EVALUATION OF THE FATTENING PERFORMANCE OF F1 CROSSBREDS FROM ȚIGAIE EWES AND FRENCH MEAT BREED RAMS

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Abstract

The research conducted represents the initial stage of a systematic process aimed at organizing sheep meat production based on the application of appropriate management practices. The ultimate goal of the study was to examine the response of crossbred lambs subjected to intensive fattening technology. These F1 crossbreds were obtained from systematic matings between rams of French meat breeds and local Țigaie ewes, rusty variety. The biological material used in the study consisted of first-generation (F1) crossbred lambs obtained by mating local Țigaie ewes, reared and maintained at the Research and Development Station for Sheep and Goat Breeding in Secuieni-Bacău, with rams from French meat breeds, as Vendeen and Blanche du Massif Central. Lambs were weaned after 90 days of suckling, and the applied fattening technology included three technological phases for 70 days: adaptation (10 days), growth and fattening (50 days), and finishing (10 days). The collected data were statistically processed, centralized, and appropriately interpreted. For data analysis, the REML (REstricted Maximum Likelihood) procedure was applied, ensuring reliable estimates within the normal parameter space. The final live body weight recorded at the end of the fattening period showed superior performance, with increases of 26.74% in V × Ti, 27.17% in BMC × Ti, and 21.94% in Bc × Ti crossbreds. The weight differences between the control and crossbred groups at the end of this phase were highly significant, being statistically validated at $p \leq 0.001$.

Key words: *meat, lambs, breeding, Tigaie sheep, fattening*