

Some Factors Causing Mortality among Female Minks during the Puerperium and Lactation Periods

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Abstract

The purpose of this study, in which the farm was used as the statistical unit, was to find factors affecting mink mortality under farm conditions. Mortality was hypothesised to be affected by factors including, among others, variables describing the amount (level) and variation in composition and quality of the feed. Other explanatory variables applied in the study included farm size and age. Factor analyses were performed for variables of feed composition and quality in order to condense the variable information and to facilitate the selection of explanatory variables. This report presents a preliminary regression model for female mink mortality factors describing feed level and variation, and farm size, as explanatory variables. The regression model emphasized among other factors the importance of a constant albumin quality and a constant energy level.

Key words: Feed composition, feed quality, farm size, farm age, factor analysis, regression analysis.

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