Renewed Successful Participation in Biogas Round Robin Tests

In 2018 our laboratory participated in two round robin tests relating to biogas – once again successfully: In addition to the biogas round robin test of the Bavarian State Institute for Agriculture (Bayerische Landesanstalt für Landwirtschaft, LfL), in which PFI has participated for several years, the KTBL-VDLUFA round robin test for biogas yields was also included in the program.

Determination of the trace elements in the fermenters of biogas plants remains highly relevant. It is no coincidence that in 2018 a number of biogas plants with process malfunctions could be brought back to life by targeted addition of trace elements – clearly after detailed analysis in our laboratory. However, regular checks to maintain an optimum supply are also recommended for plants providing a continuous feed of trace elements. It therefore seemed only natural for us in 2018 to enter the 12th LfL Biogas Round Robin test in the parameter category "Mineral Substances". The excellent results again confirmed the high-quality standard of our analysis. We also took part successfully in other important parameters of "fermenter content", such as pH value, dry mass, acetic and propionic acid, ammonium content, FOS/TAC, as well as organic dry matter.

Participation in the KTBL-VDLUFA Biogas Yield Round Robin Test was new for us. Here the main focus was on the determination of the biogas and methane yields of maize silage, pet food, and a reference substance in static fermentation experiments. Since the round robin test only took place at the end of the year, evaluation of the results has not yet been fully completed. So far only the results of the "fermentation parameters" group are available, in which the quality of a maize silage was examined for the parameters acidification spectrum, pH value, as well as dry matter content. Here too PFI participated successfully.

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