

EVALUATION OF SPECIFIC MEAT PRODUCTION TRAITS IN SOME POPULATIONS OF YOUNG CROSSBRED (F1) SHEEP OBTAINED BY CROSSING ȚIGAIE EWES WITH MEAT BREEDS RAMS

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Abstract

The aim of this research was to evaluate, using various methods, the degree of fattening in young crossbred (F1) sheep resulting from different crossbreeding variants between local Țigaie ewes and rams from French meat breeds. The biological material consisted of three groups of first-generation (F1) crossbred lambs obtained by mating local Țigaie ewes with rams from the Vendéen (V), Berrichon du Cher (BC), and Blanche du Massif Central (BMC) breeds. After weaning, the lambs were subjected to intensive fattening technologies, and the analysis of specific meat production traits was carried out on live animals. This involved identifying the degree of fattening through palpation of muscle-rich regions and body measurements. After the fattening process, the evaluation continued with carcass fattening assessments. Based on the analyses conducted on both live animals and carcasses, a realistic evaluation of the fattening level of the biological material under study was achieved. Compared to the crossbred groups, the Țigaie breed scored 40.90% lower than $V \times Ti$, 45.83% lower than $BMC \times Ti$, and 31.58% lower than $BC \times Ti$ in live animal fattening assessment. Carcasses obtained from the slaughter of fattened $V \times Ti$ lambs met the requirements for classification in the E class at a rate of 33.33%, while only 15.16% of the $BC \times Ti$ crossbreds achieved this classification. The differences observed between groups in carcass conformation assessments indicate that certain crossbred groups deviate from the standards required for the E class.

Key words: meat sheep, carcasses, meat traits, Țigaie sheep breed