

Editorial news and events

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Conference Reports

The conference on "Production and conservation of roughages and their use in ruminant nutrition" held in Ciechocinek, Poland, 28-30 April 1998, was organized by the Department of Animal Nutrition and Feed Management Economy, Academy of Technology and Agriculture, Bydgoszcz (Poland).

The conference was attended by over 120 participants representing universities, research institutes, extension services and animal and feed producers. Review papers (3), short communications (43), and posters (57), were presented in three sessions: "Production of roughages", "Utilization of roughages in ruminant nutrition" and "Forage conservation". In the first session the results of studies on forage production on arable land, pasture and meadows and the influence of type of soil, fertilizer and weather conditions on productivity of different kinds of forages were presented. The second and the third sessions considered the different methods of forage conservation and the use of silages in dairy cow nutrition. In Poland, chiefly meadow grasses from field cultivation and maize, but also sugar beet leaves and pulp, are used for silage production. The effect of biological and chemical additives on quality and nutritional value of silages was presented and discussed. Methods for evaluation of quality and nutrient availability of forages, silages, hay and concentrates were also presented.

"Effectiveness of INRA and other ruminant feeding systems", a conference held in Balice near Cracow (Poland), on 4-5 November 1998, was organized by the Animal Nutrition Departments of the Institute of Animal Production (Balice) and Cracow Agriculture University. The proceedings of the Conference, 10 invited

papers and 21 communications (in Polish with abstracts in English) have been published. Theoretical bases and results of feeding trials in the INRA system were discussed by 130 of scientific and extension service workers. It was concluded that introduction of INRA ruminant feeding systems increases effectiveness of milk and beef production in Poland. Application of the INRA system for sheep was less effective and more data on domestic feeds quality and composition is needed. It was emphasized that methods used for feeds composition determination and their evaluation should be standardised.

The symposium on "Influence of feeding on the quality of animal products" held in Warsaw (Poland), 3-4 December 1998, was organized by the Department of Animal Nutrition and Feed Management of the Warsaw Agricultural University (SGGW).

The main topics of 22 oral presentations and 15 posters were the effects of feeding dairy cows on milk composition and technological properties, morphological and chemical body composition of growing lambs, pigs and broilers as affected by dietary components, single feeds and feeds additives, and the levels of heavy metals in wild living fish, pheasants and hares.

The possibility of monitoring fat composition and quality using feeds containing poly-unsaturated fatty acids, Ca-salts of fatty acids, vitamin E and sodium ascorbate were discussed.

The great importance of animal feeding management and sanitary standards for maintaining satisfactory food quality was stressed. It was concluded that joint research programmes on animal and human nutrition should be proposed.