

Effect of dietary protein level during lactation period in female minks

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Eighty pregnant minks with similar due date were selected and randomly assigned to four groups with 20 minks each. Group 1 to Group 4 received diet of fresh material with protein level of 32.28%, 36.33%, 40.94%, 44.68% respectively. Test ended when the last litter was weaned with a 7-day pre-trial period at the beginning. The results were as follows: dietary protein level significantly affected weaning weight loss and weaning weight loss rate of minks in lactation period ($P < 0.05$). Daily weight gain and weaning survival rate of kits increased with the dietary protein level, although no significant difference was observed between the four groups. When the dietary protein was 44.68%, daily weight gain and weaning survival rate reached peak (R^2 were 0.846 and 0.9987, respectively), weaning weight loss and weaning weight loss rate were the lowest. Values of BUN, TP, GLU and GOT were significantly affected by dietary protein level with the tendency of increasing with it, which showed that minks in lactation had high utilization rates of high protein diet. The combination of feeding experiment, serum biochemical indicators and reproductive performance showed that the optimum dietary protein level in lactation period were approximate 44%.