumptions, ME efficiency for production is about 4 percentage units higher in both groups.

It is difficult to state unequivocally, based on the production results obtained, which of these values are more appropriate for fattened bulls of dairy cattle breeds raised in Poland. It was demonstrated by numerous authors (NRC, 2000) that maintenance requirements depend on many factors such as age, body weight, breed, genetic potential influencing the rate of growth and also maintenance conditions. ME for maintenance requirements for fattened bulls according to NRC (2000) ranges, depending on the these factors, from 443 to 528 MJ/kg BW^{0.75}. In our experiment, however, ME for maintenance requirements calculated according to the equations given in AFRC (1993) standards taking into account average matabolizability (q) of rations fed in Groups N and M was on average $547 \pm 5 \text{ kJ/kg BW}^{0.75}$.

The decrease of differences between designed daily BWG and that obtained in analogous subgroups of both groups with faster growth of bulls suggests that at higher BWG, above 1200 g/day, rations formulated according to requirements for ME as well as NE gave a similar production effect.

CONCLUSIONS

In summarising the results of the experiment it can be concluded that the performance of fattened bulls of dairy breed was similar for both ME and NE feeding systems. However, formulating rations according to the IZ-INRA (2001) system as compared with the DLG (1997) system allows achieving a better balance of protein and energy in the diets. Diets formulated according to the ME system contain more concentrate and less roughage than the NE system. Both systems can be used in practice for fattening bulls, but their usefulness for the farmer depends, first of all, on the costs of concentrate and roughages.

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METABOLIZABLE AND NET ENERGY FOR BULLS

STRESZCZENIE

Efektywność energii metabolicznej i energii netto w opasie buhajków żywionych kiszonką z kukurydzy

Doświadczenie przeprowadzono na 80 buhajkach rasy nizinnej czarno-białej ze średnim 75% (50,0 to 87,5%) dolewem krwi HF i początkowej masie ciała 175 \pm 5,0 kg opasanych do 500 \pm 10 kg. Buhajki podzielono metodą analogów na dwie grupy, po 40, i żywiono według systemu energii metabolicznej (Grupa M) lub energii netto (Grupa N). W każdej grupie utworzono 4 podgrupy po 10 zwierząt, które opasano zakładając różne poziomy produkcji przewidujące przyrosty masy ciała: (g/dzień): 800 (podgrupa S₁), 1000 (S₂), 1200 (S₃) lub 1400 (S₄). Zwierzęta trzymano na indywidualnych stanowiskach wyścielonych gumowymi matami z automatycznymi poidłami i ważono je co miesiąc przed rannym karmieniem przez dwa kolejne dni. Dzienne dawki kiszonki z kukurydzy i paszy treściwej oraz śruty rzepakowej, jako dodatku uzupełniającego białko, w poszczególnych przedziałach wagowych Grupy M (30 kg) ułożono według systemu IZ-INRA (2001), a dla Grupy N (50 kg) według systemu DLG (1997). Stosunek kiszonki z kukurydzy do paszy treściwej w Grupie M wynosił średnio 57:43% w s.m., w Grupie N 64:36% w s.m. Dzienne przyrosty masy ciała buhajków w kolejnych podgrupach wynosiły odpowiednio, g/dzień: 1003, 1169, 1266, 1400, w Grupie M: 1109, 1170, 1308 i 1345. Stosunek różnicy (PDIE-PDIN)/UFV w Grupie N był wyraźnie mniejszy (-1,84 g/UFV) niż w Grupie M (+8,52 g/UFV).

Między analogicznymi podgrupami obydwóch grup nie stwierdzono statystycznie istotnych różnic (P>0,05) w dziennych przyrostach masy ciała. Wyniki produkcyjne opasanych buhajków były podobne zarówno przy skarmianiu dawek pokarmowych układanych według systemu ME lub NE.

Układanie dawek pokarmowych zgodnie z zaleceniami systemu IZ-INRA pozwoliło na lepsze, w porównaniu z normami DLG, ich zbilansowanie pod względem energii i białka. Dawki pokarmowe bilansowane według ME w porównaniu z dawkami bilansowanymi według NE zawierały znacznie więcej paszy treściwej, a mniej objętościowej.