THE EFFECT OF UNDERSOWING WITH RED CLOVER (*Trifolium pratense* L.)
ON THE ECONOMIC VALUE OF A DRY MEADOW

Key words: content of macronutrients in the sward, permanent meadow, red clover

Summary

The study was conducted in 2007–2009 in the Experimental Farm ITP at Falenty on permanent meadow situated on mineral soil (proper dry meadow). The aim of the study was to evaluate the changes in species composition of the sward and the quantity and quality of yields from permanent meadow after undersowing it with red clover (*Trifolium pratense* L.). Fertilisation with phosphorus and potassium was applied in the form of mineral or organic fertilisers (manure and liquid manure). Botanical composition of meadow sward, yielding and the content of potassium, magnesium, calcium and phosphorus were evaluated.

Undersowing meadow with red clover resulted in a significant increase of dry matter yields in all objects. The effect was strongest in the object fertilised with manure, and weakest in the object fertilised with liquid manure. Increased share of red clover resulted in the elevated content of potassium in dry matter of the sward fertilised with natural fertilisers and in significant increase in the calcium content, regardless of the method of fertilisation. The increase of red clover contribution to the sward, regardless of the method of fertilisation, significantly improved the feeding value expressed by the K:Mg, K:(Ca + Mg) and Ca:P ratios.