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Energy Nutritional Value of Grass Mixtures with Different Ratio of Components

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SUMMARY

2016-2019

5 m².

: (100% -);
+ e (50:50);
+ (50:50);
+ (50:50);
+
(25:25:25:25).

(147.87 g kg⁻¹). -

(75.0 g kg⁻¹ CB),

(18.3 g kg⁻¹) -
(2.5 g kg⁻¹).

The experiment was carried out during the period 2016-2019 on light gray pseudo-podzolic soil in the experimental field of RIMSA - Troyan by the block method with the size of the harvest area 5 m². The main chemical composition and nutritional value of the following grass mixtures were monitored by variants: bird's-foot-trefoil (100% - control); bird's-foot-trefoil + cock's-foot (50:50); bird's-foot-trefoil + red fescue (50:50); bird's-foot-trefoil + Timothy grass (50:50); bird's-foot-trefoil + cock's foot + red fescue + Timothy grass (25: 25: 25: 25).

It was found that the mixture of bird's-foot-trefoil with red fescue had the highest crude protein content (147.87 g kg⁻¹ in DM). The lower levels of ADL in the grassland with a mixture of the bird's-foot-trefoil + Timothy grass (75.0 g kg⁻¹ DM) provide for higher digestibility of the fiber components in the composition of the feed. The mixture of bird's-foot-trefoil + cock's foot + red fescue + Timothy grass had the highest calcium content (18.3 g kg⁻¹ in DM) and the lowest of phosphorus (2.5 g kg⁻¹ in DM). Feed units for milk and

($r=0.9845$).

- growth had the highest positive correlation ($r = 0.9845$).

Key words: grass mixtures, chemical composition, energy nutritional value, correlations

INTRODUCTION

The energy nutritional value of grass mixtures is a major factor that determines the quality of feed to meet the needs of animals for food and production of products of animal origin (Zemenchik et al., 2002; Waghorn, and Clark, 2004; Naydenova et al., 2015).

(Zemenchik et al., 2002; Waghorn, and Clark, 2004; Naydenova et al., 2015).

(Goranova and Mitev, 2008; Sanderson et al., 2012),

In mixed crops, complex relationships are created between the different species (Goranova and Mitev, 2008; Sanderson et al., 2012), and the percentage of legumes and grasses in the mixtures affects the quality and nutritional value of the feed (Vasileva and Ilieva, 2009).

(Vasileva and Ilieva, 2009).

- Their ability to combine, as well as their competitiveness, are important factors in maintaining dynamic stability in grassland.

The uptake and assimilation of feed by animals depends to a large extent on the percentage of crude protein in the dry matter, the content of water-soluble carbohydrates and the digestibility of the cell contents in plant cells (Simili da Silva et al., 2013).

(Simili da Silva et al., 2013).

- The development phase in forage crops (Bélanger et al., 2018) affects the content of components in the composition of plant cell walls (Kicheva and Angelova, 2006). As the age of the plant increases, there are changes in the content of crude protein and crude fiber, which accompany the intensity of stem growth in height and the accumulation of mechanical sclerenchyma tissue (Bozhanska, 2017).

(Bélanger et al., 2018),
(Kicheva and Angelova, 2006).

(Bozhanska, 2017).

- Crude protein decreases from the beginning of the growing season to the end, and the content of crude fiber

(Eitzinger et al., 2010; Lelièvre et al., 2010; Bozhanska, 2020).

(Lobell and Field, 2007). In vitro

(Springer et al., 2001).

(Slavov and Georgiev, 2002)

2016-2019

1),
 („Ryder”),
 („Loke”),
 („Erecta”).
 : (100% -);
 + e (50:50);
 + (50:50);

increases with increasing plant height.

Climate change requires the adaptation of fodder crops and mixtures to the changed conditions (Eitzinger et al., 2010; Lelièvre et al., 2010; Bozhanska, 2020). More drought-resistant or drought-tolerant components are currently being sought. Species that can ensure their self-sowing and be present in grassland for a long time are of greater importance for the practice (Lobell and Field, 2007). In vitro digestibility of legumes and grasses is a determining indicator of their selection and participation in the composition of grassland in warm climates (Springer et al., 2001).

In Bulgaria, a number of authors (Slavov and Georgiev, 2002) believe that warming will significantly extend the growing season of perennial grasses and will require a new approach in the selection, cultivation and use in the changed environmental conditions in the country.

Although the majority of feed production in Bulgaria consists of grass mixtures, there aren't enough studies that identify the best suitable species in feed mixtures.

The aim of the present study was to determine the energy nutritional value of mixed grasses at different ratios of components.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The experiment was conducted in the period 2016-2019 on light gray pseudo-podzolic soil in the experimental field of RIMSA - Troyan. Sowing was conducted with bird's-foot-trefoil (cultivar 'Targovishte 1') and red fescue ('Ryder'), cock's foot ('Loke') and Timothy grass ('Erecta'). The following variants were tested: bird's-foot-trefoil (100% - control); bird's-foot-trefoil + cock's foot (50:50); bird's-foot-trefoil+ red fescue (50:50); bird's-foot-trefoil + Timothy grass (50:50);

+ (50:50);
 +
 (25:25:25:25).
 .
 .
 ,
 ,
 60⁰ ,
 .
 1,0 mm.
 Weende ,
 :
 (, g kg⁻¹) Kjeldahl (/ISO-5983);
 (, g kg⁻¹) (/ISO-6492) -
 Soxhlet; (g kg⁻¹) -
 (/ISO-5984)
 550° ; - (, g kg⁻¹) -
 % ;
 = 100 - (, % + , % + , % +
 , % + , %)
 g kg⁻¹; (, g kg⁻¹) -
 () (, g
 kg⁻¹) -
 -
 (Agilent 8453 UV -
 visible Spectroscopy System),
 425 m.
 ()
 (),
 ,
 ,
 ,
 ,
 Todorov (2010): (,
 MJ/kg CB) = 0,0242* + 0,0366* +

+ bird's-foot-trefoil+ cock's foot + red fescue
 + + Timothy grass (25: 25: 25: 25).

- The grassland was harvested twice
 - a year in the bud-formation phase -
 - beginning of flowering of bird's-foot-trefoil.

- The chemical analysis on the
 - composition of entirely dry matter was
 - performed on an average sample of each
 - variant and each replication. The plant
 - materials were dried under natural
 - conditions, and immediately before
 - grinding, the samples were placed in a
 - laboratory dryer at a temperature of 60⁰C,
 - in order to facilitate grinding. The grinding
 - was performed in a laboratory mill to a
 - particle size of 1.0 mm.

The basic chemical composition of
 the dry fodder mass was performed
 according to the Weende analysis, which
 includes the following indicators: Crude
 protein (CP, g kg⁻¹) according to Kjeldahl
 (according to BDS/ISO-5983); Crude fiber
 (CFr, g kg⁻¹); Crude fats (CF, g kg⁻¹)
 (according to BDS/ISO-6492) - by
 extraction in a Soxhlet type extractor; Ash
 (g kg⁻¹) - (according to BDS/ISO-5984)
 decomposition of organic matter by
 gradual combustion of the sample in a
 muffle furnace at 550°C; Dry matter (DM,
 g kg⁻¹) - empirically calculated from % of
 moisture; NFE = 100 - (CP, % + CFr, % +
 CF, % + Ash, % + Moisture, %) converted
 to g kg⁻¹; Calcium (Ca, g kg⁻¹) - according
 to Schottz (complexometric) and
 Phosphorus (P, g kg⁻¹) - by vanadate-
 molybdate by the method of Guericke and
 Curmis - spectrophotometer (Agilent 8453
 UV - visible Spectroscopy System),
 measuring in the range 425 m.

- The nutritional value of the feed
 was estimated according to the Bulgarian
 system as Feed units for milk (FUM) and
 Feed units for growth (FUG), and
 calculated on the basis of equations,
 according to the experimental values of
 CP, CFr, CF and NFE, recalculated by the
 coefficients for digestibility according to
 Todorov (2010): Gross energy (GE, MJ/kg
 DM) = 0.0242 * CP + 0.0366 * CF +

$$0,0209^* + 0,017^* - 0,0007^*Zx$$

$$(\quad , \text{ MJ/kg CB}) =$$

$$0,0152^* + 0,0342^* + 0,0128^* +$$

$$0,0159^* - 0,0007^*Zx.$$

(ANOVA).

(1) , -

(164.27 g kg⁻¹ CB). -

(147.87 g kg⁻¹ CB)

-

120,57 164,27 g kg⁻¹

139,18 g kg⁻¹

CB,

(VC= 13.76%).

$$0.0209 * CFr + 0.017 * NFE - 0.0007 * Zx$$

and Exchange energy (EE, MJ/kg DM) =

$$0.0152 * DP + 0.0342* CF + 0.0128 * DF$$

$$+ 0.0159 * DNFE - 0.0007 * Zx.$$

Variation analysis (ANOVA) was used for statistical data processing.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The data from the chemical analysis (Table 1) show that the highest values of the crude protein were in the feed of bird's-foot-trefoil as a pure crop (164.27 g kg⁻¹ DM). The mixture of bird's-foot-trefoil - red fescue (147.87 g kg⁻¹DM) produced the highest crude protein content. Its values are from 120.57 to 164.27 g kg⁻¹ DM at an average value of 139.18 g kg⁻¹DM, and the variation according to the coefficient of variation had an average degree of variability (VC = 13.76%).

1.
(g kg⁻¹)

2016-2019 .

Table 1. Basic chemical composition of perennial grass-legume mixtures (g kg⁻¹ DM) on average for the period 2016-2019

Variants	Crude protein	Crude fats	Crude fibers	sh	NFE	Calcium	Phosphorus
(100% -) bird's-foot-trefoil (100% - control)	164.27	29.3	318.9	52.5	349.8	16.4	4.5
+ bird's-foot-trefoil + cock's-foot (50:50)	122.53	23.2	369.7	51.5	339.7	11.2	4.0
+ bird's-foot-trefoil + red fescue (50:50)	147.87	24.7	372.2	54.5	306.3	17.2	4.0
+ bird's-foot-trefoil + Timothy grass (50:50)	140.67	24.1	332.0	54.1	348.2	16.9	3.7
+ + + bird's-foot-trefoil + cock's-foot + red fescue + Timothy grass (25:25:25:25)	120.57	29.9	357.5	46.9	349.2	18.3	2.5
X	139.18	26.24	350.06	51.90	338.64	16.00	3.74
SD	18.24	3.12	23.60	3.05	18.54	2.77	0.75
VC	13.11	11.89	6.74	5.87	5.47	17.33	20.06
MIN	120.57	23.20	318.90	46.90	306.30	11.20	2.50
MAX	164.27	29.90	372.20	54.50	349.80	18.30	4.50

122.53 g kg⁻¹ CB
 (.2) 147.87 g kg⁻¹ CB (.3).

23.2 g kg⁻¹ CB (+
) 29.9 g kg⁻¹ CB (+
 +
),
 26,24 g kg⁻¹ CB.

(332.0 g kg⁻¹).
 (372.2 g kg⁻¹),

350,06 g kg⁻¹ .

e

(54.5 51.5 g kg⁻¹ CB).

The relatively high values can be explained by the fact that the yield is formed mainly by the high relative share of bird's-foot-trefoil in the grassland. The established levels of the indicator varied from 122.53 g kg⁻¹DM (var. 2) to 147.87 g kg⁻¹ DM (var. 3). The lower values for the crude protein in the double mixtures of bird's-foot-trefoil with cock's foot and Timothy grass and its multicomponent mixture with cock's foot, red fescue and Timothy grass are due to the higher share of grasses in the grassland and respectively in the cut fodder mass.

The content of crude fat in the dry matter varied from 23.2 g kg⁻¹ DM (bird's-foot-trefoil + cock's foot) to 29.9 g kg⁻¹ DM (bird's-foot-trefoil + cock's foot + red fescue + Timothy grass), and the reported average value was 26.24 g kg⁻¹ DM.

The mixture of bird's-foot-trefoil with Timothy grass formed the lowest amount of crude fiber in the feed matter (332.0 g kg⁻¹DM). Maximum values of crude fiber were reported in the mixture of bird's-foot-trefoil with red fescue (372.2 g kg⁻¹DM), and the average value for this indicator was 350.06 g kg⁻¹ DM.

The obtained values are related to the type of grass component and its share in the grassland, as well as to the dry matter content in the mowed biomass from the mixed grasslands. Red fescue is more competitive than Timothy grass compared to bird's-foot-trefoil and in combination with its slower development contributes to the higher content of crude fiber in plant biomass. Red fescue predominated in grassland in the third and fourth years and had a significantly higher presence than bird's-foot-trefoil.

The mineral content in the dry matter had similar values in the double mixtures of bird's-foot-trefoil with red fescue and Timothy grass (54.5 and 51.5 g kg⁻¹ DM). The lowest amount of ash was

(2)
 (621.7 g kg⁻¹ CB) (376.7 g kg⁻¹ CB)
 (=545,52 g kg⁻¹ CB)
 (279,44 g kg⁻¹ CB),
 (VC=14,27) -
 (VC=56,14) -
 (418.9),
 50:50
 (539.0 g kg⁻¹ CB),
 (325.4 g kg⁻¹ CB).

(Table 2) registered a relatively high content of neutral (621.7 g kg⁻¹ DM) and acidic (376.7 g kg⁻¹ DM) detergent fibers.

The mean value of NDF (X = 545.52 g kg⁻¹ DM) significantly exceeded that of ADF (279.44 g kg⁻¹ DM), and the lowest degree of variability according to the coefficient of variation was found for NDF (VC = 14.27) and the highest for ADF (VC = 56.14) of all indicators characterizing the structural fiber components. The lowest level of NDF was found in bird's-foot-trefoil as a pure crop (418.9), and with the addition of the grass component the content of NDF and ADF also increased. The most favorable amount of NDF was found in the ratio between bird's-foot-trefoil and red fescue (50:50) (539.0 g kg⁻¹ DM), while in terms of ADF in the grassland with bird's-foot-trefoil and Timothy grass (325.4 g kg⁻¹ DM)

2.

(g kg⁻¹)

Table 2. Structural fiber components of perennial grass-legume mixtures (g kg⁻¹ DM) average for the period

Variants	NDF	ADF	ADL	Hemicellulose	Cellulose	Lignification degree
() bird's-foot-trefoil (control)	418.9	286.7	79.5	132.3	207.2	190.0
+ e bird's-foot-trefoil + cock's-foot	621.7	376.7	145.7	244.9	141.1	215.6
+ bird's-foot-trefoil + red fescue	539.0	348.6	178.7	190.5	169.5	330.0
+ bird's-foot-trefoil + Timothy grass	593.4	325.4	75.0	178.2	250.3	154.7
+ + cock's-foot + red fescue + Timothy grass / bird's-foot-trefoil +	554.6	345.8	163.8	208.8	182.0	275.3
X	545,52	279,44	128,54	190,94	190,02	233,12
SD	77,87	156,89	48,28	41,33	41,25	69,79
VC	14,27	56,14	37,56	21,64	21,71	29,94
MIN	418,90	0,70	75,00	132,30	141,10	154,70
MAX	621,70	376,70	178,70	244,90	250,30	330,00

Hemicellulose is a polysaccharide completely digestible, easily assimilated by animals and a major component in the plant cell. The amount of hemicellulose polyoside has a high degree of variation, which is evident from the maximum (132.3 g kg⁻¹ DM and 244.9 g kg⁻¹ DM) and

(132.3 g kg⁻¹ CB 244.9 g kg⁻¹ CB)

3.

(MJ/kg CB)

Table 3. Energy nutritional value of mixed grasslands of legumes-grass meadow grasses (MJ/kg DM)

Variants	/GE	/EE	/FUM	/FUG
() bird's-foot-trefoil (control)	19,43	8,45	0,78	0,71
+ e bird's-foot-trefoil + cock's-foot	18,99	7,98	0,73	0,66
+ bird's-foot-trefoil + red fescue	19,19	7,96	0,73	0,65
+ bird's-foot-trefoil + Timothy grass	18,89	8,15	0,75	0,68
+ + + bird's-foot-trefoil + cock's-foot + red fescue + Timothy grass	19,18	8,14	0,74	0,67
X	19,14	8,14	0,75	0,67
SD	0,21	0,20	0,02	0,02
VC	1,09	2,41	2,78	3,42
MIN	18,89	7,96	0,73	0,65
MAX	19,43	8,45	0,78	0,71

(r=0,9501)

(r=-0,9037)

(r=0,9140) (r=0,9224)

(r=0,9243) (r=0,9145).

(r=0,7469).

(r= 0,8509),

In the mixtures, the crude protein content of the harvested biomass demonstrated the highest positive correlation with the weight percentage of leguminous crops (r=0.9501) and in contrast the highest negative correlation with hemicellulose (r=-0.9037) (Table 4).

The effective use of mixed grasslands and their nutritional value are closely related to the analysis of the basic chemical composition and composition of cell wall components. The quantity of crude fiber indicates a relatively good positive correlation with the values of ADF (r=0.9140) and ADL (r=0.9224) in dry matter. The percentage share of grasses in the grassland also determines their high correlation dependencies with NDF (r=0.9243) and the hemicellulose content (r=0.9145).

The percentage share of legumes is only in a higher correlation with feed units for milk (r=0.7469).

Acid detergent fibers are in positive correlation with neutral detergent fibers (r= 0.8509) and hemicellulose is in high

(r= 0,9776).

(r=0,6379)
(r= -0,7809)
(r= -0,7916)
(r= -0,8258).
(r= 0,5799)
(r=0,5764).
- r=0,9845,

- positive correlation with acid detergent fibers (r= 0.9776).
- Acid detergent lignin is positively correlated with hemicellulose (r=0.6379) and negative with cellulose (r= -0.7809) and feed units for milk (r= -0.7916) and growth (r= -0.8258). Cellulose is positively dependent on feed units for milk (r= 0.5799) and growth (r=0.5764). The number of milk and growth units recorded a significant dependence on each other, expressed with a high correlation coefficient – r=0.9845, which is highest than all other indicators.

1), 4. (kg ha⁻¹)
(g kg⁻¹ DM) (%) g kg⁻¹
DM

Table 4. Correlations between yield indicators (kg ha⁻¹), share of sown grasses (%) and the content and nutritional value (g kg⁻¹ DM) of perennial grass-legume mixtures

Indicators	dry mass yield	CP	CFr	legumes	grasses	NDF	ADF	ADL	Hemicellulose	Cellulose	FUM
dry mass yield	1										
/CP	-0,7213	1									
/CFr	0,8412	-0,6282	1								
%, weigh % legumes	-0,6596	0,9501	-0,5585	1							
%, weight % grasses	0,8481	-0,8195	0,8526	-0,8693	1						
/NDF	0,7930	-0,8096	0,6121	-0,9125	0,9243	1					
/ADF	0,9581	-0,8230	0,9140	-0,7870	0,9516	0,8509	1				
/ADL	0,6001	-0,5156	0,9224	-0,3929	0,6585	0,3289	0,7234	1			
Hemicellulose	0,9466	-0,9037	0,8304	-0,8458	0,9145	0,8616	0,9776	0,6379	1		
Cellulose	-0,7505	0,4340	-0,7956	0,2060	-0,4610	-0,2300	-0,6928	-0,7809	-0,6671	1	
/FUM	-0,8472	0,7258	-0,9423	0,7469	-0,9725	-0,8179	-0,9505	-0,7916	-0,8776	0,5799	1
/FUG	-0,7873	0,6020	-0,9506	0,6310	-0,9229	-0,7276	-0,8951	-0,8258	-0,7893	0,5764	0,9845

CONCLUSIONS

- Of the mixed crops, the mixture of bird's-foot-trefoil with red fescue had the highest content of crude protein and calcium. The lower levels of ADL in the

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