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ESTIMATION OF VARIETY-SAMPLES OF RED FESCUE *(FESTUCA RUBRA L.)* BY BIOLOGICAL AND ECONOMICALLY VALUABLE INDICATORS AS THE INITIAL MATERIAL FOR BREEDING

Intensification of livestock puts higher requirements to solution of the fodder production question. Increased production of milk and meat is possible by creating a strong forage base. Red fescue *(Festuca rubra L.)* is valuable in the feed aspect; it is perennial not dense bush cereal grass, which is widespread in the nature Forest, Forest-Steppe zones and mountain areas of Europe, North America and Asia.

In the modern technologies of crop production, including forage production, the largest increase of yield provides variety. Therefore, the foundation of agriculture continues to be the variety that allows in specific natural and production conditions to obtain high and stable yields of high quality. Breeding success primarily depends on the availability kind of original forms, their genetic scrutiny and estimation methods for selection and hybridization. The agriculture needs varieties of forage crops for special purposes – grazing, hay, hay-pasture.

In 2011, the collection nursery was laid down, which studied 11 variety-samples of red fescue different ecological and geographical origins.

Different climatic conditions of cultivation for research years has not significantly affected on the expression of relationships. For three years in all variety-samples the correlation coefficient between traits "number of seeds in the inflorescence" and "seed yield" was a positive average (r = 0,46–0,71). The separated variety-samples can serve as genetic sources in breeding programs to create high-yielding varieties of complex use.

The variety-samples of red fescue that have been separated in previous phases of breeding, have been involved to competitive variety testing. The best for yield and quality varieties created in the breeding process included in this nursery.

In the competitive variety testing of red fescue with hay using 2 cutting have been conducted, while grazing – 4 cutting. On average for two years of account all breeding numbers at hay and pasture use significantly have been exceeded the standard for yield of forage supply.