

EFFECT OF β -CAROTENE FEEDING IN RABBITS
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In the first part of the experiments to the feed containing 5000 IU vitamin-A (group I, control) 50 ppm synthetic β -carotene (Rovimix 10 %, Roche, Basel) (group II), or 15000 IU vitamin-A (group III), or the coating substance of β -carotene granules (group IV) was added. Two groups of 4 rabbits were allowed to consume the four above mentioned feed in a preference test. The consumption was controlled daily.

Results indicate, that rabbits gave preference to feed supplemented with synthetic β -carotene and this covered 37,4 % of their daily consumption.

In a second trial 3 groups of 45 male rabbits were fed until reaching 2,4-2,6 kg body weight. The 1st group was fed the basic diet (5000 IU vitamin-A/kg feed), while the feed of the 2nd group was supplemented with 50 ppm β -carotene and the 3rd one with 50 ppm β -carotene plus 15000 IU vitamin-A.

Daily weight gain of the 2nd and 3rd groups was 11-12 % higher in comparison to the control group. The dressing percentage was also higher in the previous two groups, being 1,2 % above that of the control.