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Some slaughter performance of pure breeds and crossbreeds lambs

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SUMMARY

- Aim of the study was to analyze the slaughter performance and carcass yield of lambs purebreds and crossbreds.

- For the determination of slaughter performance four genotypes were used in the study: purebred Pirot Pramenka (P), Wurttemberg (W) and crossbred Two-breed crosses F1 Pirot x Wurttemberg (PxW), three-breed crosses F1 Pirot x Wurttemberg x Ile de France (PxWxF).

- It shows that the lambs system of three-breed crosses was highest in warm and cold carcass yield while lambs Pirot Pramenka got the lowest in both. Female lambs for all genotypes had greater warm carcass yield than the male, but sex of lambs did not show significant effect (P 0,05) on warm carcass yield.

The average differences between

:
 (P), " " (W)
 - F1
 " (PxW);
 - F1 x "
 " (PxWxF).
 , -
 ,
 " "
 -
 ,
 (P 0,05)

” - 0.80 %
 , ” 1.28 %,
 (P 0,05),
 ,
 , (P 0, 01).
 (P 0, 05)

a

(Mavrogenis & Constantinou, 1986).

(Vostrý et al., 2008).

Pramenka and two-breed crossbreds of - 0.80% on cold carcass yield, as well as the Wuerttemberg breed and two-breed crossbreds of 1.28% was not significant (P 0,05), whereas all other differences in the average cold carcass dressing percentage among the genotypes were statistically highly significant (P 0,01). Sex of lambs have no significant effect (P 0,05), on cold carcass yield. The edible slaughter parts of each genotype did not show great difference in the proportion if compared to average body weight at slaughter.

Key words: lambs, purebred, two-bred, three-bred, slaughter performance, carcass traits, genotype, sex

INTRODUCTION

The common practice for a number of years in most countries to improve market lamb production is through crossbreeding (Mavrogenis & Constantinou, 1986). Similarly in other European countries, the sheep production system in Serbia are likewise influenced by tradition and environmental conditions. The most important characteristics that affected lamb genotype is the carcass traits. In terms of efficiency and production, crossbreeding and the system of crossing are often more important than the pure breeding sector (Vostrý et al., 2008). On the other hand, the live weights and subjective assessments of condition or conformation are normally used by farmers to select lambs with the best potential carcass quality characteristics (Lambe et al.,

2008). (Lambe et al., 2008). Pure breeds and crossings have significant role in production.

Crossing from one generation to the other makes more and also heavier slaughtering lambs in comparison with pure breed production (Zupp 2003; Pajor et al., 2009., Neto et al., 2010)

(Zupp 2003; Pajor et al., 2009 ., Neto et al., 2010)

Carcass traits are some of the most important characteristics that are affected by a lamb's genotype, nutrition, sex, management (Abdullah et al., 2010; Koutna et al., 2016).

(Abdullah et al., 2010; Koutna et al., 2016).

(Kuchtik et al., 2012),

(Nedeljkovi et al., 2015).

(Caro Petrovic et al., 2015).

The aim of the study was to compare the slaughter performance and carcass yield of purebred and crossbred lambs.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The investigations had conducted at the Institute for Animal Husbandry and at Stara planina under the territory of Pirot.

“ (P), „ ” “ (W)
 - F1
 x „ “ (PxW);
 - F1
 „ “ x „
 (PxWxF).

For the experiment have used lambs of the following four genotypes: The purebred genotype Pirot Pramenka (P), Wurttemberg (W) and crossbred genotype Two-breed crosses F1 Pirot x Wurttemberg (PxW), three-breed crosses F1 Pirot x Wurttemberg x Ile de France (PxWxF). Six male and six female lambs per genotype with a pre slaughter live weight nearest to the average bodyweight of each genotype were slaughtered for the investigation of some carcass traits and edible parts.

90
 18
 %
 20.
 SPSS,

All experimental lambs was reared traditionally and fed until 90 days with hay and concentrate with 18% of protein. The lambs were slaughtered and the values of slaughter performance were realized at the experimental slaughterhouse of the institute. The processing of data was done by using Descriptive statistics of SPSS software package program version 20.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

-
 (- 29.58 kg;
 - 25.84 kg).
 : „ -
 “ (7.48 kg); „ “ (3.74
 kg);
 (6.40 kg) - (R 0,
 01).
 (P 0,01).

Lambs of three breed crosses had highest Pre slaughter weight (29.58 kg male and 25.84 kg female). The differences on average value were: with Pramenka (7.48 kg); Wuerttemberg (3.74 kg); and two-breed crossbred (6.40 kg) was highly significant (R 0,01). Sex of lambs had a very significant impact at pre slaughter weight of lambs (P 0,01).

1
 -
 “ - ”
 “ - 2.84 kg; ”
 “ - 1.01 kg; ”
 “ - 5.30 kg; ”
 “ - 1,84 kg; ”
 “ - 2.45 kg; ”
 “ - 4.29 kg.
 1. (M) (S.E)

From Table1 also observe a similar trend on weight variability of warm carcass per genotypes. The lowest of warm carcass weight had lambs Pirot Pramenka and the highest was three breed crosses.

The following differences have determined in average values: Pramenka-Virtember - 2.84 kg, Pramenka-two breed crosses - 1.01 kg, Pramenka-three breed crosses - 5.30 kg, Wuerttemberg - two breed crosses 1.84 kg, Wuerttemberg-three breed crosses- 2.45 kg, two breed crosses-three breed crosses - 4.29 kg.

Table 1. Mean and standard error values in slaughter weight, carcass weight, dressing percentages (warm and cold carcass yield) of lambs according to genotype and sex

| / Genotype | | / Traits | | | | |
|------------|--------|------------|------------|----------------|------------|------------------|
| | | PSLW, kg | WCW, kg | WC, /yield (%) | CCW, kg | CC /yield (%) kg |
| | | Mean+S.E. | Mean+S.E. | Mean+ S.E. | Mean+S.E. | Mean+S.E. |
| P | Male | 21.30±0.65 | 11.47±0.46 | 53.85±0.86 | 10.88±0.38 | 51.06±0.36 |
| | Female | 10.88±0.38 | 10.51±0.25 | 54.86±0.62 | 9.82±0.30 | 51.24±0.62 |
| W | Male | 25.20±0.23 | 14.41±0.22 | 57.20±0.77 | 13.54±0.12 | 53.74±0.29 |
| | Female | 22.74±0.26 | 13.26±0.17 | 58.33±0.54 | 11.99±0.16 | 52.72±0.99 |
| PxW | Male | 22.70±0.92 | 12.76±0.35 | 56.22±1.02 | 11.93±0.44 | 52.57±0.89 |
| | Female | 19.92±0.24 | 11.23±0.19 | 56.39±0.65 | 10.22±0.19 | 51.33±0.85 |
| PxWxF | Male | 29.58±0.99 | 17.38±0.57 | 58.75±0.40 | 16.98±0.56 | 57.40±0.51 |
| | Female | 25.84±0.97 | 15.20±0.49 | 58.84±0.42 | 14.45±0.52 | 55.93±0.74 |

PSLW- ; WCW - ; WC - ;
 CCW - ; CC -
 PSLW-Pre Slaughter weight; WCW- Warm carcass weight; WC-Warm carcass yield; CCW- Cold carcass weight; CC- Cold carcass yield

(P 0, 01).

(P 0,01),

(P 0,01).

1.

(- 58.75 %;
58.84%),
“ (- 57.20 %;
58.33 %).

% 56.39 % (56.22

” (- 53.85
%; - 54.86 %).

” “
1.46 %
(R 0,05),
”

- 1.03 %
(P 0, 05.

- The differences between genotypes were statistically highly significant (P 0,01).

- System of crossing had a significant effect on this characteristic (P 0,01) and also was confirmed that the sex of lambs had a very significant influence on the warm carcass weight (P 0,01).

- A particular interest in the production of lamb meat was the dressing percentage, which is actually an indicator of the quantitative value of the slaughtered animals. The mean values dressing percentage of warm carcass according to genotypes are given in Table 1. It can be seen that highest warm carcass yield has lambs system of three-breed crosses (58.75% male and 58.84% female), followed by Wuerttemberg (57.20% male and 58.33% female). Two breed crosses in third place (56.22% male and 56.39% female). The lowest warm carcass yield was found in lambs Pirot Pramenka (53.85% male and 54.86% female).

- The average difference between the Wuerttemberg breed and two-breed crossbreds of 1.46% is significant at level (R 0,05), while the difference between Württemberg and three-breed crossbreds of - 1.03% was not statistically significant (P 0,05). All other differences in the average of warm carcass dressing

(P 0,01).

(P 0, 05).

” 2.41 kg;

” - 5.36 kg;

- 2.95 kg,;

- 4.64 kg

(P 0, 01),

(P 0, 05).

1, -

percentage among the genotypes were statistically highly significant (P 0,01).

- Female lambs for all genotypes recorded values have greater warm carcass yield than the male. However, statistical analysis showed that the fixed effect of sex on the warm carcass dressing percentage was not significant (P 0,05).

The next trait that is of interest in this research is the cold carcass weight. From the Table 1 we can see the trend of variability cold carcass weight per genotype.

- The smallest cold carcass weight had lambs Pirot Pramenka and greatest three breed crosses.

Have been determined following differences in average values: Pramenka-Wurttemberg - 2.41 kg, Pramenka-two breed crosses - 0.72 kg, Pramenka-three breed crosses - 5.36 kg, Wurttemberg-two breed crosses 1.69 kg, Wuerttemberg-three breed crosses - 2.95 kg, two breed crosses-three breed crosses - 4.64 kg.

The differences between genotypes were statistically highly significant (P 0,01) except between Pramenka and two-breed crossbreds, whose difference was not significant (P 0,05).

As shown in Table 1, the highest cold carcass yield was

(- 57.40 %; - 55.93 %).

” “ (- 53.74 %; - 52.72 %).

(52.57 % 51.33 %).

” “ (- 51.06 %; - 51.24 %).

” “ - 0.80 %, “ ” 1.28 % (P 0,05), (P 0, 01).

’ , (P 0,05).

2 3.

’ , -

(- 2.59 kg; - 2.33 kg).

(- 2.07 kg; ” - 1.93 kg)

with lambs from three-breed crossing system (57.40% male and 55.93% female). In second place was Wuerttemberg (53.74% male and 52.72% female). Two breed crosses in third place (52.57% male and 51.33% female). The lowest cold carcass yield was recorded in lambs Pirot Pramenka (51.06% male and 51.24% female).

Average differences between Pramenka and two-breed crossbreds of - 0.80%, as well as the Wuerttemberg breed and two-breed crossbreds of 1.28% was not significant (R 0,05), whereas all other differences in the average cold carcass dressing percentage among the genotypes were statistically highly significant (P 0,01).

Regarding sex of lambs, it showed that its influence on the cold carcass yield was not significant (P 0,05).

The results of mean values and standard errors values of edible parts and fat tissue of the slaughter pure breeds and crossbreds are shown on Tables 2 and 3.

From the said tables, we can see that in relation to body weight at slaughter, the highest absolute share of the edible parts of the slaughter observed in the three-breed crossbred (2.59 kg and 2.33 kg male female). Followed by Wuerttemberg (2.07 kg and 1.93 kg male female) and two breed

kg)
 (- 1.94 kg; - 1.63 kg)
 (- 1,75 kg; - 1.62 kg).
 8.21% ()
) 8.45 % ()
 8.75 % () 9.01 %
 ()

crosses (1.94 kg and 1.63 kg male female) and in last place the sheep Pirot Pramenka (1.75 kg and 1.62 male kg female).

However, the relative indicators of 8.21% and 8.45% male female population in Pirot Pramenka 8.75% to 9.01% a male and female with the three-breed crossbreds did not show such a great difference in the proportion of edible parts of each genotype compared to average body weight at slaughter.

2.

(M)

(SE)

Table 2. Mean values (M) and standard error values (SE) of edible parts and fat tissue of purebred lambs

| Parameter | / Genotype | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|------------|------|--------|------|------|------|--------|------|--|
| | P | | | | W | | | | |
| | Male | | Female | | Male | | Female | | |
| | M | SE | M | SE | M | SE | M | SE | |
| / Edible parts | | | | | | | | | |
| /Head | 0.73 | 0.02 | 0.71 | 0.01 | 0.90 | 0.01 | 0.82 | 0.02 | |
| /Liver | 0.37 | 0.01 | 0.34 | 0.01 | 0.51 | 0.01 | 0.45 | 0.01 | |
| /Heart | 0.07 | 0.01 | 0.07 | 0.01 | 0.10 | 0.01 | 0.10 | 0.01 | |
| /Spleen | 0.04 | 0.02 | 0.03 | 0.01 | 0.07 | 0.01 | 0.05 | 0.01 | |
| /Lungs | 0.48 | 0.04 | 0.42 | 0.01 | 0.42 | 0.02 | 0.44 | 0.01 | |
| /Kidneys | 0.06 | 0.01 | 0.05 | 0.01 | 0.07 | 0.01 | 0.07 | 0.01 | |
| /Total | kg | 1.75 | | 1.62 | | 2.07 | | 1.93 | |
| | % | 8.21 | | 8.45 | | 8.21 | | 8.48 | |
| / Fat tissue | | | | | | | | | |
| /Total | kg/kg | 0.20 | | 0.21 | | 0.09 | | 0.10 | |
| | % | 0.94 | | 1.09 | | 0.36 | | 0.39 | |

Table 3. Table 2. Mean values (M) and standard error values (SE) of edible parts and fat tissue of crossbred lambs

| Parametar | / Genotype | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|------------|------|--------|------|-------|------|--------|------|--|
| | PxW | | | | PxWxF | | | | |
| | Male | | Female | | Male | | Female | | |
| | M | SE | M | SE | M | SE | M | SE | |
| / Edible parts | | | | | | | | | |
| /Head | 0.90 | 0.04 | 0.79 | 0.02 | 1.15 | 0.04 | 1.02 | 0.03 | |
| /Liver | 0.40 | 0.03 | 0.31 | 0.02 | 0.60 | 0.03 | 0.55 | 0.02 | |
| /Heart | 0.11 | 0.01 | 0.09 | 0.01 | 0.14 | 0.01 | 0.10 | 0.01 | |
| /Spleen | 0.05 | 0.01 | 0.04 | 0.01 | 0.06 | 0.01 | 0.05 | 0.01 | |
| /Lungs | 0.41 | 0.03 | 0.34 | 0.02 | 0.53 | 0.04 | 0.52 | 0.04 | |
| /Kidneys | 0.07 | 0.01 | 0.06 | 0.01 | 0.11 | 0.01 | 0.09 | 0.01 | |
| /Total | kg | 1.94 | | 1.63 | | 2.59 | | 2.33 | |
| | % | 8.54 | | 8.18 | | 8.75 | | 9.01 | |
| / Fat tissue | | | | | | | | | |
| /Total | kg | 0.37 | | 0.31 | | 0.54 | | 0.52 | |
| | % | 1.63 | | 1.56 | | 1.76 | | 2.01 | |

Kukovics et al. (2013),

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(1991),

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- We agree with the comment of Kukovics et al. (2013) that the dressing percentage of purebred lambs was significantly lower than in crossbred as attained in our results if comparing the dressing percentage of purebred Pirot slaughtered lambs with crossbred (two and three-bred cross) but in the case of purebred Wurttemberg lambs the dressing percentage is higher than slaughtered lambs of two-bred cross but lowered carcass percentage if compared with three-bred slaughtered lambs.

Farrid
- In the statement of Farrid (1991), that “crossbreeding improved slaughter and carcass traits”, also support our results.

Ozcan et al. (2001),
 ,
 -
 ,
 -
 Esmailizadeh et al., (2012)
 ,
 (SLW),
 (HCW)
 (CCW)
 ,
 ,
 (P<0,01),
 , Kuchtik et al.
 (2011)
 Koutna
 et al. (2016),
 ,
 ,
 Nedeljkovic et al. (2015 .),
 ,
 ().
 Afolayan et al. (2014)
 ,

Ozcan et al. (2001), studied the different combination of crossbreeding have found that three-way crossbred lambs produced better carcass weight and dressing percentage characteristics, is agreeable with our findings.

Esmailizadeh et al., (2012) informed that slaughter weight (SLW), hot carcass weight (HCW), cold carcass weight (CCW) were not affected by lamb's genotype, was different with the result we attained. However, genotype had significant effect on dressing percentage (P<0.01) was partly true with our results. Likewise, Kuchtik et al. (2011), expressed a significant effect of genotype only on dressing percentage. While Koutna et al. (2016), emphasized that crossbreeding had a positive effect on basic carcass traits in male lambs also amenable with ours.

We are also agree with Nedeljkovic et al. (2015), who noted the influence of genotype which is due to the different genetic combinations between the two parental forms (maternal and paternal) used. Also, as substantiated by Afolayan et al. (2014), indicating that terminal crossbreeding systems complement maternal genetics by exploiting genetic and heterosis effects for reproductive traits in crossbred ewes to enhance the efficiency of

(2009),

Ünal

- lamb production.

The result attained by Teke and Ünal (2009), that there were no significant differences between sexes in all dressing percentages although the females had higher values was compatible with our results.

The other authors notified that slaughter performances of lambs are varied by genotype, sex, fattening conditions; depending on their slaughter weight and age (Korman, 2001; Martyniuk et al., 2001; Pompa Roborzynski and Kedzior, 2006).

(Korman, 2001; Martyniuk et al., 2001; Pompa Roborzynski and Kedzior, 2006).

CONCLUSIONS

Our research showed that the differences of warm carcass weight between genotypes were statistically highly significant and system of crossing had a significant effect on this characteristic. Three-breed crossbred lambs produced better carcass weight and dressing percentage characteristics. Aside from the difference on warm carcass yield between Württemberg and three-breed crossbreds of - 1.03% was not statistically significant. All other differences in the averages of warm carcass dressing percentage among the genotypes were statistically highly significant. Although female lambs for all genotypes recorded values have greater warm carcass yield than the male, effect of sex on the warm

“
- 1.03 %,

(P 0, 05).

carcass yield was not significant (P 0,05). The differences between genotypes on cold carcass weight were statistically highly significant except between Pirot Pramenka and two-breed crossbreds. Crossing system has a very significant effect on the cold carcass weight and it was also established that sex of lambs, had a very significant effect on this characteristic. The average differences on cold carcass yield between Pramenka and two-breed crossbreds, as well as the Wuerttemberg breed and two-breed crossbreds were not significant but all other differences in the average cold carcass yield among the genotypes were statistically highly significant. Sex of lambs has no significant effect on cold carcass yield. Lastly, it did not show such a great difference in the proportion of edible parts of each genotype compared to average body weight at slaughter.

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TR 31053 "

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Preservation and utilization of the gene pool of Romanov breed for sheep production improvement

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SUMMARY

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- Romanov sheep are grown around the world and is very important for the improvement of sheep production. In this paper we tried to present some practical possibilities of using genetic pool of Romanov breed in order to improve production of meat and milk.
- Activity on the preservation and using the Romanov sheep for improvement productive qualities is that 70% of the Romanov sheep breed are used for pure breeding, 30% of animals allocated for crossing with the aim of increasing the yield of meat and dairy products.
- Planned result is the creation of new
“ ,
“ ”
“ ”
70% ”
“ , 30 %

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breeding structures (types) in the Romanov sheep breed. Activity in terms of improving the meat include the crossing with the best productive meat breed sheep. For that can be used Poll Dorset, Suffolk, Border Leicester and Sharole sheep breed.

The Romanov sheep are crossed with dairy sheep breeds to produce milk. For crossing it is proposed to use dairy breeds such as: the East Friesian, Lakon, Avasi, Lange and Sardinian breed of sheep.

All activities under this program are presented schematically.

Key words: The Romanov breed sheep, the preservation of gene pool, productivity, meat, milk

INTRODUCTION

The Romanov breed of sheep originated more than two hundred years ago on the territory of the Yaroslavl region with the permanent improvement through the selection. Imposed demands for this population as a productive breed, which is characterized by prolificacy, it gave meat, wool, sheepskin and all needs for a peasant family.

Currently, the breed is treated as the owner and keeper of the unique genetic qualities (Kosyachenko et al., 1990). This sheep breed is a carrier of valuable which are not found among other rough wool sheep breeds (high fertility, early maturity, meat qualities, the quality of sheepskins and wool) (Nikolaeva, 2013).

breeding structures (types) in the Romanov sheep breed. Activity in terms of improving the meat include the crossing with the best productive meat breed sheep. For that can be used Poll Dorset, Suffolk, Border Leicester and Sharole sheep breed.

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INTRODUCTION

The Romanov breed of sheep originated more than two hundred years ago on the territory of the Yaroslavl region with the permanent improvement through the selection. Imposed demands for this population as a productive breed, which is characterized by prolificacy, it gave meat, wool, sheepskin and all needs for a peasant family.

Currently, the breed is treated as the owner and keeper of the unique genetic qualities (Kosyachenko et al., 1990). This sheep breed is a carrier of valuable which are not found among other rough wool sheep breeds (high fertility, early maturity, meat qualities, the quality of sheepskins and wool) (Nikolaeva, 2013). Animals of this breed are used to create new

breeding forms in Russia and abroad. The Romanov breed sheep are attractive for breeding because of its precocity, multiple pregnancies (in Canada the record was 9 live and healthy lambs per lambing from a sheep), polyestrous that provides an opportunity to lamb evenly throughout the year.

Meat of the Romanov sheep breed gives specific smell of grease in a less degree compared to the other breeds of sheep, has dietary properties.

The most popular are the genetic resources of this unique breed highly priced throughout the world creating and improving new breeding forms. Today the Romanov sheep is bred in many countries: France, Germany, Iceland, Serbia, Croatia, Bosnia and Hercegovina, Macedonia, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland, Netherlands, USA, Canada, Turkey, the Mediterranean countries and in South Africa, this breed was also brought to Hungary and Romania (Petrovic et al., 2013; Kostylev, 2014).

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USING OF ROMANOV BREED GENE POOL

In economic and biological conditions, an important task is to retain the unique gene pool of the breed. In this regard, for the Romanov sheep breeding it is

” “
-
(Makarova et al., 2013).

required to use both classic breeding and molecular - genetic methods which allow to assess the genetic structure and diversity of the breed in general and in specific populations (Makarova et al., 2013).

” — “
- ,
.
,
.
,
.
.”
(1) , 70%
, 30%
() ”

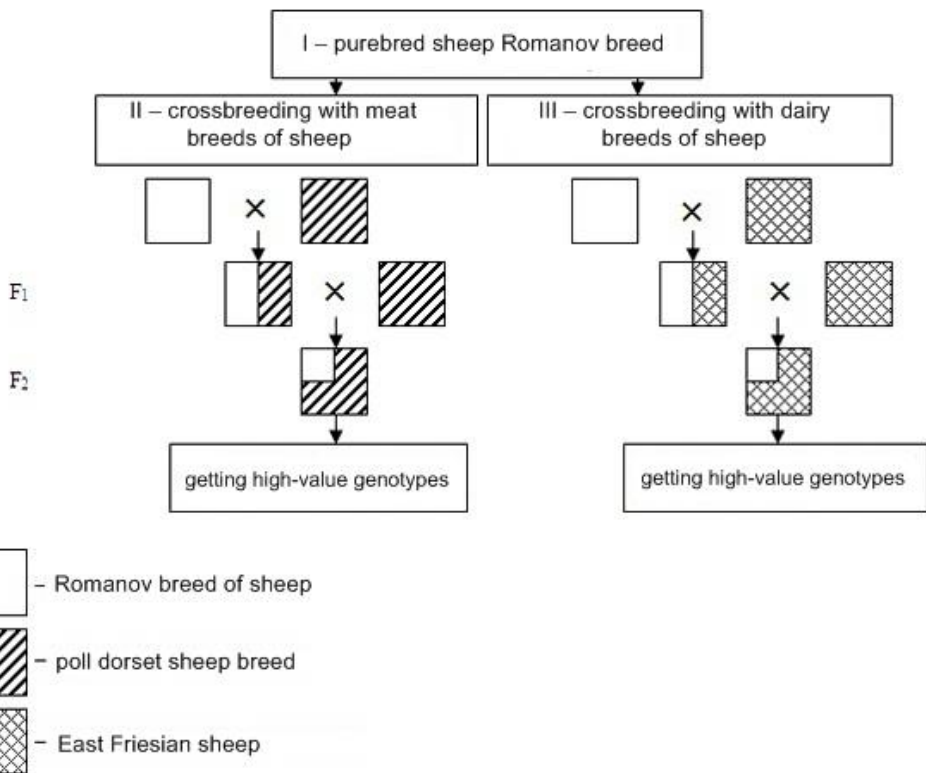
Forms of saving of gene pool of the Romanov sheep breed are different – the gene pool saving of sperm, gene pool reserve of the breed, micro population gene pool structures, etc.

To solve the problem it is necessary to develop actions which aim is to reduce the costs associated with the saving of the breed and to create the necessary conditions of work on her self-sufficiency. In this regard, the scheme of work with the breed, aimed at the saving of the gene pool and the improvement of productive and breeding qualities of meat and dairy direction.

Activity on the preservation and using the Romanov sheep for improvement productive-breeding qualities (Figure 1) is that 70% of the Romanov sheep breed is used for pure breeding, 30% of animals allocated for crossing with the aim of increasing the yield of meat and dairy products.

Planned result is the creation of new breeding structures (types) in the Romanov sheep breed. According to the presented

- scheme purebred sheep groups are formed in the structure of the breeding herds.
- Based on purebred breeding, so specialists solve the problem of saving of the gene pool and getting young animals to restock the purebred animals and to form working groups for crossing.
- One group is crossing with meat breeds, the other – with dairy breeds



. 1.

Fig. 1. The scheme of using the Romanov sheep for improvement productive-breeding qualities

I. “ (2).

Group I. The purebred Romanov sheep (Figure 2). The breeding work aimed at saving the gene pool of the Romanov sheep breed is conducted with this group. The rams checked at the offspring quality are allowed to work with the herd. With a minimum number of animals in group selection is generated so that when specialists conduct the breeding work, they avoid inbreeding.

There must be a sufficient quantity of young animals to repair their own herd, to replenish the herd with livestock of II and III groups and for tribal sales.

II III
The traditional technology of sheep welfare is established in the group.



. 2.
Fig. 2. The Romanov sheep breed



. 3.
Fig. 3. The breed of sheep Poll Dorset

II.
” “

Group II. For crossing meat breed sheep with the best productive qualities is selected to improve meat productivity of the Romanov sheep breed. This can be the Poll Dorset (Figure 3) which

| | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|---|
| 120 kg, kg, | “ (3) | live weight of rams is 110-120 kg, of ewes - is 70-80 kg, fertility is 120-150 %. |
| ” | “ (4) - | Suffolk (Figure 4) - the live weight of rams is 110-130 kg, of ewes - 70-90 kg, fertility is 130-160 %. |
| 120-130 kg, 70 kg, | ” | Border Leicester sheep breed – the live weight of rams - 120-130 kg, of ewes - 60-70 kg, fertility - is 200-250 %. |
| ” | “: | Sharole sheep breed: live weight of rams is 110-140 kg, of ewes - is 80-100 kg, fertility is 180-190 %. |
| (1). | III. | These breeds have sufficiently high yield of meat products per one lambing ewe. Crossbred animals received with the help of crossing have higher meat qualities compared with the Romanov sheep breed, later they are used according to the presented scheme (Figure 1). |
| ” | “ | Group III. The Romanov sheeps are crossed with dairy sheep breeds to increase milk production. For crossing it is proposed to use dairy breeds such as: the East Friesian sheep breed (Figure 5) has milk yield -800-1000 kg, the fertility is 190-200 %, Lakon - milk yield is 200-300 kg, fertility is 120-140 %, Avasi – 400- 800 kg of milk yield, fertility is 110- 120 % (from 100 kg of milk specialists receive 31 kg of cheese), Lange – yield is 250-300 kg, fertility is 120-130 %, Sardinian – milk yield is 200-250 kg, fertility is 120-150 %. |
| kg, | “ - | |
| ” | “ – 400-800 kg | |
| (100 kg | ” | |
| 31 kg | “ – | |
| 250-300 kg, | “ – | |
| 120-130 %, ” | “ – | |

200-250 kg,
120-150 %.

We select the most high-milk yield animals from hybrids of first generation and conduct further breeding activity to consolidate the obtained results.



4. „
Fig. 4. The Suffolk sheep breed



5. „
Fig. 5. The East Friesian sheep breed

75%

To increase the milk productivity in some part of the first generation hybrids we hold crossbreeding with purebred dairy breed and we increase the thorough-bredness of the II generation hybrids up to 75% on dairy breed.

If old established industrial spaces are used after appropriate renovation for the production of sheep milk, maintenance technology of animals is considered to be traditional: in summer they are grazed, and in winter – stabling maintenance technology with active exercise. During the construction of new rooms technology must be calculated taking into account the

year-round maintenance of animals in a stable with backyard playgrounds. Groups for herding (growing up and non-milking animals) are created to intensify the exercise. Here need plan each technological operation, it is necessary to mechanize all production processes maximally: feed distribution, watering, cleaning of manure.

Technology should be provided by modern milking installation, convenient independent gider in a milking hall, for sheep - shearing point with the storage of wool, point of slaughter and butchering, freezer, bio thermal pits, etc.

Preferably you should prepare a small workshop for the primary processing of milk and production of soft and hard cheeses on a farm.

With year-round maintenance of animals indoors can increase the number of lambing and bring them up to 1, 2 and 1.3 per one ewe per year. Thus we will increase the amount of lambs per year, throughout the year we will get milk, it will leverage the production areas will be used more effectively.

The realization of the plan of managing the gene pool and complex of proposed measures will ensure the improvement of the productive qualities of the breed

al, 2010),
2012).

(Petrovi et
(Mavrogenis,

- and increase their competitiveness and ability to preserve the unique gene pool.
- Improving production performance of sheep using specific traits such as fertility, milk yield and meat production is imperative in sheep worldwide.
- The problem is theoretical knowledge and practical experience in modeling ways of combining genetic material from different sheep breeds. Such research has in the Serbia (Petrovi et al, 2010), Cyprus (Mavrogenis, 2012).

CONCLUSIONS

Based on all above mentioned, we can conclude that the use of Romanov sheep breed in programs to improve sheep production is very significant. There are various options for the gene use of Romanov sheep breed, depending on the needs and conditions of each farm or farmer.

The models presented here include the great potential for increasing production through increased fertility and high milk and meat production.

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(,)

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Trematodes in small domestic ruminants in Bulgaria

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SUMMARY

| | 2015 | 2016 | |
|-------------------------|---|------|-----------|
| 2513 (2079 | 434 |) | |
| | | 954 | |
| - 37,96%, 183 | - 7,28%. | | |
| 168 | - 8,08% | 15 | - 3,45 %. |
| | | 21%, | |
| 9,74%. | | | |
| (58,92 %), (23,82 %) | <i>Paramphistomum</i> <i>Dicrocoelium</i> <i>Fasciola</i> (17,26 %). | | |
| | <i>Dicrocoelium</i> - 46,67%, <i>Paramphistomum</i> - <i>Fasciola</i> - | | |
| 33,33% | | | |

Since April 2015 through July 2016 there were a total of 2513 (2079 sheep and 434 goats) fecal samples taken and tested by oviscopia, all being taken of domestically reared animals. Tests revealed 954 (37,96%) samples infested by helminth eggs and 183 (7,28%) infested by trematodes. In sheep the trematode infestation was proved in 168 (8,08%) of all tested, while in goats these were 15 (3,45%). Compared with the total number of the helminth infested ones, these results demonstrate that the relative share of trematodoses were 21% in sheep and 9,74% in goats. The trematode infestation in sheep show the highest share of invasions by the family of *Paramphistomum* (58,92 %), next being the family of *Dicrocoelium* (23,82 %) and *Fasciola* (17,26 %). The goats show trematode infestation by the family of *Dicrocoelium* (46,67%), then the family of *Paramphistomum* (33,33%) and last by the family of *Fasciola* (20%).

20%.

- 28 Trematode invasion has been detected in all the 28 administrative districts of the country.

Key words: sheep, goats, trematodes, Bulgaria

INTRODUCTION

(Kenyon and Jackson, 2012).

- Trematodoses with pasture reared domestic animals are significant problem for the countries of well developed livestock breeding (Kenyon and Jackson, 2012). Most widely spread and most significant for our livestock breeding are fascioliasis, paramphistomosis and dicrocyolosis.

Fasciola hepatica L., 1758
Fasciola gigantica Cobbold, 1885.

(1953) Data given by Matov (1953) say that in our country fascioliasis is caused by *Fasciola hepatica* L., 1758 and rarely by *Fasciola gigantica* Cobbold, 1885. This disease affects predominantly small ruminants, but there are also cases registered with invasion of pigs of semi-mountainous areas (Daskalov, 1955) and even in humans (Bratanov, 1950).

(, 1955)
,1950).

Developments in applied parasitology within the period between 1954 and 1975 resulted in an increase in therapeutic and prophylactic actions from 11 102 thousand up to 85 503 thousand units, while the number of the number of the anti-parasitic treatments of one animals has risen from 0,4 to 3,5 per annum. Thus substantial diminishing of the occurrence of certain parasitoses was achieved, these including trematodoses. This period is marked by decrease of fascioliasis from 35 % to 16,6 % (Petkov,

1975

11 102 000 85 503000,

0,4 3,5

35 % 16,6 % (, 1979).
 - 1966-1968
 24-28,5%
 1976-1978 . - 10-11,5%.
 1971 1976 .
 320
 15-20%.
 85%.
 (1971)
 (1955)
 30-50%,
 100%.
 (1959)
G. truncatula.
 1987 .
 3
Paramphistomum (*P. cervi*, *P.*
microbothrioides *P. daubneyi*)

1979). Faecal samples tested by the same author within the period between 1966 and 1968 give 24% to 28,5% infestation by fasciola eggs in sheep tested, while in the same seasons in 1976 through 1978 this same indicator was between 10% and 11,5%. Within the time period between 1971 and 1976 there were a total of 320 enzootic cases of acute and sub-acute fascioliasis. Epizootic cases of fascioliasis were detected and confirmed in the areas of Ihtiman, Radomir, Berkovitsa and certain other areas of western Bulgaria, where mortality has reached 15% to 20%. Within that same period, the least spread of fascioliasis was in North-eastern Bulgaria, while in southern Bulgaria and in the high-altitude fields of western Bulgaria the extensive spread of infestation in sheep was 85% as average.

Data presented by Vishniakov et al. (1971) show that Paramphistomosis is also a widely spread trematodosis in our country. Mincheva and Dikov (1955) ascertained that prevalence in small ruminants was 30-50%, reaching up to 100% in certain individual farms. Kozarov and Michailova (1959) were the first ones in Bulgaria to publicise their results demonstrating that Paramphistomic larvae have their developments in *G. Truncatula*. Until 1987 there have been three types of the family of *Paramphistomum* (*P. cervi*, *P. microbothrioides* and *P. daubneyi*)

(Kamburov, 1988).
P. microbothrioides

(Kamburov, 1988) found in our country. This author considers that *P. microbothrioides* is a species imported into Bulgaria through live animal imports from abroad, but it has not found here the appropriate conditions for its development and spread.

Dicrocoelium dendriticum.

Dicrocoeliosis in animals and humans living in the Holarctic region is caused by *Dicrocoelium dendriticum*. The most ancient

14,7-14,5
et al., 2015).

(Mowlavi

findings in small ruminants of Euro-Asian parts are dated to be of 14,5-14,7 million years ago (Mowlavi et al., 2015). Results of tests performed on the causative agent obtained from three types of hosts, i.e. experimentally invaded small and large ruminants and spontaneously invaded elks of Europe and Canadian provinces of Alberta have shown that there have not been any differences with regard to morphology and the live cycle of this species (Beck et al., 2015). The literature review shows that within the latest 25-30 years there have not been any surveys in our country to study the spread of trematodoses in domestic animals.

al., 2015).

(Beck et

25-30

The objective of these studies was to investigate the prevalence of trematode infections in small ruminants countrywide in terms of contemporary livestock breeding specifics. To achieve this objective, the following main tasks have been identified:

1.

1. To perform ovoscopic

| | | |
|--------------|-------|-----|
| 2. | | |
| 2015 | 2016 | 386 |
| | | 167 |
| | 28 | |
| | 2 513 | |
| 2 513 | | |
| – 37,96%, | | 954 |
| 183 (7,28%). | | |
| 2079 | | |

study of faecal samples taken from holdings in Bulgaria.

2. To identify all the trematode invasions detected up to their family.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

In springs and autumns of 2015 and 2016 the small ruminants subject either to on-farm or pasture feeding of a total of 386 holdings located in 167 municipalities of all the 28 administrative districts of the country were sampled and oviscopically tested by a total of two thousand and five hundred and thirteen (2 513) faecal samples.

Laboratory testing was performed by the Fulleborn methods to detect eventual presence of nematode eggs and sequential precipitations for presence of trematode eggs and by the larvae-scopic Berman method to detect of invasions by lung nematodes.

Determination of the findings was carried out on the basis of generally accepted morphological criteria for identification of eggs and larvae.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The aforementioned oviscopic testing of 2 513 faecal samples taken from on-farm and pasture fed small ruminants (sheep and goats) has delivered the following results: 954 (37,96%) invasions by helminth eggs and 183 (7,28%) invasions by trematodes. As for the 2079 tested

800 (38,48%)
 434
 154 – 35,48%.
 168 – 8,08%
 15
 – 3,45 %.
 21%,
 9,74%.
 25-30
 15-20
 1.
 20
 20
 6

sheep, helminth invasion was detected in 800 (38,48%), while the 434 tested goats revealed the same invasion in 154 (35,48%). The sheep revealed also 168 (8,08%) positive for trematodes, while in goats those were 15 (3,45%). Compared to the total numbers of helminth invaded animals, sheep demonstrated 21% comparative share of trematodoses and goats gave 9,74%. Comparing the above results to the data of tests performed 25-30 years ago, extremely strong drop in the extensiveness of helminth invasions in small ruminants in our country might be concluded, especially concerning the trematode ones. According our view, this fact should be a result of decrease of biotopes and pasture-based invasions due to the lower number of pasture kept and fed small ruminants that happened in the latest 15-20 years, together with the wider usage of highly-effective anti-helminth means. Survey results on prevalence (and spread) of trematodoses with small ruminants in our country are given in Table 1 below.

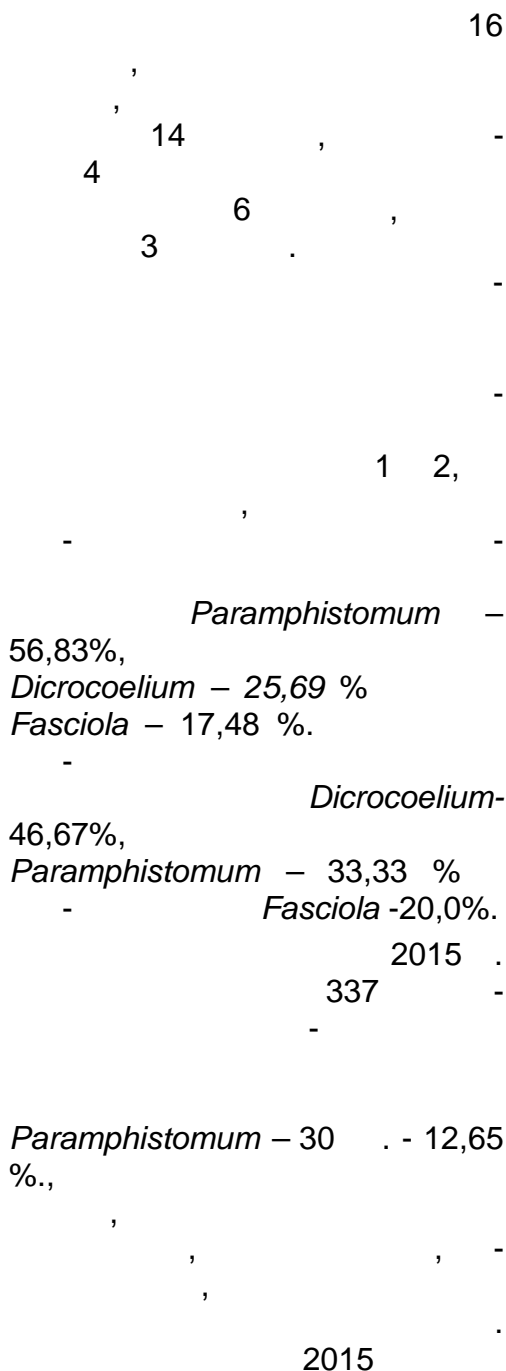
The table shows that invasions with trematodes in small ruminants have been established in 20 administrative districts of the country. Wider prevalence of invasions by trematodes has been proven in sheep of 20 districts, while trematode invasions in goats have been detected in 6 districts, only.

1.

2015-2016 .

Table 1. Prevalence and spread of Trematodoses with small ruminants in Bulgaria, 2015-2016

| District | / Species of the animals tested | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|
| | / Sheep | | | | | | | / Goats | | | | | | |
| | Total number of animals tested | Number of positive for | | | Prevalence (%) | | | Total number of animals tested | Number of positive for | | | Prevalence (%) | | |
| | | Fasciolosis | Paramphistomosis | Dicrocoeliosis | Fasciolosis | Paramphistomosis | Dicrocoeliosis | | Fasciolosis | Paramphistomosis | Dicrocoeliosis | Fasciolosis | Paramphistomosis | Dicrocoeliosis |
| Blagoevgrad | 11 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 27 | 0 | 10 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Burgas | 185 | 1 | 8 | 1 | 0.5 | 4.3 | 0.5 | 75 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 0 | 2.6 | 6 |
| Varna | 197 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 25 | 0 |
| Veliko Tarnovo | 41 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Vidin | 6 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 17 | 33 | 0 | 46 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Vratsa | 113 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 3.5 | 0 | 0 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 8.3 |
| Gabrovo | 115 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1.7 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 30 |
| Dobrich | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Kardzhaly | 89 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 2.2 | 2.2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Kyustendil | 52 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 1.9 | 6 | 3.8 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Lovech | 27 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3.7 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Montana | 150 | 4 | 6 | 0 | 2.6 | 4 | 0 | 31 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3.2 | 0 |
| Pazardzhik | 54 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 36 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Pernik | 68 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 62 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Pleven | 13 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Plovdiv | 94 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 5.2 | 26 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Razgrad | 62 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Ruse | 83 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1.6 | 0 | 71 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 4.2 | 0 | 0 |
| Sliven | 13 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Smolyan | 13 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Silistra | 39 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 5.1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| - | 40 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Sofia-town | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Sofia-district | 170 | 1 | 9 | 4 | 0.6 | 5.3 | 2.3 | 34 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Stara Zagora | 155 | 2 | 22 | 27 | 1.2 | 14.3 | 17.5 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Targovishte | 94 | 1 | 25 | 0 | 1 | 26.6 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Haskovo | 34 | 1 | 14 | 0 | 2.9 | 41 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 12.5 | 0 |
| Shumen | 133 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0.8 | 1.5 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Yambo | 27 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |



Results of the studies on prevalence of various trematode species showed sheep invaded by *Fasciola* in 16 districts and goats invaded by the same in 1 district, only; the paramphistomi invaded sheep were in 14 districts, while goats invade by the same were in 4 districts. The *Dicrocoelium* invaded sheep were in 6 districts, while goats invaded by the same were in 3 districts only.

Results of the studies concerning the proportion between the family belonging of the established trematode groups in sheep and goats are given in Figure 1 and 2, which demonstrate that sheep show the highest comparative share of invasions representatives of the family *Paramphistomum* (56,83 %), followed by the ones of the family *Dicrocoelium* (25,69%) and the family of *Fasciola* (17,48%). With goats the highest is the comparative share of invasions by representatives of the family *Dicrocoelium* (46,67%), followed by the ones of the families of *Paramphistomum* (33,33%) and *Fasciola* (20,0%), as the lowest.

In the spring of 2015 there were 337 sheep faecal samples tested, those giving the major share of trematode invasions the ones infested by the *Paramphistomum*, these being 30 samples (12,65%) taken from sheep reared in holdings in/about settlements of South-eastern, North-eastern, North Western, Central Southern and Central Northern Bulgaria. In the fall of the same year we have detected

2016

9

31
- 37,8 %,

invasions by representatives of the same family in 31 sheep faecal samples (37,8%) reared in the areas of Central Southern and Central Northern Bulgaria. In the spring of 2016 nine (9) were the positive sheep faecal samples invaded by representatives of the same family, all taken from animals reared in the areas of Sofia district.

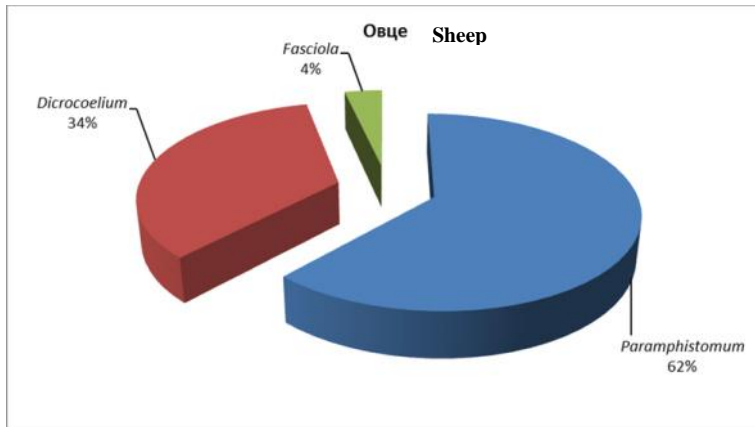


Fig. 1. Ratio between the trematode groups detected in sheep faecal samples

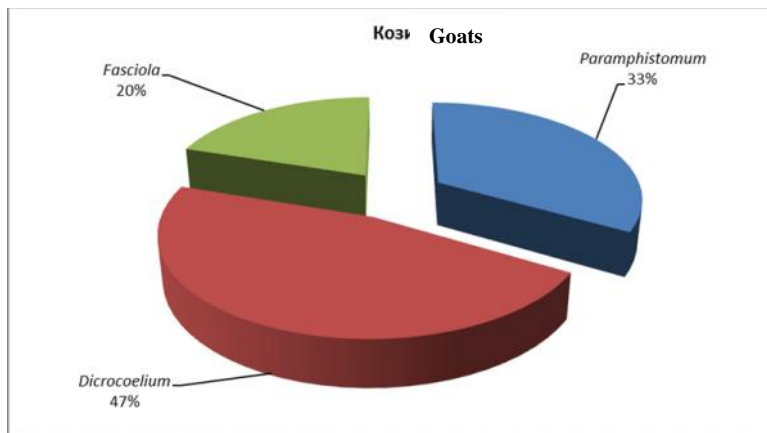


Fig. 2. Ratio between the trematode groups detected in goats faecal samples

Dicrocoelium

2015

Also in the spring of 2015 invasion by representatives of the family *Dicrocoelium* were detected

| | | | |
|---------------------|-------|---------------------|------|
| | 3 | (0,2%) | 2 |
| | – | | – |
| | | | 88 |
| <i>Dicrocoelium</i> | 32 | | 8 |
| (36 %) | 9 | | 2016 |
| | | <i>Dicrocoelium</i> | – |
| | | 4 | |
| 2 | | 2 | |
| | | | |
| <i>Fasciola</i> | | | 2015 |
| | | | |
| 2016 | – | | |
| | | | |
| | | | (434 |
| 2015 | | 2016 | |
| | 15 | | 8 |
| | 7 | | 7 |
| | | | – |
| | | | – |
| | | | – |
| 7 | (13%) | 3 | |
| | 3 | <i>Dicrocoelium</i> | |

in 3 (0,2%) faecal samples taken from sheep reared in 2 administrative districts in Northern Eastern and Southern Eastern regions of the country. In the fall of the same year there were 88 faecal samples tested to reveal 32 (36%) positive for *Dicrocoelium* that have been from sheep located in 9 settlements of 8 municipalities of administrative districts of Blagoevgrad and Burgas. In the spring of 2016 invasion by *Dicrocoelium* was found in only 4 samples of farmed sheep of 2 settlements of 2 municipalities, both located in the Sofia-district only.

In fall of 2015 eggs of representatives of *Fasciola* family have been found in faecal samples taken from a holding located in the village of Izbul, municipality of Novi Pazar, administrative district of Shumen, while in spring 2016 this same was the case with a holding of the village of Churek, municipality of Elin Pelin, administrative district of Sofia-district.

Ovoscopically tested faecal samples taken from 434 goats in spring and fall of 2015 and the spring of 2016 revealed eggs and Trematodes in 15 faecal samples from 8 holding of 7 municipalities of 7 administrative districts of North-western, Central-northern, Northern-eastern and Central-southern Bulgaria. Most frequent were the cases of eggs of *Dicrocoelium* family – 7 (13%) of 3 settlements of 3 municipalities in the administrative districts of Vratsa, Gabrovo and Burgas. In spring and fall of 2015

2015
Paramphistomum – 5
 (4,23 %)
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 - -
 3 *Fasciola* –
 (4,2 %)
 .

- there were invasions of *Paramphistomum* family detected in 5 samples (4,23%) of goats of the districts of Burgas, Varna, Montana and Haskovo.

As with the sheep, the goat faecal samples tested for Trematode invasion revealed least number demonstrating presence of representatives of *Fasciola* family – 3 samples (4,2%), all in animals of district of Ruse.

CONCLUSIONS

Trematode diseases in free pasture reared domestic and wild animals are subject to continuous interest due to the fact that they are chronic, have subclinical course of development and cause substantial economic losses.

It is really necessary to have detailed discussion on programmes for their diagnosing.

It is also necessary to have detailed planning of control measures for prophylaxis of and combat against those diseases that would be complied with the current modern terms for rearing and farming of small ruminants.

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Characteristics in structure of dermatoglyph of 'Pleven Blackhead Sheep' breed

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SUMMARY

The present article presents the results from research on morphology of the nasolabial plate in lambs, ewe lambs and sheep of 'Pleven Blackhead Sheep'. The animals under investigation show dermatoglyphic pattern related to the specificity of breed. The opportunity to use the dermatoglyph of the nasolabial plate as a phene is observed in the study on population of 'Pleven Blackhead Sheep'.

The black anthracite colour with various nuances is characteristic for the skin surface of the nasolabial plate of 'Pleven Blackhead Sheep'. There are three dermatoglyphic patterns in sheep: groove, cross, grain. The most common dermatoglyph is groove – 44%. The amount of skin shafts and direction of grooves is not related to the age of the animals.

Key words: sheep, dermatoglyphics, nasolabial plate

INTRODUCTION

Data about dermatoglyph in literature (imprint, photograph) of

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nasolabial plate of mammals are insufficient and incomplete. The nasolabial plate of ruminants is of interest in terms of identification and selection.

- Dermatoglyphics is a science that studies the image of the texture of the nasolabial plate, including sheep. The fundamental principle is that the images (phenotypic complex) are strictly individual and unique for each individual. This science is closely related to another one – phenetics of populations, which complement each other.

- A few studies have been conducted in our country on dermatoglyphics of nasolabial plate in cattle. Markov (2014a, b) makes a comparative study on various dermatoglyphic patterns of cattle of 'Bulgarian Black and White' breed and 'Monbeliarde' cattle breed, as he also analyses their relation to milk production.

- Studies on identification of dermatoglyphic pattern and its relation to identification and selection of ruminants have been conducted by: Sokolov (1959), Sirotina et al. (2012) found T-shaped, rhomboid and pear-shaped type in elks; Malofeev et al. (2011) found two types – raspberry and stone slates in Caspian red deer; Arzhankova (2001), Lozovaya and Arzhankova (2010) found some types in cattle – tree-branch, class, crown, grain, combo, parallel and unidentified; Malofeev and Lipovik

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|---|--|
| <p>(2011a, b)</p> <p>(2010)</p> | <p>(2011a, b) found three types for sheep – groove, cross and grain and Lipovik et al. (2010) gave the same types for lambs and young Caspian red deer as for adult individuals.</p> <p>The aim of present study was to examine the texture and structure of nasolabial plate of lambs, ewe lambs and sheep of 'Pleven Blackhead Sheep', and to identify dermatoglyphic pattern and the frequency of its occurrence.</p> |
| <p>20</p> <p>60</p> <p>5</p> | <p>MATERIAL AND METHODS</p> <p>The object of study were 60 sheep and 20 ewe lambs of 'Pleven Blackhead Sheep' breed in the region of the town of Svishtov, owned by private farmers from the villages of Alekovo, Dragomirovo and Bulgarene. At present, they are administratively subjected to Municipalities of Veliko Tarnovo and Pleven. 5 newborn lambs of pure bred were studied.</p> |
| <p>Practic DCZ-7,2 25-30</p> <p>Intel Pentium-IV, Microsoft Excel 2010, Paint Microsoft Word 2010.</p> <p>(1991),</p> | <p>The photographs of dermatoglyphs of the nasolabial plate were taken by a digital camera Practic DCZ-7.2, at a distance of 25-30 cm from the object, after that data were processed and analysed by Intel Pentrium-IV computer, with the help of 'Microsoft Excel 2010', 'Paint' and 'Microsoft Word 2010' programmes. Dermatoglyphs were studied visually by the methodology of Trofimenko (1991) on deductive method for analyzing</p> |

Nomina Anatomica Veterinaria.

: S=A B

0,05.

7,9%

the photograph according to which the following features were reported: colour, dermatoglyphic pattern, type of structure, bends and direction of skin grooves, position of folds, shape of skin ridges. In order to measure the area of nasolabial plate was used dactyloscopic ink. The imprint that was taken on a sheet of paper was cut and a rectangle was constructed after the different parts were glued. The surface of nasolabial plate was calculated by the formula: $S=A \cdot B$

Terms and data were in accordance with the International Committee on Veterinary Gross Anatomical Nomenclature – Nomina Anatomica Veterinaria.

Data were processed as statistical variations and presented in tables. The statistical significance was defined at the level of significance 0.05.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The nasolabial plate in 'Pleven Blackhead Sheep' breed is irregular and pike-shaped. Nostrils are with oval, pear-shaped and slit in shape.

The black anthracite brilliant colour with various nuances is characteristic for the skin surface of the nasolabial plate of 'Pleven Blackhead Sheep'. The nuances are strongly pronounced, medium pronounced and slightly pronounced. In 7.9% of sheep are

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65

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6 9 mm.

0,1-0,2 mm.

(2011a, b).

52%

observed depigmentation sections on the nasolabial pate. Around the nasolabial plate of some older sheep is noticed greyish-white halo (wheel). The relief of nasolabial plate represents a system of macroscopic folds, divided by grooves. The epidermis of 'Pleven Blackhead Sheep' breed has clearly pronounced folded surface. Folds are small and have shaft-like, roller-like shape and at some points skin ridges are formed.

After the visual assessment of nasolabial plate of 65 animals were identified three dermatoglyphic patterns:

Dermatoglyphic pattern "Groove" – nasolabial plate of sheep is vertically divided in two proportional halves by a deep, central groove. Its depth varies from 6 to 9 mm. The central groove spreads in grooves, which define folds of various sizes with shaft-like shape that form phenotypic complexes. Grooves are curved, spiral, arch-shaped and straight with various lengths. Its depth usually is in the range of 0.1-0.2 mm. The dermatoglyph texture around the central groove is loose, and at the end of nasolabial plate is dense. Malofeev and Lipovik (2011a, b) made analogical description of dermatoglyphic pattern of "groove". The same authors report about occurrence of 52% in Altai argali sheep.



1. "Groove" dermatoglyphic patter

- “ — - Dermatoglyphic pattern
- "Cross" – the nasolabial plate of sheep is divided vertically on two halves by the central groove and horizontally by the second deep groove that form cross-like shape.
 - The horizontal groove starts from the end of the one nostril and ends in the beginning of the other nostril. Both grooves are 7-9 mm deep. Straight curved grooves come out of them that limit the shaft shaped folds of the epidermal structure. They are 0.1-0.2 mm deep. The dermatoglyph texture around the central groove is loose, and around the periphery is dense.

7-9 mm.

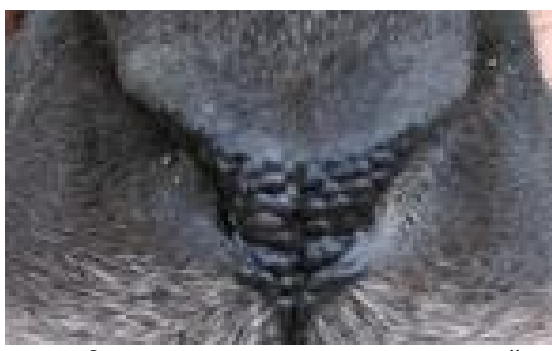
0,1-0,2mm.



2. "Cross" dermatoglyphic pattern

” “ –

- Dermatoglyphic pattern
- "Grain" – nasolabial plate of sheep does not contain dividing deep grooves. There is asymmetry of the image – dissimilarity of right with left half of the photograph.
- Folds are shaft shaped, and could be distinguished one from another.
- Skin grooves are wide, short, having different direction, as they are best expressed in the central part. The texture of dermatoglyph is dense.



3. "Grain" dermatoglyphic pattern

(, 2010; , 2011a, b)

- Our results of the dermatoglyphic pattern assessment of the nasolabial plate of 'Pleven Blackhead Sheep' breed correspond to those published by other authors (Lipovik et al., 2010; Malofeev and Lipovik, 2011a, b).
- Morphological indicators of nasolabial plates of 'Blackhead sheep' breed are presented in Table 1.

1.

1.

(±m)

Table 1. Morphological indicators of nasolabial plate in 'Pleven Blackhead Sheep' breed (±m)

| Age group | Surface of nasolabial plate, mm ² | Amount of skin folds (shafts) | Length of skin folds (shafts), mm | | |
|-----------|--|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| | | | Dorsal part | Medium part | Ventral part |
| Newborn | 15,8±0,31 | 83±2,4 | 0,2±0,01 | 0,2±0,01 | 0,2±0,01 |
| 6 months | 24,4±0,27 | 93± 1,7 | 1,9±1,2 | 1,7±1,1 | 1,9±1,2 |
| 18 months | 44,1±0,48 | 113±2,3 | 2,7±1,3 | 2,3±1,3 | 2,2±1,1 |
| 2-3 years | 47,9±0,65 | 135±3,8 | 2,9±1,4 | 3,1±1,2 | 3,8±1,3 |
| 4-5 years | 71,8±0,87 | 143±3,7 | 4,4±1,7 | 4,2±1,4 | 3,9±1,2 |

p 0.05

15,8±0,31mm²
71,8±0,87 mm²
4-5

83±2,4
143±3,7 mm.

()
0,2±0,01 mm
4,4±1,7 mm

0,2±0,01mm 3,8±1,2 mm

- The surface of nasolabial plate increases in time from 15.8±0.31mm² in newborn lambs to 71.8±0.87 mm² in adult sheep at the age of 4-5 years. The amount of skin shafts increases with the advancement of age from 83±2.4 to 143±3.7 mm. The length of skin folds (shafts) in time varies from 0.2±0.01 mm to 4.4±1.7mm at the dorsal part of the nasolabial plate and from 0.2±0.01mm to 3.8±1.2 mm in the ventral part.

- The shape of folds changes by irregular polygons at the dorsal part of the nasolabial plate to pear-shaped, oval and loop shape in the central part and to irregular quadrangles and pentagons in the ventral part.

(2011a, b)

- Malofeev and Lipovnik (2011a, b) had similar results to ours in the study of morphology of the nasolabial plate of Altai sheep breed.

CONCLUSIONS

- The nasolabial plate of 'Pleven Blackhead Sheep' breed has black, anthracite colour with various nuances and brilliance. There are depigmentation parts in 7.9% of the studied sheep. For most of the newborn lambs is observed division in two parts of the dermatoglyph in the presence of well-formed deep central groove.

7,9%

- There are three types of dermatoglyphic patterns in 'Pleven Blackhead Sheep' breed: groove, cross and grain. The most common dermatoglyphic pattern is groove – 44.00%, followed by cross – 31.66 % and grain – 24.34%. Skin folds as amount, configuration and location of grooves in the dermatoglyphic patterns, which limit them, are not connected and do not depend on the age of animals.

44,00 %,
31,66 %

– 24,34%.

- There were no individuals with identical dermatoglyphs of the nasolabial plate in the course of study in the representative of 'Pleven Blackhead Sheep', which makes us to accept that the shape and relief of the nasolabial plate are strictly individual and its dermatoglyphic complexes could

- be used in the identification of each animal, as well as a marker in the selection work.

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Characteristics of the structure of the nasolabial plate and its relation to the milk yield of 'Bulgarian Rhodope Cattle'

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SUMMARY

2014 . 57 -
35 , 5 , 16 1 .
INTER PULS - 1 7,

Studies were conducted on 'Bulgarian Rhodope Cattle' breed in the herd of the experimental base in RIMSA, in the town of Troyan, and private farmers from the region of the town of Devin in 2014. 57 animals were studied – 35 cows, 5 heifers, 16 calves and 1 bull.

Animals are mainly bound, as a two-hour walk is provided per a day. Milking in the experimental base of RIMSA in Troyan is performed in a milking room INTER PULS – a small milking room 1 x 7, and the rest of the animals are milked by a mobile milking unit.

The examination of the photograph of fragments of the surface of the papillary layer of the nasolabial plate showed that its size is a constant and its continuous increase could be observed in the growth and development of each individual.

The type of dermatoglyph of the

„ „ – 34,61%
 „ „ – 26,65%,
 „ „ – 10,21%.

- nasolabial plate in 'Bulgarian Rhodope Cattle' is transmitted to the offspring, therefore it is possible to use it as a marker in the selection. The highest milk production in average lactations was noticed in dermatoglyphic pattern "Class"– 34.61%, followed by "Crown" pattern – 29.65% and "Combo" pattern – 26.65%, and the lowest was for "Grain" pattern – 10.21%.

Key words: nasolabial plate, dermatoglyph, cattle, pattern, fragment

INTRODUCTION

Dermatoglyphics is the science of skin pheno complex, related to the identification and tribal selection work in ruminants.

- Phenetics studies the discrete acts of epigenetic variability and their combinations and corresponds closely with dermatoglyphics.

- Byikov (1990) makes a general characteristic of the morphology of the nasolabial plate in ruminants.

- Malofeev et al. (2005) thoroughly examined photographs of nasolabial plates of cows and came to the conclusion that they provide information to identify the type of the animal and its identification. This information could be used in selection.

- According to Malofeev and Lipovnik (2011) skin folds and grooves on the surface of the nasolabial plate form a dermatoglyph, which reflects the productivity of the individual, and reflects the identification of the

animal and its belonging to a particular herd and farm.

(2014) Kalinin (2014) examines dermatoglyphic patterns of the nasolabial plate of calves of 'Red-and-White' breed and reveals their relation to meat productivity.

(2013) Gonchar et al. (2103) study dermatological types of two Ukrainian milk cattle breeds - 'Ukrainian Black-and-White' breed and 'Ukrainian Red-and-White' breed and search for their relation to productivity.

The studies on dermatoglyphic patterns on nasolabial plates in cattle are conducted by Trofimenko (1986), Lozovaya and Arzhankova (2010), Sirotnina (2012), Noviyanto and Arymurthy (2013).

(1987), (2010), (2012), Noviyanto and Arymurthy (2013).

The aim of present study was to follow the dermatoglyphic patterns of 'Bulgarian Rhodope Cattle' and to determine the anatomic characteristics of skin structure of nasolabial plate and their relation to milk productivity.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The survey was conducted in the Experimental base at RIMSA in the town of Troyan and four private farms in the region of the town of Devin, Smolyan region in 2014-2015.

57 cattle, 35 cows and 5 heifers, 16 calves and one bull were tested from the 'Bulgarian Rhodope Cattle'. 35 cows and 5 heifers had

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|----------|---------|------------|---|---|
| 35- | 5- | , | - | <p>a practical value for the research, as they have completed their growth and had complete lactations. The studied animals had milk yeild over 2500 kg. The following methods were used:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - photographing and measuring of the area of nasolabial plate. - Pictures of dermatoglyphs of the nasolabial plate was taken by a digital camera Practic DCZ-7.2, at a distance of 25-30 cm from the object, after that the data were gathered in a computer Pentrium-4 for analysis and processing. Backups were saved on memory sticks. 'Paint' and 'Microsoft Word' programmes were used for data processing. With the support of 'Coral' program, we constructed a rectangular grid, composed by three vertical and three horizontal lines, which was laid on the image. - Dermatoglyphs were studied visually by the methodology of Trofimenko (1991) on deductive method for analyzing the image according to which the following features were reported: dermatoglyphic pattern, type of structure, bends and direction of skin grooves, position of folds, colour, shape of skin ridges. The analysis of photographs was made at different zoom. <p>Terms and designations are in accordance with the International Committee on Veterinary Gross Anatomical Nomenclature – Nomina Anatomica Veterinaria.</p> |
| | 2500 g. | : | - | |
| Practic | DCZ-7,2 | , | - | |
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- Information on milk yield for
- 305 day lactation in kilograms,
- content of milk fat and protein in %
- and the number of lactation was taken by reports of tested animals.

Data were processed as statistical variations and presented in tables.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

- The study on photographs
- showed that regardless the length of
- the period between surveys (day,
- week, month, season, year), the
- dermatoglyphic pattern was constant
- and unchangeable.

As is evident in Table 1, in case of 'Bulgarian Rhodope Cattle' were observed 4 dermatoglyphic patterns of the nasolabial plate: "Class", "Crown", "Grain" and "Combo".

Table 1. Frequency of occurrence of dermatoglyphic pattern in 'Bulgarian Rhodope Cattle'

| Dermatoglyphic pattern | Bulgarian Rhodope Cattle, % |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| /Class | 34,61 |
| /Crown | 29,52 |
| /Grain | 10,24 |
| /Combo | 26,63 |

- Cows and heifers with dermatoglyphic pattern of "Class
- had symmetrical image of the nasolabial mirror. Skin shafts were tight. In the central and ventral part, they resemble the layout of inflorescence class. The central groove is deep and more slightly

45°

(2013).

(1987),
(2010)

curved shallow grooves are synthesized by it.

In animals of "Crown" dermatoglyphic pattern is observed asymmetry of the image. The type of drawing is loose. Skin shafts are mainly round. Well-expressed skin grooves are observed that are slightly curved and arc-shaped. Their direction is in circle against the skin shafts/ or from the top to the periphery to a great extent.

Cattles of "Grain" dermatoglyphic patterns have got a different image on the left and right halves of the nasolabial plate – asymmetry of the image. The surface of nasolabial plate is smooth and shiny. Skin shafts are round, oval and elliptical, arranged individually. Enfolding of skin shafts is observed on the lower and middle surface of the nasolabial plate. There are characteristic slightly curved skin grooves in the upper part of the nasolabial plate with an angle of 45° to the periphery.

Representatives of 'Bulgarian Rhodope Cattle' breed of "Combo" dermatoglyphic pattern combine the above mentioned types in different combinations.

Results of Trofimenko (1987), Lozovaya and Arzhankova (2010) and Gonchar et al. (2013) are analogous to ours.

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Table 2. Dermatoglyphic characteristic of cows and heifers of 'Bulgarian Rhodope Cattle' breed in the farm of Experimental Base at RIMSA in the town of Troyan and farms in the region of Devin

| Pheno complex | Class | Crown | Grain | Combo |
|------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| /Number of cows (n) | 14 | 12 | 4 | 10 |
| / Direction of grooves in % | | | | |
| /Equal | 67,42 | 24,16 | | |
| | 8,23 | 72,41 | | |
| From the top to a great extent | | | | |
| /To the periphery | 24,35 | 4,43 | | |
| / Curve of grooves in % | | | | |
| /Highly curved | 10,24 | 18,41 | | 25,64 |
| /Slightly curved | 89,76 | 71,59 | | 74,36 |
| / Position of folds in % | | | | |
| /Asymmetric | 37,53 | | | 41,57 |
| /Symmetric | 62,27 | 100 | 100 | 58,43 |
| / Shape of fragments in % | | | | |
| /Long stripes | 77,04 | 98,42 | 9,37 | 59,43 |
| /Short stripes | 88,25 | 99,01 | 81,41 | 100 |
| /Ellipses | 56,78 | 57,12 | 53,78 | 68,34 |
| /Polygons | 67,24 | 33,54 | 45,31 | 100 |
| /Flakes | 6,17 | 25,32 | 55,13 | |
| /Tight folds | 38,11 | 21,44 | | 51,24 |
| /Colour in % | | | | |
| /Depigmentation zones | 5,3 | 3,1 | 1,3 | 2 |
| | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Halo around the nasolabial plate | | | | |
| | 94,7 | 96,9 | 98,7 | 98,0 |
| Lack of depigmentation zones | | | | |

2 ,

- It is obvious from Table 2 that the dermatoglyphics characteristic of cows of 'Bulgarian Rhodope Cattle' breed is the following:

Grooves are divided in:

- Directed to the top equally – lines are vertical to the axis. Their ends are perpendicular to the top of the center line of the nasolabial plate. The folds are irregularly shaped and look like a glass.
- Grooves leave the center mostly at

- a right angle. They are observed in dermatoglyphic patterns of "Class" – 67,42% and "Crown" – 24,16%.
 - Directed from the top to a great extent (intermediate shape) – radial direction of lines. They strive to the conventional bisector of an angle. Cuneiform grooves are seldom observed from the top of the fragment to the periphery of the nasolabial plate. They are observed in dermatoglyphic patterns of "Crown" – 72,41% and "Class" – 8,23%.
 - Directed to the periphery, grooves separate from the center at a right angle. The lines make a small arc with a deviation to the dorsal area of the nasolabial plate. Most often the grooves are directed to the horizontal axes and approximately parallel to the top. Their percentage share is low and they are met mainly in dermatoglyphic patterns of "Class" – 24,35% and "Crown" – 4,43%.
 - According to curve trait, fragments are divided into slightly curved and highly curved. The slightly curved are characterized by long and straight lines. Highly curved fragments have many irregular grooves. They are found in three dermatoglyphic patterns "Class", "Crown" and "Combo" in different share percentage.
 - The fragments of dermatoglyph (the photograph) can be symmetrical and asymmetrical according to vertical axes drawn conventionally in the middle of the nasolabial plate.

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>- 4, 5, 7</p> | <p>Dermal folds in the structure of dermatoglyph have the shape of short and long stripes, polygons – 4, 5, 7 squares, of flakes, of ellipses and tight folds. The folds have a different shape and form complex structures. Fragments of nasolabial plate of animals of 'Bulgarian Rhodope Cattle' breed show thick and loose structure. The thick structure of dermatoglyph is characterized by thick folds in a shape of long and short chains, ellipses, closely arranged one to another. In animals with loose structure of dermatoglyph, folds are big, separated by wide grooves and forming ridges. Complex structures are usually complicated with a shape of flakes.</p> |
| <p>11,7</p> | <p>As an additional phenon was used the colour of nasolabial plate. In 11.7% of the tested animals are observed depigmentation sections on nasolabial plate with irregular polygonal and elliptical shape and different location. Most often it occurs in the dorsal part and less in the ventral part of the nasolabial plate. The nasolabial plate itself is surrounded by a band of 1.5-2.5 cm of white hair. The distribution of dermatoglyphic patterns is the following: "Class" – 5.3%, "Crown" – 3.1%, "Combo" – 2%, "Grain" – 1.3%.</p> |
| <p>1,5-2,5 cm</p> <p>3,1%, " – 5,3%, " – 2%, " – 1,3%.</p> | <p>These results are close in value and correspond to the results obtained by Sirotina (2012)</p> |

(2012) , - for 'Kostroma', 'Jaroslaw' and 'Black-and-White' cattle breeds.

3.

Table 3. Relation of dermatoglyphic polymorphism with milk productivity of cows and heifers of 'Bulgarian Rhodope Cattle' in herd of RIMSA-Troyan and herds and farmers from Devin

| Dermatoglyphic pattern | Amount | Milk productivity (g) | | Fat content (%) | | Protein content (%) | |
|----------------------------|--------|-----------------------|-------|-----------------|------|---------------------|------|
| | | | ±Sx | X | ±S | X | ±S |
| /Average lactations | | | | | | | |
| /Class | 14 | 3537,1 | 55,47 | 5,64 | 0,01 | 3,2 | 0,01 |
| /Crown | 12 | 3182,6 | 71,11 | 5,27 | 0,02 | 3,3 | 0,01 |
| /Grain | 4 | 2772,9 | 67,42 | 5,02 | 0,01 | 3,3 | 0,01 |
| /Combo | 10 | 2688,0 | 59,12 | 4,67 | 0,01 | 3,4 | 0,01 |

0,05

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>-</p> <p>„ ” – 3537,1 g,</p> <p>„ ” – 3182,6 g</p> <p>„ ” – 2772,9 g,</p> <p>„ ” – 2668,0 g.</p> <p>.</p> <p>.</p> <p>„ ” – 5,64 %,</p> <p>„ ” – 4,67 %.</p> <p>-</p> <p>„ ” – 3,4%,</p> <p>„ ” – 3,2 %.</p> | <p>The representatives of dermatoglyphic pattern of "Class" has the highest milk yield – 3537.1 kg, followed by "Crown" – 3182.6 kg and "Grain" – 2772.9 kg, and the lowest milk yield was for "Combo" – 2668.0 kg. Cows and heifers with symmetric shape of dermatoglyph have the highest milk yield. A similar situation is observed also in indicator for fat content. The highest percentage of fat in milk is found in "Class"- 5.64%, and the lowest for representatives of "Combo" dermatoglyphic pattern – 4.67%. The highest content of protein in milk was found in dermatoglyphic pattern of "Combo" – 3.4%, and the lowest for "Class" – 3.2%.</p> |
|---|--|

CONCLUSIONS

The study on papillary pictures of nasolabial plate in animals from 'Bulgarian Rhodope Cattle' shows that it has constant values. The inheritance of dermatoglyph of nasolabial plate could be used as an identification for each individual animal and as a selection marker in the selection. A breed specificity was established for 'Bulgarian Rhodope Cattle'. The highest milk productivity showed representatives of dermatoglyphic pattern of "Class" – 3537.1 kg, followed by "Crown" – 3182.6 g and "Grain" – 2 772.9 g. The representatives of dermatoglyphic pattern of "Combo" had the lowest– 2668.0 g. The highest milk productivity had cows and heifers with symmetrical shape of dermatoglyph.

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Comparison of exterior parameters of 'Pleven Blackhead Sheep' with the breed type of the first half of XX century

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SUMMARY

(1929), (1936)
(1948). 60

Pleven Blackhead Sheep has established itself as a national creation and the result of the work of many scientists and breeders during its long period of formation and realization. A comparative analysis of the exterior performance of individuals of the contemporary population of 'Pleven Blackhead sheep' and sheep of Pleven breed type described by Ganchev and Platikanov (1929), Madrov (1936) and Savov (1948). There were 60 exterior measurements of contemporary sheep of 'Pleven Blackhead Sheep' of private herds in the region of Pleven and Veliko Tarnovo.

The results show that there are close parameters between the breed type, which was described in the past, and the studied contemporary population. That is a proof for a well-preserved breed type. There was an increase in the size of the sheep compared to the studies from the first half of last century.

Key words: exterior, 'Pleven Blackhead Sheep'

INTRODUCTION

Contemporary researches in European countries indicate an increased scientific interest in the dairy sheep breeds. In its more than 100 year development, the autochthonous 'Pleven Blackhead Sheep' has gone through three stages of formation and realization. The advantages of the breed are the typical milk exterior, the well-shaped udder, suited for machine milking and the exclusive adaptive capacity to the environmental conditions (Boykovski et al., 2006; 2015).

According to Georgiev (2009), 'Pleven Blackhead Sheep' breed was best represented in the period 1937-1943, when The Sheep-breeding Union was established and worked, based in the town of Pleven, as its Chairman was Professor Petko Ivanov. In this period, the breed was superior in some indicators to the French breed Lacaune, which to the present date gives twice much milk than 'Pleven Blackhead Sheep', as a result of the pure breeding and selection for milk yield.

The linear dimensions of different body parts are an accurate and objective method for assessment of the exterior. The evaluation of sheep by linear measurements enables us to compare and analyze. There is a close connection between the exterior in sheep and their productivity.

| | | |
|---------|---|---|
| (2012), | - | Ovchinnikova and Dmitrik (2012) consider that the linear measurements, on which are based the study of sheep exterior, reflect the growth of the peripheral skeleton. |
| (2011) | - | Sedefchev and Sedefchev (2011) made a comparative analysis of the contemporary typical population of 'Karakachanska' sheep breed's exterior parameters, which is preserved by in situ method in Pirin Mountain and is described by various authors. Exterior measurements were taken of 90 'Karakachanska' sheep of a flock, which is reared in Pirin, as two exterior indices were calculated, compared and analyzed. |
| 90 | - | Nedelchev et al. (2013) conducted similar studies in monitoring and phenotypic assessment of 'West Balkan Mountain' sheep breed. |
| | - | The purpose of the present study was to undertake a comparative analysis of the exterior measurements between the contemporary and the historical population of 'Pleven Blackhead Sheep'. The object of study was a group of 'Pleven Blackhead Sheep' breed reared by private farmers in the region of villages of Dragomirovo, Alekovo and Bulgarene. Data of contemporary measurements are compared to these that were published by scientists in the first half of the twentieth century in order to determine the degree of similarity of the exterior. |

MATERIAL AND METHODS

A comparison was conducted of exterior indicators of data by scientists of the first half of XX century with contemporary 'Pleven Blackhead Sheep' of three flocks, owned by private farmers from the villages of Dragomirovo, Alekovo and Bulgarene, which were part of the former Svishtov district. At present, they are administratively subjected to Municipalities of Veliko Tarnovo and Pleven. Reference level are data by three specialized studies of 'Pleven Blackhead Sheep', conducted in Bulgaria in the period of 1929-1948 by Ganchev and Platikanov (1929), Madrov (1936) and Savov (1948). Studies were made at a time when the breed was widely spread in Bulgaria. These three authors gave similar descriptions of the breed: large sheep with pear-shaped body, good skeletal system, a thin long tail reaching below the tarsometatarsal joints, and sometimes even to the ground, with coarse mixed wool. There is a specific pigmentation for that breed. The head and legs are black, the chest is broad and deep, the back is long, the sheep are with long legs. The belly and the lower part of the neck usually are naked. The lambs are born black and gradually their wool lighten. Most sheep are hornless, but there are also horned individuals.

In the present study were taken the exterior indicators of 60 animals, 20 per flock, with typical

20

()

” ”

”

- parameters of 'Pleven Blackhead Sheep' breed. The height of withers, the height of sacrum and sidelong body body length were measured by a stock (a stick) of Lidtin. The length of tail and the scope of metacarpus were measured by a measuring tape. The average values for each indicator were calculated. On the basis of the average values of the height of withers, body length and the scope of metacarpus were calculated: 'stretchability index', "massiveness index" and "index of bone development" both of historical and contemporary individuals of the breed.
 - The indicator of live weight was used as an additional marker. Live weight was obtained by weighing the scales with a suitable platform. The data obtained are compared with the averages published by scientists to breed the first half of the twentieth century.
- The results were summarized and presented in tables and charts.



1. (2003)
Picture 1. 'Pleven Blackhead Sheep' breed – Nedelchev, (2003)



2. – 2016
Picture 2. 'Pleven Blackhead Sheep' breed, private owner – Dimitar Alexandrov – the village of Alekovo - 2016

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Data presented in Table 1 and diagrams showed that 'Pleven Blackhead Sheep' animals reared near Svishtov, showed approximately similar data with representatives of the breed, which were measured by Ganchev and Platikanov (1929), Madrov (1936) and Savov (1948). The differences are attributed to the improved alimentary conditions, the differences in climate and environmental parameters, the selection that has been conducted more than 50 years that is related to the desire of farmers to increase the production obtained from sheep.

1.

Table 1. Exterior measurements of 'Pleven Blackhead Sheep' by various researchers

| | h at withers cm | h at sacrum cm | Body length cm | Chest range, cm | Metacarpus cm | Tail length cm | Live weight kg |
|---------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Ganchev, Platikanov, 1929 | 66,10 | 66,40 | 73,50 | 89,50 | - | 32,40 | 49,80 |
| Madrov, 1936 | 69,75 | 71,02 | 71,05 | 105,46 | 7,76 | 38,49 | 60,30 |
| Savov, 1948 | 69,00 | 71,30 | 71,00 | 104,20 | 8,00 | 41,11 | 56,60 |
| Own study | 77,48 | 78,32 | 75,85 | 104,03 | 9,05 | 49,66 | 78,20 |

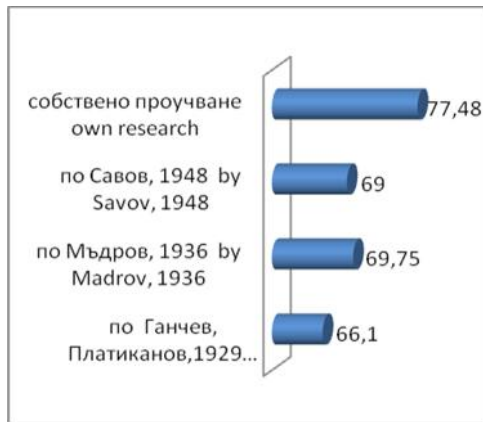
In terms of height of withers (Figure 1), contemporary sheep have higher values, compared to the measurement by Ganchev and Platikanov – 11.38 cm, Madrov -

11,38 m, 7,73
 m 8,48 m. | 7,73 cm, and Savov - 8.48 cm.
 -
 (2), -
 11,92 m,
 7,30 m 7,02
 m.
 (3)
 ,
 - 2,30 m,
 -
 4,80 m
 4,85 m.

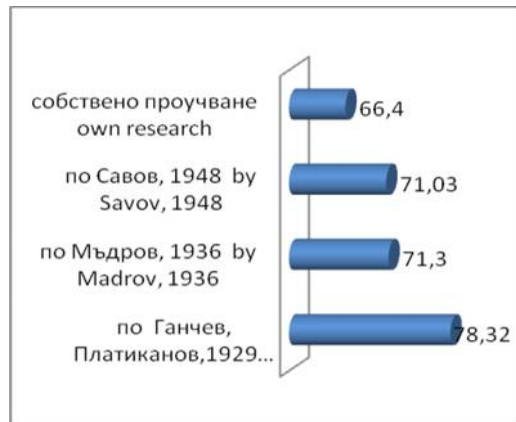
7,73 cm, and Savov - 8.48 cm.

There are similar differences in different populations in the second indicator – height of sacrum/ (Figure 2), the difference of measurements of Ganchev and Platikanov is 11.92 cm, Madrov – 7.30cm and Savov – 7.02 cm.

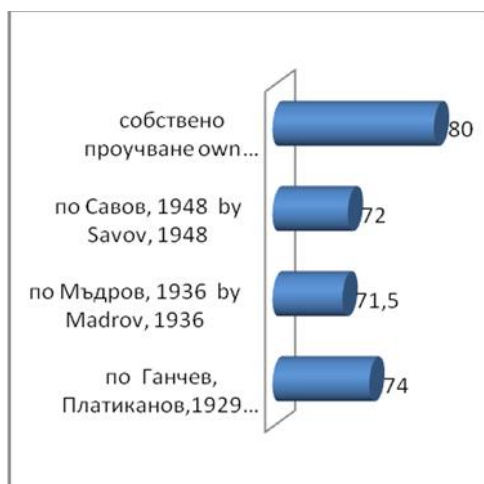
The body length (Figure 3) in contemporary sheep is similar to the value measured by Ganchev and Platikanov, relatively minimal difference of 2.30 cm. It shows larger differences in parameters of the measurements of Madrov by 4.80 cm and Savov – 4.85 cm.



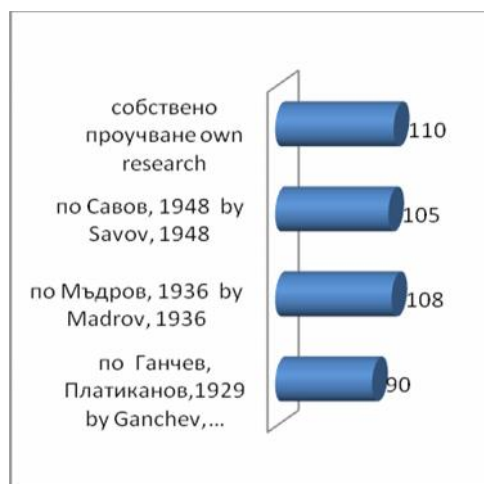
1. Height at the withers, cm



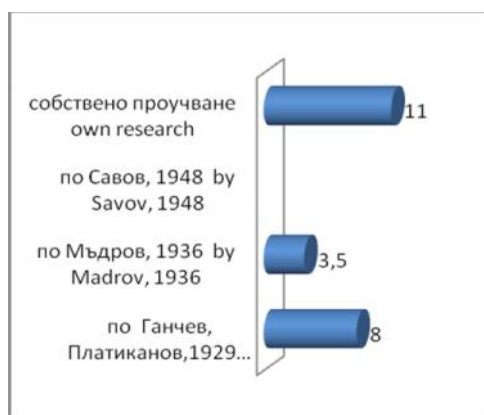
2. Height at sacrum, cm



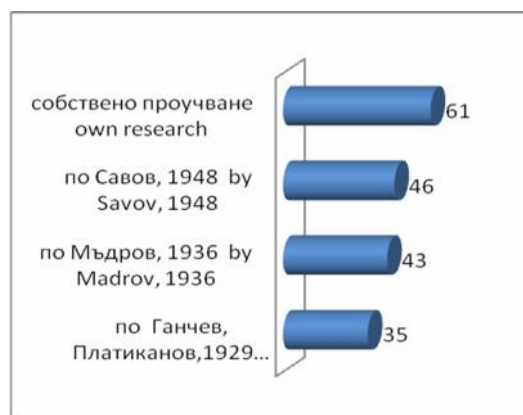
. 3. , cm
Fig. 3. Body length, cm



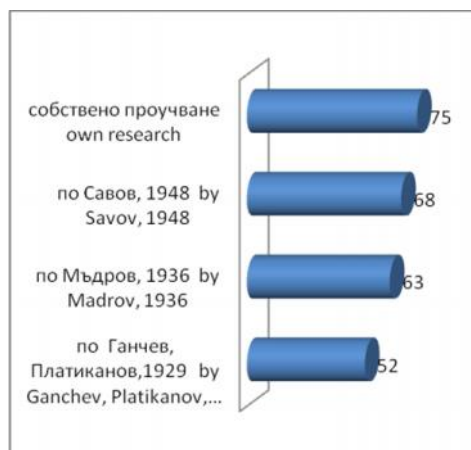
. 4. , cm
Fig. 4. Scope of chest, cm



. 5. , cm
Fig. 5. Scope of metacarpus, cm



. 6. , cm
Fig. 6. Tail length, cm



. 7. , kg
Fig. 7. Live weight, kg

(4)
 1 m.
 105,46 m,
 89,50
 cm,
 (5)
 9,05 m,
 1 m,
 (6)
 49,66
 m,
 32,40 m.
 (7).
 78,20
 g,
 60,30 g,
 49,80 g.
 (8)

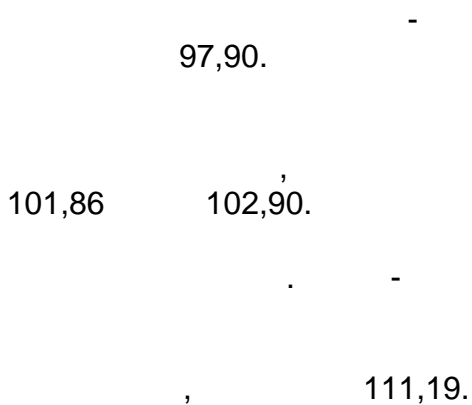
The indicator scope of the chest (Figure 4) the differences are minimal. The parameters of three studied groups fall in the range of 1 cm. The group measured by Madrov has the highest values – 105.46 cm. The lowest values were found in the group of Ganchev and Platikanov 89.50 cm, which showed more significant differences.

The contemporary sheep have the highest values for the scope of metacarpus (Figure 5) – 9.05, as the study of Ganchev and Platikanov does not show these measurements. The indicators of the three groups fall in the range of 1 cm, which is normal for this indicator.

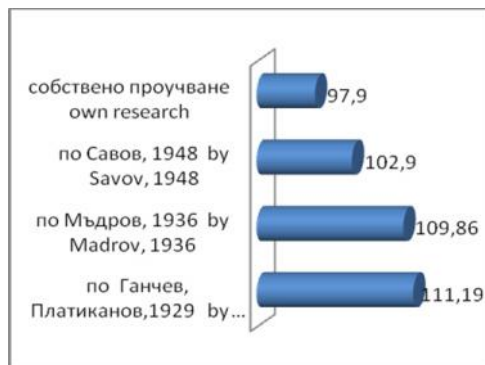
For the length of tail (Figure 6) were also identified differences. Contemporary sheep has the longest tail – 49.66 cm, and the shortest tails has the sheep measured by Ganchev and Platikanov – 32.40 cm.

The live weight is used as an additional marker in our study (Figure 7). The representatives of contemporary sheep show the highest values of it – 78.20 kg, followed by sheep studied by Madrov – 60.30 kg, and the lowest values showed sheep that were studied by Ganchev and Platikanov – 49.80 kg.

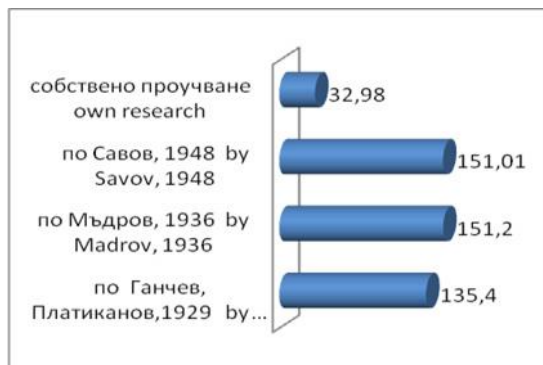
Index of stretchability (Figure 8) of contemporary sheep showed



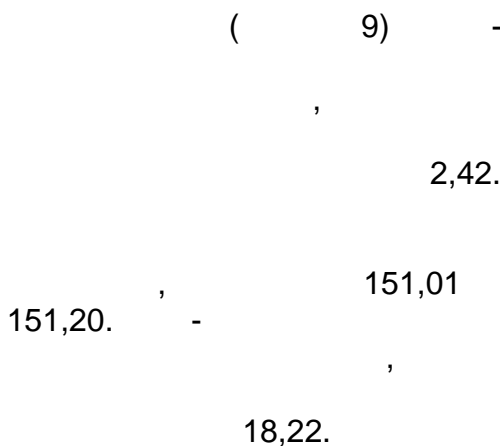
the lowest values – 97.90. The sheep studied by Madrov and Savov showed differences in the range around unit, respectively 101.86 and 102.90. These two groups take the average position in that indicator. The highest index values were measured by Ganchev and Platikanov, respectively 111.19.



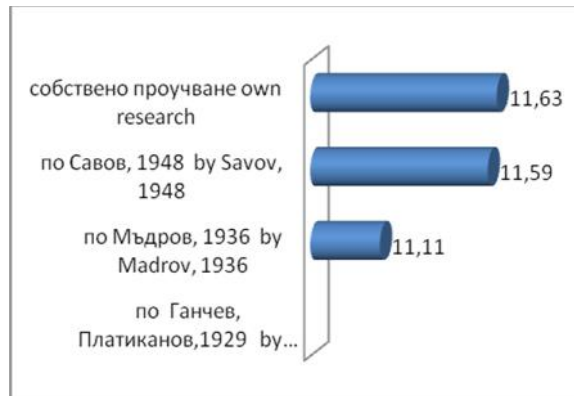
8
Fig. 8 Index of stretchability



9
Fig. 9 Index of massiveness



In terms of massiveness index (Figure 9), we measured the lowest indicator, followed by sheep measured by Ganchev and Platikanov with a difference of 2.42. The measurement of Savov and Madrov followed with very close values, respectively 151.01 and 151.20. Madrov measured he most massive sheep, the difference of contemporary sheep was in the range of 18.22.



.10
Fig.10 Index of development of bone system

(10)

11,63,
 11,59
 11,12.

-75-85 kg,

(, 2009).

The index for the development of bones (Figure 10) showed similar values, as it was the highest in our studies – 11.63, followed by measurement of Savov – 11.59 and 11.12 Madrov. Ganchev and Platikanov did not show values characterizing this index.

The sheep of private owners from the region of Svishtov belong to the type of 'Pleven Blackhead Sheep', characterized by a higher live weight of ewes – 75-85 kg, with a relatively wide withers and long back. The tail is long, as in some sheep it reaches almost to the ground. Animals have got long legs, the belly and lower part do not have fleece (Georgiev, 2009).

CONCLUSIONS

- Representatives of flocks of 'Pleven Blackhead Sheep' had a height of withers 77.48 cm, height of sacrum – 78.32 cm, body length 77,48

cm, 78,32
 cm,
 75,85 cm,
 104,03 cm,
 9,05 cm,
 49,66 cm 78,20 kg.

75,85 cm, chest scope 104.03 cm,
 scope of metacarpus – 9 05 cm,
 length of tail – 49.66 cm and a live
 weight of 78.20 kg.

- The comparison of the exterior indicators of 'Pleven Blackhead Sheep' breed shows
- that the morphological features of
 - the animals are comparable and similar to those that were grown in
 - the past in region of Svishtov and
 - Central North Bulgaria. The increase in size of sheep is due to
 - the improved alimentary
 - conditions, climate changes and the ecological status and the
 - willingness of farmers to increase them the production.

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- „ in situ
- „ , 2011, 6, 53-57.

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Meat productivity of cull cows of 'Black and White Cattle' breed in the region of Pleven

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SUMMARY

The study was conducted to determine the meat productivity for 4-month period of two groups of 10 cull cows of 'Bulgarian Black and White Cattle' with various genotype, which are owned by the Main Directorate "Prison Sentence" in two farms of the prisons in Belene and Pleven, both in the region of the town of Pleven.

It was found that there was a high intensive growth (983 g average daily gain for the first group, and 917 g for the second group) in cull cows for the first two months.

By increasing the live weight through fattening, carcass yield was improved and reached 52.85% for 627 kg of live weight for I group of cull cows and 55.4% for 653 kg of live weight for the II group of cull cows during the fourth month.

The rhythm of behavioural manifestations of cows from different groups was not the same despite the equal conditions of feeding and rearing.

Key words: cull cows, yield, meat productivity

10 4
-
-
"
-
983 g (917 g
52,85
% 627 kg I
55,4 % 653 kg II

INTRODUCTION

- The production and consumption of beef in Bulgaria is at the critical minimum compared to other EU member states.

- In the process of creation and improvement of 'Bulgarian Black and White Cattle', the milk production has always been the main selection characteristic trait. Meat productivity is realized on the basis of the good growth ability and the achievement of large size with slighter roundness of the body shapes (Zahariev et al., 1988). The discarded cows of 'Bulgarian Black and White Cattle' breed are a particular reserve, mainly because of reproductive disorders and injuries (Amerhanov et al., 2007).

- A significant effect in increasing the meat yield could be achieved through intensification of the fattening process and using the biological features of that breed.

- Todorov (2001) considers that the systems for fattening are traditionally effective, regardless the feeding method and differences in technology.

- Alexeeva (2006) founds in an experiment with 'Black and White Cattles' in Zauralie region (the region near the mountain Ural), that the meat productivity is influenced by the type, and body composition and method of fattening after the animals have been discarded from breeding.

(2011)

Giniyatullin and Mullayanov (2011) state that the beef production from cull cows is an important issue in the contemporary conditions for development of livestock and building market relations, moreover there are conditions for discarding of a lot of female animals in the intensive breeding of herds and selection according to particular features. In some years that amount reaches 30% of the main herds. Speht (2008) reached the similar conclusions.

Speht (2008).

That led to the conduction of the present experiment.

The aim of present study was to determine the periods of fattening, the average daily gain for different groups and months, carcass yield, slaughter indicators and morphological and chemical composition of the carcass of cull cows in the region of Pleven, as well as the behavioural reactions of animals during fattening.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The experimental part of the research was conducted in the farms of the prisons in Belene and Pleven. For the research were chosen cull cows, owned by Main Directorate "Prison Sentence" of 'Bulgarian Black and White Cattle' breed in the region of Pleven, as two groups of 10 cows were formed in each farm with different genotype. The majority of 'Black

1980

(I),

).

8-10 cm

25 kg

2

30 kg

4

kg

3,5 kg.

:

20%,

13,6%,

0,4%,

1%,

- and White Cattle' population in the region is descendants of crossbreeds of different generations of the breeds that were reared in Bulgaria until 1980

- with bulls of 'Black and White Cattle' and 'Holstein-Friesian' breed. The animals from the farm of the prison in Belene are

- descendants of individuals mostly

- imported from Poland and former GDR – pure bred 'Black and White Cattle'(I group), while the animals reared in the farm of the prison in Pleven were obtained by crossing cows of 'Bulgarian Simental Cattle' and 'Holstein Frisian' bulls.

(II)

- When the experiment was

- set, the cows were balanced in kilograms by the principle of analogues. The principle of analogues was followed during the whole process of research. The animals of both groups were reared in group boxes/free stalls on non-changeable litter with a free access to water. Feeding was on the base of green alfalfa and green maize with the corncobs cut by 9-10 cm, 25 kilograms per head in the first 2 months of fattening and 30 kg in the second two months of fattening, 4 kg ground wheat straw and 3.5 kg concentrated mixture.

The concentrated mixture had the following composition: 55% wheat, 20% barley, 10% maize, 13.6% sunflower meal, 0.4% dicalcium phosphate, 1% salt, 0.3% micronutrient mixture for cattle. 1

| | | | |
|------------|--------|-----------|--|
| 0,3%. 1 kg | | | kg of the mixture contained FUG- |
| - 84,5. | -0,78, | -81,4 | 0.78, PDI-81.4 and DM - 84.5. The |
| | | | control over feed consumption was |
| | | | done daily in groups/ |
| | | | Weight development of cull |
| | | | cows were controlled by individual, |
| | | | monthly weighing in the morning |
| | | | before feeding. After completion of |
| | | | fattening for the periods, carcass |
| | | | yield was conducted on two |
| | | | animals, representatives of each |
| | | | group to assess their meat |
| | | | productivity. Slaughtering analysis |
| | | 24 | was conducted 24 hours after |
| | | | slaughtering. The study of |
| | | | physicochemical composition of |
| | | | meat was conducted in the |
| | | | laboratory on meat in RIMSA - |
| | | | Troyan, according to the |
| | | | methodology of Zahariev and |
| | | (1979). | Pinkas (1979). In the chemical |
| | | | analysis of random samples of |
| | | | different parts of the carcass and |
| | | | <i>musculus longissimus dorsi</i> of the |
| | | | slaughtered animals was |
| | | | determined the fat content, |
| | | -8549-74, | according to BDS-8549-74, and |
| | | | the water-bearing capacity of meat |
| | | | was determined according to the |
| | | | modified method of Pinkas and |
| | | (1984), | Marinova (1984), the protein |
| | | | content was determined by the |
| | | (1956). | method of Papanidulus et al. |
| | | | (1956). |
| | | | The twenty-four-hour rhythm of |
| | | | the main elements in the behaviour |
| | | | of animals was studied according to |
| | | | the chronometric method and visual |
| | | | observation after Velikzhanin (2000). |
| | | (2000). | The experiment continued for 4 |
| | e | | months. |
| | 4 | | |

The data were processed according to the statistical method of variation and presented in tables.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The analysis of data obtained for live weight and average daily gain of studied groups testified for intergroup differences.

Table 1. Live weight of cull cows (M±n)

| / Age | (M±n) | |
|-------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| | I | II |
| Beginning of experiment | 531±9,41 | 562±10,1 |
| 2 /at 2 months | 586±11,78 | 621±12,16 |
| 3 /at 3 months | 609±10,43 | 636±11,25 |
| 4 /at 4 months | 627±12,49 | 653±14,70 |

P 0,05

31 kg,

(2011).

0,433±1,90

0,983±1,16 kg.

0,917±1,30 g

0,983±1,16 g

- 0,433±1,90 g

0,500±1,30 g

The second group was superior to the first with 31 kilograms of live weight in the beginning of the experiment, as that difference was maintained and increased in the end of the experiment. A similar result with an increase of live weight was found in data by Giniyatullin and Mullayanov (2011).

The average daily gain varied from 0.433±1.90 to 0.983±1.16 kg. The highest average daily gain was observed in the first two months of fattening 0.917±1.30 kg for the first group and 0.983±1.16 kg for the second group. There was a decrease in the average daily gain for the third month - 0.433±1.90 kg and 0.500±1.30 kg followed by a

0,600±0,79 g 0,567±0,83 g. - gradual increase of the average daily gain for the fourth month - 0.600±0.79 kg and 0.567±0.83 kg.

2.

(M±n)

Table 2. Average daily gain for different period and FUG, DM, PDI for the whole period of fattening (M±n)

| Ages and indicators | Average daily gain, g | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|------------|
| | I /group | II /group |
| 2 /at 2 months | 0,917±1,30 | 0,983±1,16 |
| 3 /at 3 months | 0,433±1,90 | 0,500±1,30 |
| 4 /at 4 months | 0,600±0,79 | 0,567±0,83 |
| FUG for whole period | 1441±4,6 | 1399±5,1 |
| DM for whole period | 1489±7,4 | 1471±6,8 |
| PDI for whole period | 1661±1,2 | 1643±1,1 |

P 0,05

508± 10,4 kg
 534±9,54 kg
 587±11,24 kg
 643±10,56 kg
 9,5%

The studies revealed that the results of the control slaughtering were different for the different studied groups in the four periods. Pre-slaughter weight varied from 508± 10.4 kg to 534±9.54 kg in the beginning of the experiment and from 587±11.24 kg to 643±10.56 kg in the end of the experiment or a difference of 9.5% in favour of the second group.

120
 229,1± 5,31 kg
 315,7± 8,87 kg
 37 %, 254,7±6,28 kg
 355,1±9,90 kg 39 %

The final intensive fattening for 120 days allowed an increase of meat in the cold carcass from 229.1± 5.31 kg in the beginning of the experiment to 315.7± 8.87 kg for the first group or 37%, and from 254.7±6.28 kg to 355.1±9.90 kg or 39 % for the second group. The amount of bones in the third month was the slightest - 48.6-

- 48,6-49,9 kg, 49.9 kg, and the highest in the beginning of the experiment - 55.5-58.3 kg.
 - 55,5-58, 3 kg.

3. (M±n)

Table 3. Results of the control slaughter of fattened cull cows (M±n)

| / Indicators | , g/Groups of gain, g | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|------------|
| | I | II |
| / Beginning of experiment | | |
| /Pre-slaughter weight, kg | 508±10,4 | 534±9,54 |
| /Meat yield,% | 43,1±0,52 | 44,4±0,43 |
| / Visceral fats, kg | 12,3±1,15 | 11,9±1,01 |
| / Cold carcass meat, kg | 229,1±5,31 | 254,7±6,28 |
| / Bones, kg | 55,5±0,59 | 58,3±0,46 |
| /Carcass yield, % | 44,9±0,34 | 44,7±0,53 |
| 2 / At 2 months | | |
| / Pre-slaughter weight, kg | 554±10,5 | 596±11,01 |
| / Meat yield, % | 45,3±0,60 | 46,8±0,53 |
| / Visceral fats, kg | 14,1±1,15 | 15,4±1,71 |
| / Cold carcass meat, kg | 264,7±0,51 | 297,1±0,40 |
| , g/Bones, kg | 54,1±0,89 | 57,8±0,73 |
| / Carcass yield, % | 51,4±0,55 | 54,3±0,45 |
| 3 / At 3 months | | |
| / Pre-slaughter weight, kg | 573±7,21 | 618±8,57 |
| / Meat yield, % | 49,2±0,62 | 51,4±0,073 |
| / Visceral fats, kg | 17,2±2,03 | 16,3±2,13 |
| / Cold carcass meat, kg | 277,4±7,99 | 314±8,17 |
| / Bones, kg | 48,6±1,02 | 49,9±1,22 |
| / Carcass yield, % | 51,3±0,47 | 54,4±0,57 |
| 4 / At 4 months | | |
| o / Pre-slaughter weight, kg | 587±11,24 | 643±10,56 |
| / Meat yield, % | 46,9±0,58 | 51,8±0,56 |
| / Visceral fats, kg | 17,7±2,56 | 18,5±4,07 |
| / Cold carcass meat, kg | 315,7 ±8,87 | 355,1±9,09 |
| / Bones, kg | 51,3±1,78 | 53,8±1,64 |
| / Carcass yield, % | 52,8±0,47 | 55,4±0,65 |

0,05

11,9-12,3 kg
 17,7-18,5 kg
 kg
 ,
 44,7 44,9

Visceral fats varied from 11.9-12.3 kg in the beginning of the experiment to 17.7-18.5 kg in the end of the experiment. Slaughter yield increased with the increase of months of fattening, as in the beginning of the experiment it varied from 44.7 to 44.9 %, and

%,
52,8-55,4 %.

in the end of the experiment
reached 52.8-55.4 %

4. (M±n)
Table 4. Chemical composition of meat of fattened cull cows (M±n)

| / Indicators | I | | II | |
|--|----------------|------|----------------|------|
| | / group n=2 | | / group n=2 | |
| | x | ± SX | x | ± SX |
| Average sample of breasts, loin and haunch | | | | |
| /Water, % | 58,4 | 1,6 | 59,7 | 2,74 |
| /Fats, % | 26,0 | 2,11 | 24,6 | 5,7 |
| /Proteins, % | 16,5 | 1,77 | 16,9 | 0,87 |
| Mineral substances, % | 1,2 | 0,04 | 0,97 | 0,03 |
| /Average sample of Musculus longissimus dorsi | | | | |
| /Water, % | 74,7 | 0,94 | 76,5 | 1,24 |
| /Fats, % | 22,09 | 0,36 | 21,9 | 0,57 |
| /Proteins, % | 20,17 | 0,54 | 21,67 | 0,74 |
| Mineral substances, % | 1,08 | 0,03 | 1,2 | 0,02 |

58,4%

59,7%

26%
24,6%

1,6%.

16,5%

16,9%

1,2% 0,97%.

musculus longissimus dorsi.

- The results of the research showed some differences in the average sample of meat from breast, loin and haunch. The water content was relatively high, ranging from 58.4% for the first group to 59.7% for the second one. The fat content was 26% in the first group compared to 24.6% in the second group or a difference of 1.6%. The protein content was not significantly different: 16.5% in the first group compared to 16.9% in the second group. Minerals were from 1.2% to 0.97%.

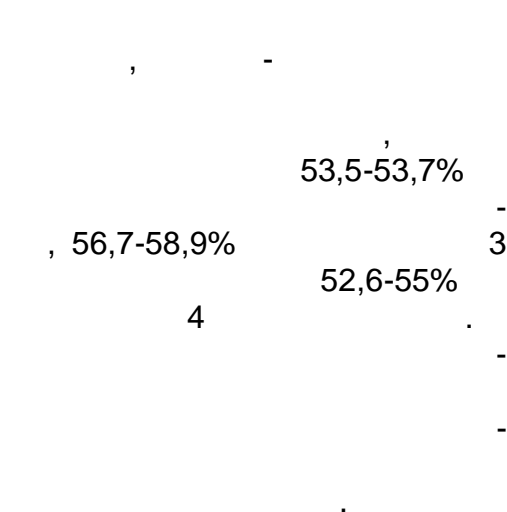
- Similar differences were observed in the average sample from *musculus longissimus dorsi*.
The results of the ethological

observation and chronometric
 measurements in the different
 periods of fattening showed that
 the rhythm of behavioural
 manifestations of cows is different
 for the various genotypes.
 It was found that animals in
 the experimental groups spent on
 taking of food and water from 29 to
 30.1% of their time for twenty four
 for 2-month fattening, 27.8 to
 30.8% of their time was spent for
 receiving food for 3-month
 fattening; 28.6-29.2 % spent for
 4-month fattening.

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 4-month fattening.

Table 5. Results of behaviour of cull cows during fattening in different periods

| Behavioural elements | I | | II | |
|-----------------------|------|------|------|------|
| | | % | | % |
| 2 /At 2 months | | | | |
| Food and water intake | 419 | 29 | 433 | 30.1 |
| /Rest | 773 | 53.7 | 770 | 53.5 |
| /Movement | 248 | 17.3 | 237 | 16.4 |
| /All | 1440 | 100 | 1440 | 100 |
| /Rumination | 441 | 30.6 | 449 | 31.2 |
| 3 /At 3 months | | | | |
| Food and water intake | 401 | 27.8 | 443 | 30.8 |
| /Rest | 848 | 58.9 | 816 | 56.7 |
| /Movement | 191 | 13.3 | 181 | 12.5 |
| /All | 1440 | 100 | 1440 | 100 |
| /Rumination | 391 | 25.2 | 407 | 28.3 |
| 4 /At 4 months | | | | |
| Food and water intake | 412 | 28.6 | 421 | 29.2 |
| /Rest | 757 | 52.6 | 792 | 55 |
| /Movement | 261 | 18.8 | 227 | 15.8 |
| /All | 1440 | 100 | 1440 | 100 |
| /Rumination | 399 | 27.7 | 411 | 28.5 |

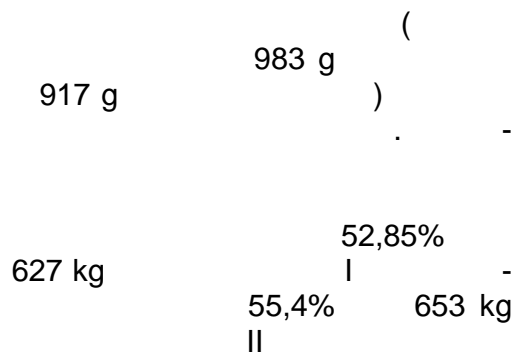


Data analysis show that cows spent their time for a two-month fattening mainly both in taking food and water and also for taking a rest 53.5-53.7% in twenty-four hours, 56.7-58.9% of their time for a 3-month period and 52.6-55% of their time for a 4-month period of fattening.

Increasing the time for food intake depends on live weight and duration of the fattening period.

CONCLUSIONS

'Black and White Cattle' breed in predominant in the region of Pleven. It has good meat productivity, combined with good acclimatization plasticity. The intensive fattening of cull cows gives high intensity of growth (average daily gain of 983 g in the first group and 917 g in the second group) especially during the first two months. By increasing the live weight by fattening, carcass yield was improved and reached 52.85% at 627 kg live weight for Group I of cull cows and 55.4% at 653 kg live weight at Group II of cull cows in the fourth month. The fats around the internal organs of cull cows continually grew bigger with the increase of live weight by fattening.



Meat productivity of dairy cows of different genotypes discarded by breeding depends on the intensity of growth, type and

- constitution and the methods of
- final fattening. To increase the
- production and quality of beef, the
- most optimal time for fattening cull
- cows is four months. The rhythm of
- behavioural manifestations of cows
- from different groups was not the
- same despite the equal conditions
- of feeding and rearing.

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