

The draft report on vitamin A has been discussed by the Committee of Specialised Experts in Animal Nutrition and some experts in Human Nutrition of the French food safety Agency (Afssa).

All experts have underlined the good quality of this draft report and expressed two major comments on this document :

1. P 24, § 135.

Data on retinol content of liver in calf, pig, lamb and chicken are given without standard deviation and number of data used in the calculation of the means. Moreover, there is no data on retinol content of fish liver whereas it has been highlighted that large quantities of retinol were present in the liver of fish (Lall S. P. and Parazo M.P., 1994. Vitamins in fish and shellfish. In: Fish and fishery products. Composition, nutritive properties and stability. A Ruiter Ed., Utrecht Univ.)

The Committee of Specialised Experts in Animal Nutrition and in Human Nutrition published a report in January 2004 on the assessment of nutritional requirements of vitamins A, D et E for animals and risks for animal and human health due to high levels of vitamins in animal feed. In this report some data on the level of vitamin A in animal liver including fish are given (p 38, table 5). You will find below these data.

| Species | Number | mean | std | Min | Max |
|----------------------------------|--------|---------|---------|--------|---------|
| Vitamin A in 100 g of liver (UI) | | | | | |
| seabass | 2 | 10 952 | 1 315 | 10 239 | 11 664 |
| young cow | 18 | 21 034 | 21 484 | 827 | 82 876 |
| lamb | 18 | 21 344 | 13 303 | 5 891 | 52 343 |
| rabbit | 18 | 21 439 | 10 972 | 7 589 | 47 702 |
| calf | 21 | 32 479 | 27 696 | 10 672 | 106 150 |
| pig | 24 | 34 433 | 18 441 | 10 064 | 92 154 |
| seabream | 2 | 35 200 | 5 729 | 30 433 | 39 967 |
| cod | 4 | 37 200 | 16 329 | 17 016 | 59 889 |
| chicken | 20 | 41 755 | 25 168 | 10 821 | 92 066 |
| calf fed with milk powder | 17 | 44 725 | 19 800 | 21 498 | 96 680 |
| tuna | 2 | 214 662 | 138 237 | 95 239 | 334 085 |

2. P 25, § 140.

It is mentioned that the retinol content of animal feed may exceed the maximum content in some cases due to the storage duration which may be up to 3 years.

The duration of 3 years is very long and should be reduced according to the breeding practices.

You will find enclosed our report on the assessment of nutritional requirements of vitamins A, D et E for animals and risks for animal and human health due to high levels of vitamins in animal feed in french. If you would like to receive a translation in english of the introduction and the conclusion parts, please do not hesitate to ask it.

Best regards

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