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Duration of lactation according to the milk production class in Synthetic Population Bulgarian Milk ewes

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SUMMARY

The aim of the study is to determine the effect of the milk production class on the duration of lactation in Synthetic Population Bulgarian Milk ewes. The study was carried out with 99 ewes of Synthetic Population Bulgarian Milk at first-third lactation, reared in the Experimental farm of the Institute of Animal Science-Kostinbrod. The suckling, milking and lactation milk production, as well as the milk production class of the studied ewes were determined. The suckling milk production was determined 12 h after the lambs were separated from the ewes. The milk for the day of the control was obtained as the quantity of the individually milked milk was multiplied by two. The standard 120 day milking milk production and the milking milk production after 120 days until the end of lactation was determined according to AC method of ICAR. The milking milk production and the lactation milk production was calculated. The ewes were classified according to the milk as follows: no class – the animals with milk production below 95

10 20%;

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20%.

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Data Analysis

Microsoft Excel.

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(Stoyanov et al., 1976; Hinkovski et al., 1979; Donchev et al., 1982; Bocquier et al., 1999; McKusick et al., 2001)

(Ivanova and Raicheva, 2008; Thomas et al., 2010).

207 -

260 (Stancheva, 2003; Raicheva and Ivanova, 2010),

- 91,7-160,3

(Morrissey et al., 2007; Thomas et al., 2000; Thomas et al., 2010),

- 169,4 - 183

(McKusick et al., 1999; McKusick et al., 2001),

- 250

I; class – the animals responding to the requirements of the breed for milk production (95 l); class Elite - the animals with milk production that is 10-20% higher than that of the requirements of the breed for I class; class Elite-record – the animals with milk production over 20 % higher than that of the animals of I class. The data were statistically evaluated using Data Analysis of the Microsoft Excel package. The significance of the influence of the factor was determined according to the values of F-criterion. The significance of the difference between the examined traits was determined through Student t-test. The duration of lactation was not affected by the milk production class of the ewes. Inconsistent results for the average duration of the periods of lactation according to the milk production class were observed.

Key words: dairy ewes, duration of lactation, milk production class

INTRODUCTION

The problem for the duration of lactation is closely associated to the increase of the economic efficiency of the dairy ewes based on the elongation of the milking period. The studies in the area concern mainly the shortening of the suckling period through early weaning of the lambs (Stoyanov et al., 1976; Hinkovski et al., 1979; Donchev et al., 1982; Bocquier et al., 1999; McKusick et al., 2001) as well as determination of the succession of the lactation (Ivanova and Raicheva, 2008; Thomas et al., 2010). According to literature data, the duration of lactation in ewes of Synthetic Population Bulgarian Milk is 207-260 days (Stancheva, 2003; Raicheva and Ivanova, 2010), in crosses of East Frisian and Lacaune it is 91.7-160.3 days (Morrissey et al., 2007; Thomas et al., 2000; Thomas et al., 2010), in East Frisian – 169.4 - 183 days (McKusick et al., 1999; McKusick et al., 2001), in Sardinian ewes it is reported to be 250 days (Saadoun et al., 2004), while in Awasi and Asaf it is

(Saadoun et al., 2004),
 173 - 234 214
 (Pacinovski, 2011; Pollott and Gootwine,
 2004).

respectively 173 - 234 and 214 days
 (Pacinovski, 2011; Pollott and Gootwine,
 2004).

The aim of the study is to determine
 the effect of the milk production class on
 the duration of lactation in Synthetic
 Population Bulgarian Milk ewes.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The study was carried out with 99
 ewes of Synthetic Population Bulgarian
 Milk at first-third lactation, reared in the
 Experimental farm of the Institute of
 Animal Science - Kostinbrod.

The suckling, milking and lactation
 milk production, as well as the milk
 production class of the studied ewes were
 determined. The suckling milk production
 was determined as the first suckling
 control in the flock was carried out after
 the lambing of more than 25 % of the
 mothers, excluding the animals with
 lambs up to 5 days old. The second
 control day was after 30±3 days. The
 suckling milk production was determined
 as in the evening before the control day
 the lambs were separated from the ewes
 that were milked. The control milking was
 carried out after 12 h individually for each
 ewe. The milk for the day of the control
 was obtained as the quantity of the
 individually milked milk was multiplied by
 two. The milk production for a control
 period is the product of the milk for the
 day of the control and the number of days
 of the control period. The milk of the
 suckling period is calculated as the sum of
 the milk production of both control
 periods. The standard 120 day milking
 milk production was determined as
 individual quantity of milk of each milking
 control, controlled according to AC
 method of ICAR and measured in
 milliliters.

The milk production of each ewe for the
 control day was calculated by multiplying
 the quantity of the milk obtained in the
 individual control in the morning by flock

99

25%

5

30±3

12

120-

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Analysis
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- coefficient, determined for the control day
- by the ratio of the morning and evening milk to morning milk at double milking.

The milk production for the standard 120 – days milking period was calculated as the sum of the milk productions for the control periods of each ewe. The control period lasted at average 30±3 days. The milk production for a control period is the product of the milk for the day of the control and the number of days in the control period (Instruction for control of the productive traits, 2003).

- The milking milk production after 120 days until the end of lactation was controlled according to the method of ICAR. The milking milk production (from weaning to drying) was calculated as the sum of the standard 120 days milking milk production and the milk production after the 120th day. The lactation milk production (from lambing to drying) is the sum of the suckling and milking milk production.

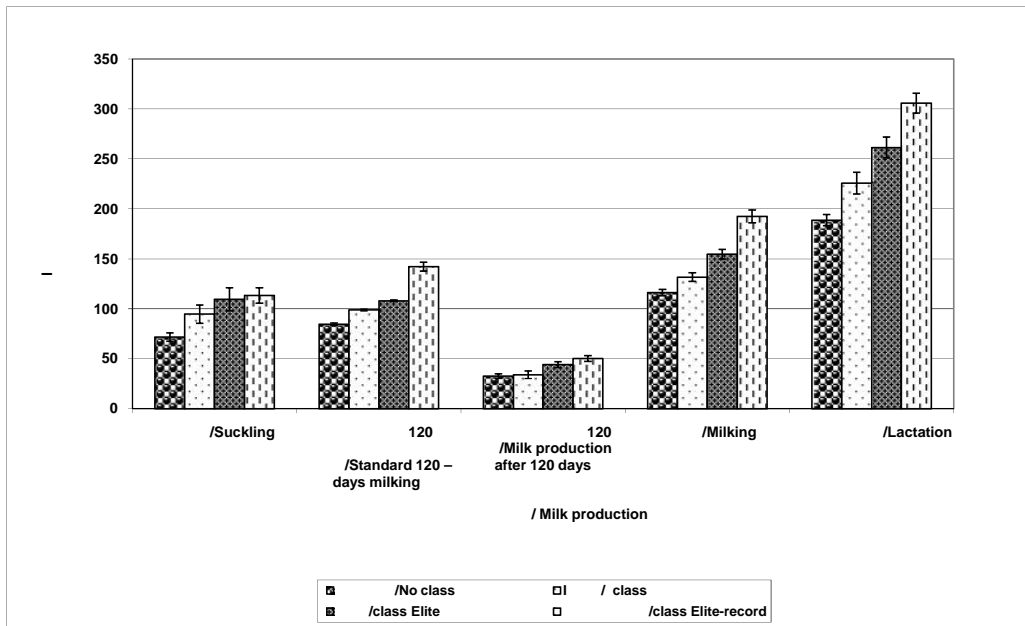
For the aim of the study the ewes were classified according to the milk production for a standard 120 days milking period according to the Instruction for control of the productive traits (2003), as follows: no class – the animals with milk production below 95 l; class – the animals responding to the requirements of the breed for milk production (95 l); class Elite - the animals with milk production that is 10-20% higher than that of the requirements of the breed for I class; class Elite-record – the animals with milk production over 20 % higher than that of the animals of I class.

The data were statistically evaluated using Data Analysis of the Microsoft Excel package. The significance of the influence of the factor was determined according to the values of F-criterion. The significance of the difference between the examined traits was determined through Student t-test.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The average milk production of the ewes in this study during the different periods of lactation according to the classes is presented in Figure 1. The variation of the sucking milk production was between 71.67 l and 113.32 l. The standard 120 days milking milk production, used to divide the ewes into classes, of ewes with no class, I class, Elite and Elite-record was 84.52 l, 98.86 l, 108.08 l and 142.27 l, respectively. In addition the milking (116.17 l - 192.44 l) and the lactation milk production (188.75 l - 305.79 l) were determined.

1.
71.67 l 113.32 l.
120
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84.52 l, 98.86 l, 108.08 l 142.27 l.
(116.17 l - 192.44 l)
(188.75 l - 305.79 l).



1
Fig. 1 Average milk production according to the classes of the ewes

Thomas et al. (1999)
109.1 kg.
, Thomas et al. (2000)
88.3 – 106.5 l.
McKusick et al. (1999)

Similar experiments have been carried out by other scientists. In their study with East Frisian crosses, Thomas et al. (1999) measured 109.1 kg lactation milk production. Also for crossed with heredity of East Frisian and Lacaune, Thomas et al. (2000) reported 88.3 – 106.5 l lactation milk production. In East Frisian ewes, McKusick et al. (1999) found that the milk obtained from ewes with suckling period of 30 days was 148.6

148.6 l. McKusick et al. (2000) registered lactation milk production of 316.6 l in East Frisian ewes, as well as 248.5 l milking production (McKusick et al., 2001). Morrissey et al. (2007) found the milk production for 120 days of milking period to be 82.7 – 107.1 l and 146.4 l, respectively for the ewes at first and second lactation. Pacinovski (2011) reported the following average milk production in Awasi ewes: 89 l suckling, 236 l milking, and 325 l lactation milk production.

When assessing the effect of the milk production class on the duration of the different periods of lactation of the ewes at first, second and third lactation we did not find significant influence of the factor on the variation of the data (Table 1).

1. **Table 1. Effect of the milk production class on the duration of lactation in periods, n=99**

Duration of period	F – stat.
Suckling period, d	NS
120- After 120 th day, d	NS
Milking period, d	NS
Lactation period, d	NS

2.

Table 2. Duration of the different periods of lactation according to the milk production class

Duration	n=29	n=16	n=13	n=41	t – stat.
	X ± SE	X ± SE	X ± SE	X ± SE	
Suckling period, d	75.59±1.717	77.56±2.758	76.92±1.889	74.68±1.298	NS
120- After 120 th day, d	66.38±3.420	57.19±5.163	66.92±2.159	64.15±2.073	NS
Milking period, d	186.38±3.420	177.19±5.163	186.92±2.159	184.15±2.073	NS
Lactation period, d	261.28±3.850	256.13±6.223	264.00±2.178	259.34±2.546	NS

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 - 8 (2).
 Stancheva (2003)
 207
 210 -
 Thomas et al. (1999)
 -
 126,2 . 2000
 -
 91,7-105,5 (Thomas et al.,
 2000), 2010 . - 137,8
 160,3
 (Thomas et al.,
 2010).
 McKusick et al. (1999)
 169,4-177,7 , -
 -
 181,5 (McKusick et
 al., 2000)
 183 (McKusick et al., 2001).
 250 (Saadoun et al., 2004),
 173 214
 (Pollott and Gootwine, 2004).
 Pacinovski (2011) 74
 234

The variation of the average values of the suckling period was 2 days, for the milking it was 10 days and for the lactation it was 8 days (Table 2).

For the same breed, Stancheva (2003) reported 207 days duration of the period for the first and 210 for the second lactation.

In the study of Thomas et al. (1999) the crosses of East Friesian breed had 126,2 days of lactation period.

In 2000, the duration of lactation in the crosses of East Friesian and Lacaune was 91.7-105.5 days (Thomas et al., 2000), while in 2010 it was 137.8 and 160.3 days for the ewes respectively at first and second lactation (Thomas et al., 2010). Again, in East Friesian McKusick et al. (1999) reported the duration of lactation to be 169.4-177.7 days, whereas in East Friesian crosses it was 181.5 days (McKusick et al., 2000) while the duration of the milking period was 183 days (McKusick et al., 2001).

The lactation period in Sardinian ewes was 250 days according to Saadoun et al., 2004, and in Awasi and Asaf- 173 d and 214 days, respectively (Pollott and Gootwine, 2004). In Awasi, Pacinovski (2011) determined 74 days suckling period and 234 days lactation. The values of the duration of the periods in our study were higher when compared to the ones determined by the above mentioned authors.

CONCLUSIONS

The duration of lactation was not affected by the milk production class of the ewes.

Inconsistent results for the average duration of the periods of lactation according to the milk production class were observed.

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Study on milk production, chemical composition of milk of Karakachan sheep breed depending on pigmentation of fleece, head and legs

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SUMMARY

The present research studied the milk production, the milk composition of Karakachan sheep, which have been breeding in the region of the Central Balkan Mountain depending on the pigmentation of the fleece, head and legs. There were 5 ewes in the first group with white fleece and white head and legs, in the second group – 5 ewes with white fleece, dark colour on the head and legs, the third group – 5 ewes with grey nuance of fleece and black head and legs, fourth group – 5 ewes with brown fleece and dark head and legs and the fifth group – 5 ewes with beige fleece and dark head and legs.

A tendency was found for higher milk yield in April and the content of total protein, casein and calcium in milk of the group of sheep with white pigment of fleece (1-st and 2-nd group), in comparison with the grey and beige pigment of the fleece in the milking period, respectively 0.440 l to 0.362 l. Sheep of fourth group (brown pigmentation) have a

0.440 l (1- group), 0.362 l (2- group), 4-

relatively low daily milk yield, but they maintain it in the milking period, without a sharp decrease, respectively 344 l to 0.300 l. The animals (4-th group) had relatively high values of milk fat in the milking period (5.62-8.10%). Sheep with white fleece and dark legs (2-nd group) had a higher content of protein and casein (respectively 5.39 to 6.40 and 3.86-4.63). For all groups, the content of fat was inversely proportional to milk amount.

Key words: sheep, fleece colour, milk, chemical composition

INTRODUCTION

The Karakachan sheep breed has a wide variety of pigmentation of both the body and the wool and the head and legs. Besides, spots of different sizes and shapes are recorded. Criteria have been developed for assessing the colour of that part of the head and legs without fleece (Genkovski, 2002).

Burdà and Stapaj (2009) show that in breeding mountain sheep with different colour during the cattle-shed period, the milk of dark sheep has higher magnesium content, copper and chromium, and brown sheep of zinc and cobalt. During the grazing period, the milk of brown sheep contains more zinc, copper and iron, and dark sheep – magnesium. Bojkinov, (1915) states that Karakachan sheep is mainly bred for milk. Genkovski et al. (2002) reported that about 55.97 l of milk and a daily average milk yield of 0.580 to 0.290, Hlebarov (1940; 1942) 74.78 l 198 0.378 l Hinkovski et al. (1984) 40 l. Aleksieva (1989) 61.88 l 25.33 l 104.40 l.

relatively low daily milk yield, but they maintain it in the milking period, without a sharp decrease, respectively 344 l to 0.300 l. The animals (4-th group) had relatively high values of milk fat in the milking period (5.62-8.10%). Sheep with white fleece and dark legs (2-nd group) had a higher content of protein and casein (respectively 5.39 to 6.40 and 3.86-4.63). For all groups, the content of fat was inversely proportional to milk amount.

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The purpose of the present study is to establish the milk production, the composition of milk from Karakachan sheep, raised in the region of the Central Balkan Mountains, depending on the pigmentation of the fleece, the head and legs.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The study was conducted during the milking period after weaning of the lambs from April to the end of June. The study included 5 groups of sheep, typical representatives of Karakachan sheep breed as required by the breeding program. The formation of the groups is based on the colour of the wool and the fur cover of the head and legs. The following shades were adopted: white, white with black head and legs, gray, beige, red – dark red and brown (Genkovski, 2002).

In the first group were included 5 ewes with white fleece and white head and legs, 5 ewes in the second group with a white fleece and with a dark head and leg, 5 ewes in the third group with a gray hue of fleece and black head and legs, fourth group – 5 ewes with brown fleece and dark head and legs and fifth group with 5 ewes with beige colour of the fleece and dark head and legs. Experimental groups of sheep were bred according to the adopted system in the mountain areas, winter in a cattle-shed and summer grazing from April to October.

Monthly controls on sheep were conducted and individual milk samples of 50 ml were taken to establish milk production and milk composition. Mixed samples were taken from each group at the appropriate control to determine some milk properties. The milk samples were tested in the laboratory complex of RIMSA - Troyan. The main chemical composition of milk was determined on Milko-Skan 133C. The calcium content was determined complexometrically.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1, 2 3

Tables 1, 2 and 3 present the average daily milk yield and the chemical composition of milk produced by groups of sheep during the milking period.

1. - I
Table 1. Chemical composition of sheep milk of Karakachan sheep – I control

/Indicators	I- /group ±Sx	II- /group ±Sx	III- /group ±Sx	IV- /group ±Sx	V- /group ±Sx
Daily milk yield, l.	0.440+0.05	0.440+0.03	0.420+0.02	0.368+0.02	0.368+0.02
/Dry matter,%	16.78+0.65	16.37+0.64	16.68+0.88	16.41+0.61	16.41+0.61
Dry fat-free residue,%	11.10+0.13	11.22+0.10	10.94+0.26	11.66+0.24	11.22+0.14
/Milk fat,%	5.68+0.73	5.16+0.63	5.74+0.90	5.62+0.62	4.75+0.61
/Protein, %	5.08+0.14	5.39+0.12	5.13+0.16	5.07+0.23	5.28+0.12
/Lactose,%	5.42+0.08	5.22+0.09	5.21+0.13	5.21+0.17	5.34+0.05
/Caseine,%	3.73	3.86	3.67	3.63	4.25
/NCP,%	1.40	1.53	1.45	1.47	1.39
, mg%	0.197	0.196	0.197	0.196	0.196

2. - II
Table 2. Chemical composition of sheep milk of Karakachan sheep – II control

/Indicators	I- /group ±Sx	II- /group ±Sx	III- /group ±Sx	IV- /group ±Sx	V- /group ±Sx
Daily milk yield, l.	0.340+0.06	0.316+0.07	0.396+0.05	0.344+0.04	0.340+0.06
/Dry matter,%	19.14+0.36	18.93+0.11	18.23+0.32	18.64+0.19	18.24+0.65
Dry fat-free residue,%	11.51+0.06	11.42+0.09	11.20+0.09	11.38+0.20	11.34+0.25
/Milk fat,%	7.33+0.35	6.79+0.70	7.03+0.28	7.26+0.35	6.90+0.50
/Protein, %	5.95+0.16	5.93+0.09	5.57+0.07	5.74+0.11	5.66+0.28
/Lactose,%	4.95+0.10	4.91+0.02	5.01+0.09	5.04+0.14	5.08+0.07
/Caseine,%	4.32	4.25	4.06	4.15	4.12
/NCP,%	1.60	1.62	1.50	1.60	1.54
, mg%	0.196	0.197	0.196	0.197	0.197

3. - III
Table 3. Chemical composition of sheep milk of Karakachan sheep – III control

/Indicators	I- /group ±Sx	II- /group ±Sx	III- /group ±Sx	IV- /group ±Sx	V- /group ±Sx
Daily milk yield, l.	0.260+0.03	0.276+0.04	0.292+0.03	0.300+0.04	0.264+0.03
/Dry matter,%	18.90+0.28	19.88+0.54	18.77+0.50	19.90+0.55	18.97+0.57
Dry fat-free residue,%	11.66+0.07	11.76+0.08	11.34+0.16	11.80+0.18	11.19+0.22
/Milk fat,%	6.640.76	7.32+0.65	7.42+0.50	8.10+0.43	7.78+0.49
/Protein, %	5.96+0.11	6.40+0.17	5.90+0.15	6.29+0.28	5.61+0.21
/Lactose,%	5.11+0.05	4.76+0.11	4.84+0.10	4.90+0.13	4.98+0.08
/Caseine,%	4.32	4.63	4.08	4.65	4.65
/NCP,%	1.54	1.73	1.50	1.63	1.63
, mg%	0.198	0.199	0.198	0.197	0.199

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4- 5-
72 ml ()
(I).
1- – 69.2%,
22.7% 4
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<0.01.
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1, 2 3)
4 5

- In the first month of control, the
- milking rate of animals was relatively
- high, standing out for the first two groups.
- In the month of April, there was a
- tendency for higher milk yield in groups 1
- and 2, as the difference with the 4th and
- 5th groups being of the order of 72 ml
- was unreliable. In the following month
- (May), milk yield decreased in all groups,
- as the difference was more significant in
- the first and second groups, but no
- credibility was reported. A similar trend is
- also considered for other groups where
- differences were also minimal. The
- decrease in milk yield in June in
- comparison with May is the most
- significant in the group with the highest
- milk yield (group I). Differences from
- other groups are minimal and no
- credibility is taken into account. There are
- also differences between the groups in
- June, but they are insignificant and not of
- interest. In June, the average sheep's
- milk yield decreased compared to April,
- with relative figures being higher for
- group 1, 69.2%, compared to 22.7% for
- the 4th group.

- Greater consistency in sheep milk yield is
- reported in the brown-wool group (4th),
- where the decrease in the amount of milk
- during the milking period is the smallest.
- While in the other groups the decrease in
- daily milk yield is significant with reliability
- of differences at $p < 0.01$.

- With regard to dry matter content
- of milk (Tables 1, 2 and 3), the data show
- a one-way among the groups during the
- milking period. With respect to dry matter,
- the trend remains, again the first three
- groups have higher values, but the
- differences between groups 4 and 5 are
- small and unreliable.

- In May, the dry matter increased and was
- inversely proportional to milk yield in the
- milking period, as the increase being due
- to the higher content of milk fat and
- protein. There are one-way differences in

3-

<0.01.

1, 2

(<0.01).

(

1, 2 3),

(<0.01).

(1, 2 3).

4 5
<0.01.

1-

<0.05.

dry matter in both groups compared to the rest in the different months. There were reliable differences among 1, 2 and 3 groups in May compared to April <0.01. A similar trend was also observed in June, the dry matter was high and the data were validated in all groups compared to April (p<0.01).

The content of dry fat-free residue had close values (Table 1, 2, and 3) in April. In the case of dry fat-free residue, a trend is observed for increasing the values during the milking period. It was well expressed in all groups with reliable differences between April and June (p <0.01). In our opinion, it is mainly due to changes in the protein content of milk during the lactation period, including mainly casein and less non-casein protein.

Changes in milk fat content are normal and follow the changes in milk yield during the milking period (Tables 1, 2 and 3). A low percentage of milk fat was reported in the first month of the milking period and an increase in May, with reliable differences in 4 and 5 groups compared to April at p <0.01. Changes in milk fat content are regular and inversely proportional to milk yield, following changes during the milking period.

Differences come from the variability of milk fat in the respective groups. First, third and fourth groups had high content of fat in May, but with high values of square deviation, which speaks about differences within the groups. There are no reliable differences among groups in May. In June, the quantity of milk fat was higher in all groups except for group 1 where the differences with respect to April were lower at p <0.05.

The content of total protein for the same period shows a similar trend as for milk fat, but the differences among

months are unreliable. Like fats, there is a tendency for a higher protein content in milk in all groups in June compared to April, the differences are with low reliability ($p < 0.5$).

The increase is due to the increased casein content in milk rather than to the non-casein protein where the differences among groups are minimal.

Petrova et al. (1998)

Genkovski et al. (2002),

Petrova et al. (1998). (1, 2 3).

0.440 0.362 l. 4- (

344

months are unreliable. Like fats, there is a tendency for a higher protein content in milk in all groups in June compared to April, the differences are with low reliability ($p < 0.5$).

The increase is due to the increased casein content in milk rather than to the non-casein protein where the differences among groups are minimal.

Petrova et al. (1998) also reported a decrease in milk yield during the lactation period and an increase in the main components of milk and a decrease in lactose. While the content of casein and non-casein protein is in close values among groups for the respective months, but also an increase trend is reported at the end of the milking period. Our data are lower in relation to the average daily milk yields found by Genkovski et al. (2002), but with higher chemical values of milk fat, protein, casein and others.

Lactose is an almost constant value which decreases slightly during the milking period (Tables 1, 2 and 3). While Petrova et al. (1998) report that lactose is the only component not correlated with milk yield. Calcium content has been reported as the main component for milk curdling. The differences in the content of calcium among groups and total for the period are minimal, following changes according to the months of lactation.

CONCLUSIONS

A tendency for higher milk yield was observed in April and content of total protein, casein and calcium in milk of sheep with white fleece (1 and 2 groups) compared to the gray and beige pigment of the fleece during the milking period respectively 0.440 to 0.362 l. The sheep from the 4th group (with brown pigmentation) have comparatively lower daily milk yield but they keep it during the milking period without a sharp reduction of 344 to 0.300 l respectively. The same

0.300 l. (4- .)
 (5.62-8.10%). -
) (2-
) (5.39 6.40 3.86-
 4.63).

animals (4th group) during the milking period had comparatively higher values of milk fat (5.62-8.10%). Sheep (2nd group) with white fleece and dark head and legs had higher protein and casein content (5.39 to 6.40 and 3.86-4.63 respectively).

For all groups, the fat content is inversely proportional to the amount of milk.

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INTRODUCTION

Videv, 1994) (Todorov, 1987;
15-18
(2001) . Otuzbirov
Todorov (1989)
and Barto (2012) – Bureš
Rusev et al. (1979)
66,6 71,3%.
24
Berg and Butterfield (1976)
(1984) Wood
1kg

In purebred and crossbred bullocks highest growth rate and profitability is recommended to be achieved through fattening until reaching 15 to 18 months of age (Todorov, 1987; Videv, 1994). Otuzbirov (2001) states out that the intensively fattened bullocks reach obesity in younger age, whereupon excessive deposition of adipose tissue around the internal organs is observed. The higher the live weight, the worse the feed conversion, in response to the increasing needs for maintenance of vital functions, which is accompanied with increasing content of intramuscular fats at the expense of proteins, the synthesis of which requires more nutrients.

Such are the conclusions on national scale of Todorov (1989) in a study on the fattening performance of Hereford and Aberdeen Angus purebred and crossbred bulls, and on international – of Bureš and Barto (2012) in Charolais x Simental.

Rusev et al. (1979) established that the proportion of muscle tissue from 6 to 24 months of age remains in close ranges of 66.6 to 71.3%; hence the reason to associate fattening after 24 months not with musculature development but with excessive deposition of visceral fats.

Berg and Butterfield (1976) define muscle percentage as a main indicator for carcass quality evaluation on global scale.

The increasing adipose deposition affects both biological efficiency of fattening and quality of meat. According to Wood (1984), there is a reasonable minimum of carcass fats determinative for gustative properties, specific odour and succulence of meat.

Efficiency, empirically expressed as conversion of energy into 1 kg of live gain, is strongly penalized by the deviation of larger quantities of nutrients to deposition

(Todorov, 1989).

of fats (Todorov, 1989).

The present study was initiated with the aim to evaluate the biological efficiency of meat production in male calves of the Black-and-White breed and its crosses with beef-purpose breeds fattened to 500-day age.

500-

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The study assigned non-castrated (intact) male calves as follows: 10 heads of the Black-and-White breed (BW), aka Bulgarian Holstein; 9 heads F₁ crossbreds BW × Charolais (BW×Ch); 5 heads F₁ BW × Limousin (BW×L); 11 heads F₁ BW × Hereford (BW×H); and 11 heads F₁ BW × Aberdeen Angus (BW×A). The data about the age of the animals from the five breed groups at the start and at the end of the trial are given in Table 1, together with the respective duration of the experimental period.

10 (BW), 9 F₁ (BW×Ch), 5 F₁ (BW×L), 11 F₁ (BW×H), 11 F₁ (BW×A).

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1.

Table 1. Duration of experimental period and age at start and end

Breed	Starting age, days			Finishing age, days			Experimental period, days		
	n	$\bar{x} \pm S\bar{x}$	C	n	$\bar{x} \pm S\bar{x}$	C	n	$\bar{x} \pm S\bar{x}$	C
BW	10	197.2±4.4	7.33	11	500.2±4.8	5.42	11	303.0±0.63	0.69
BW×Ch	9	197.4±3.6	5.41	9	503.4±3.6	3.70	9	306.0±0.00	0.00
BW×L	5	197.4±9.4	10.64	5	496.4±9.4	7.28	5	299.0±0.00	0.00
BW×H	11	184.0±7.1	12.88	11	503.0±7.0	8.42	11	319.0±0.00	0.00
BW×A	11	198.0±2.1	3.36	11	497.0±2.1	3.36	11	299.0±0.00	0.00

BW – Black-and-White breed; BW×Ch – BW × Charolais; BW×L – BW × Limousin; BW × H – BW × Hereford; BW×A – BW × Aberdeen Angus

ad libitum
– 50%
– 200kg, 200-300kg
300kg)
50%, 20% 10%
30% 40%
: – 60%, – 22,0%,

The animals were housed indoors in free individual boxes with an open exercise yard, and with individual manger and drinker. They were fed *ad libitum* pelleted compound feed with the following composition: for the whole fattening period 50% concentrated meal, and for period I (to 200 kg live weight), period II (200-300 kg), and period III (over 300 kg) respectively 50%, 20%, and 10% alfalfa hay and 0%, 30%, and 40% wheat straw, expressed in weight percentage. The concentrated meal had the following composition: corn – 60%, barley – 22%,

- 0,4%, - 16,2%, - 1,0%,
 - 0,2%, - 0,2%
 27 -
 86 - 0,2%,
 1 kg
 - 0,97%, - 96g;
 - 0,96%, - 86g,
 - 0,86%
 81g.
 ()
 24-
 Zahariev Pinkas (1979),
 Large (1973).

sunflower oilcake - 16.2%, dicalcium phosphate - 0.4%, salt - 1.0%, mineral premix for cattle - 0.2%, and vitamin premix for ruminants 27-86 - 0,2%.

The energy content is given in a measure called Feed Units (FU) used in Bulgaria (1 FU= 6 MJ). One kilogram of concentrated meal consisted of 0.97 FU (5.82 MJ) and 96g intestine digestible protein (IDP) for period I, 0.96 FU (5.76 MJ) and 86 g for period II, and 0.86 FU (5.16 MJ) and 81 g for period III. The consumption of forage was controlled once daily, the forage wastes - twice weekly, and the live weight of the fattened animals - once monthly. The net weight gain per day of age at slaughter (NGA) was estimated for hot carcass with kidneys and renal fats. For the evaluation of the slaughter traits in the 24-hour feed-deprived animals, was conducted a carcass analysis according to the methodology of Zahariev and Pinkas (1979), and for the assessment of the biological efficiency was applied the adapted formula of Large (1973). All data were processed under the conventional statistical procedure.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results related to growth development of the fattened animals are presented in Table 2. The Hereford crossbreds have shown to attain highest live weight (541.7 kg) - by 87.9 kg compared to the lowest performing BWxL (relatively by 19.4 per cent) and by 47.5 kg compared to the second best BWxCh (9.6 per cent).

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Table 2. Live weight (LW) at start and end and net weight gain per day of age at slaughter (NGA)

Breed	Starting LW, kg			Finishing LW, kg			NGA, g		
	n	$\bar{x} \pm S_x$	C	n	$\bar{x} \pm S_x$	C	n	$\bar{x} \pm S_x$	C
BW	10	198.0± 8.2	13.8	11	480.6±12.3	8.5	6	545.0±0.01	5.3
BWxCh	9	190.4± 4.5	7.1	9	494.2±15.9	9.6	5	612.0±0.02	7.0
BWxL	5	199.6±24.2	27.1	5	453.8±23.7	11.7	5	516.0±0.03	13.3
BWxH	11	206.8± 6.1	9.7	11	541.7± 9.1	5.6	11	583.0±0.01	7.6
BWxA	11	192.2± 8.1	13.9	11	469.8±10.9	7.7	10	546.0±0.01	6.2

(BW×H)	-	1050 g
(3), (991g).	-	
BW×L	-	19,0 14,2
BW×H	BW×Ch.	
kg	BW×H	2,8
11,9	14,7	BW×A
	BW×L	24,3

What is more important, they (BW×H) have realized highest daily gain of 1050 g (Table 3), the second highest belonging to BW×Ch (991g). The lowest value of this trait is observed in the BW×L bulls – by 19.0 and 14.2 per cent as compared to BW×H and BW×Ch respectively. Table 3 also indicates that best is the feed conversion of the BW×Ch crossbreds.

The needed energy for the attainment of 1 kg live gain in BW×H is by only 2.8 per cent higher, in BW×A and pure BW – by 11.9 and 14.7 per cent, while in BW×L crossbreds the relative difference is as big as 24.3 per cent.

3. () ()
Table 3. Daily gain and conversion of feed components – energy in feed units (1 FU= 6 MJ) and intestine digestible protein (IDP)

Breed	Daily gain, g			1 kg / Energy, FU			/ Conversion into 1 kg gain / IDP, g		
	n	$\bar{x} \pm S_x$	C	n	$\bar{x} \pm S_x$	C	n	$\bar{x} \pm S_x$	C
BW	10	936.0±0.04	12.8	11	9.05±0.43	15.9	11	1379.0±0.02	4.4
BW×Ch	9	991.0±0.05	15.6	9	7.89±0.35	13.3	9	1294.0±0.01	2.6
BW×L	5	850.0±0.05	14.6	5	9.82±0.63	14.4	5	1386.0±0.01	1.1
BW×H	11	1050.0±0.02	8.0	11	8.11±0.18	7.4	11	1415.0±0.01	2.2
BW×A	11	928.0±0.06	11.1	11	8.83±0.36	13.6	11	1340.0±0.01	3.2

(4 5)	-	
BW×Ch,	2.	
(60,58%)		(59,44%)
56,81%.	-	57,96%
- 54,10%		53,29%

The data from the carcass analysis (Tables 4 and 5) show that the highest carcass weight belongs to BW×H, which corresponds to the results in Table 2. The BW×Ch bulls, which have also relatively good carcass weight, performed with highest dressing percentage out of both hot (60.58%) and cold (59.44%) carcass weight. While that of BW×A is second highest (respectively 57.96% and 56.81%). Expectedly worst is the performance of the pure BW animals with 54.14 and 53.29% for hot and cold dressing percentage.

4. (24-)

Table 4. Live weight at slaughter (after 24-h feed deprivation) and carcass weight

Breed	, kg						/ Carcass weight, kg			
	Slaughter LW, kg			/ Hot			/ Cold			
	n	$\bar{x} \pm S \bar{x}$	C	n	$\bar{x} \pm S \bar{x}$	C	n	$\bar{x} \pm S \bar{x}$	C	
BW	6	494.0±9.4	4.7	6	267.2±5.8	5.3	6	263.0±5.7	5.4	
BW×Ch	9	470.6±14.8	9.4	5	300.2±10.0	6.7	5	294.6±8.9	6.7	
BW×L	5	441.4±25.3	12.8	5	250.6±16.4	14.6	5	245.2±16.2	14.8	
BW×H	11	523.4±8.8	5.6	5	305.2±7.4	4.9	5	300.8±6.3	4.7	
BW×A	10	456.9±11.2	8.1	5	281.4±8.7	6.2	5	273.4±7.8	6.4	

5.

Table 5. Dressing percentage of hot and cold carcass and meat yield

Breed	, % / Dressing percentage						, kg			
	/ Hot			/ Cold			Meat yield, kg			
	n	$\bar{x} \pm S \bar{x}$	C	n	$\bar{x} \pm S \bar{x}$	C	n	$\bar{x} \pm S \bar{x}$	C	
BW	6	54.14±1.22	5.5	6	53.29±1.20	5.5	6	215.0±6.5	6.7	
BW×Ch	5	60.58±0.92	3.0	5	59.44±0.58	2.2	5	243.0±8.5	7.8	
BW×L	5	56.66±0.56	2.2	5	55.56±0.52	2.1	5	196.2±16.0	18.2	
BW×H	5	56.28±0.62	2.4	5	55.48±0.48	1.9	5	246.9±6.3	5.7	
BW×A	5	57.96±1.04	3.6	5	56.81±1.03	4.0	5	224.6±5.6	5.6	

(6). The estimates of biological efficiency, expressed as a ratio between the carcass traits and the feed intake for the fattening period, is given in Table 6. The values of the traits represent in direct proportion their biological efficiency.

6. Large (1973)

Table 6. Biological efficiency by Large (1973)

Breed	Daily gain	Carcass weight	Meat yield
BW	11.09	10.45	8.41
BW×Ch	12.65	12.52	10.14
BW×L	10.18	10.04	7.86
BW×H	12.33	11.24	9.09
BW×A	11.32	11.48	9.16

(4) Although BW×Ch crossbreds show lower performance than BW×H in daily gain (Table 3), carcass weight (Table 4), and meat yield (Table 5), they are superior in biological efficiency, chiefly with regard to the latter two traits – respectively 12.52 and 10.14% versus 11.24 and 9.09%.

12,52% 10,14% 11,24 %

9,09%.	-	-	-
	,	-	-
	(3).	-
Large (1973)	.		
-	-		
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	,		
500-	,	-	-
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()		
	,		
	.		
	,		
500	,	-	-
(1050g).		(523 kg)	
-		(305 kg)	
(246,9 kg)	,		
		7	
-			
(12,52%)		(12,65%),	
(10,14%) -			
,	-		
,	,		
,	.		

This is due to the great fats deposition of BWxH and to the better feed conversion of BWxCh expressed in lowest relative consumption of energy and protein per 1 kg of live gain (Table 3). Main component in the formula of Large (1973) is feed conversion ratio.

The biological efficiency of live gain tends to be higher in all studied breed groups of animals fattened to a fixed age, compared to the other two traits – carcass weight and meat yield.

In summary, with regard to fattening intact bulls up to 500 days of age, best growth performance is expected to be attained with Hereford sired animals but, in view of the estimates of superior biological efficiency based on best feed conversion, it can be speculated (conditionally, in dependence on other economical factors) that most profitable would be to crossbreed the Black-and-White breed to Charolais, compared as well to Angus and especially to Limousin.

CONCLUSIONS

The trial on fattening male calves of the Black-and-White breed and crossbreds with Charolais (BWxCh), Hereford (BWxH), Limousin (BWxL) and Angus (BWxA) up to 500 days of age has shown that the highest daily gain was attained by BWxH (1050 g).

The highest live weight (523 kg), hot carcass weight (305 kg) and meat yield (246,9 kg) belong to the BWxH crossbreds, while BWxCh outperform them in dressing percentage by over 7 per cent.

The BWxCh crossbreds are superior in biological efficiency of live gain (12.65%), carcass weight (12.52%), and meat yield (10.14%) – a result of the best feed conversion. This renders breeding Black-and-White cows to Charolais sires conditionally more profitable than crossbreeding with Hereford, Angus, and especially Limousin.

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Grazing behaviour of lactating cows for meat of different genotypes

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SUMMARY

- A study was conducted on lactating meat cows of the following breeds: F1 Aberdeen-Angus, crossbreeds F1 Aberdeen-Angus x Hereford, and Aberdeen-Angus x 'Bulgarian Rhodope Cattle' with calves at 3-4 months, breed on artificial pasture, in the region of Troyan. The pasture is located at 386 meters altitude on flat terrain with traditional grassland.

The following behavioural reactions were studied: grazing and rest, moving and watering of cows, and suckling, grazing and rest of calves. The reported meteorological indicators were typical for late fall.

- It has been found that the cows were grazing from 4.59 to 5.12 hours average for twenty-four-hour period during the experiment, and calves were suckling and had rest 5-7 times during the day, 2-3 times at night.

Key words: cows, suckling, behaviour, twenty-four-hour period, reactions, acts

Sheveleva Baharev (2003)

Kudrin (2008)

Hinkovski et al. (1981)

F1

2016

386

(*Festuca arundinacea* Schreb) 55%,
(*Poa pratensis* L.) 10%,
(*Agropyrum repens* L.) 10%,
(*Trifolium repens* L.) 5%,
(*Trifolium pratense* L.) 5%,
(*Lotus cirniculatus* L.) 3%,
(*Plantago mayor* L.) 2%
– (*Onopordum acanthinum* L.),
(*Cardunns* spp. L.), (*Cinodon dactylon* L.),
(*Cicorium intybus* L.), (*Arctium lappa* L.),
(*Rumex acetosela* L.),
(*Daucus carota* L.) . 5%.

(7.00 h 21.00 h)

Sheveleva and Baharev (2003) indicate that behavioral reactions serve as important assessment criteria for technological conditions, created by humans for animals as processes of optimal feeding and breeding.

Kudrin (2008) proves that the age and the breeding system have an influence on the animal behavior.

Hinkovski et al. (1981) write that the behavior of cows in the pasture is largely determined by climate factors, the quantity and quality of the grassland, breed and productivity of animals.

The purpose of present study was to investigate the main behavioral reactions of lactating cows for meat of Aberdeen-Angus breed and their cross-breeds F1 with Hereford and Bulgarian Rhodope Cattle, which are bred in a foothill artificial pasture with their calves.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The study was conducted in the autumn of 2016 in RIMSA - Troyan, in an artificial grassed pasture, situated at the altitude of 386 meters on a flat terrain.

The existing grassland of the pasture consisted of: tall fescue (*Festuca arundinacea* Schreb) 55%, Kentucky bluegrass (*Poa pratensis* L.) 10%, quack grass (*Agropyrum repens* L.) 10%, white clover (*Trifolium repens* L.) 5%, red clover (*Trifolium pratense* L.) 5%, bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus cirniculatus* L.) 3%, plantain (*Plantago mayor* L.) 2%; and weeds – cotton thistle (*Onopordum acanthinum* L.), thistle (*Cardunns* spp. L.), Bermuda grass (*Cinodon dactylon* L.), chicory (*Cicorium intybus* L.), greater burdock (*Arctium lappa* L.), sheep's sorrel (*Rumex acetosela* L.), wild carrot (*Daucus carota* L.) etc. 5%.

Meteorological data are taken from the observation of the weather station located next to the pasture. Data are from double daily readings (7.00 h and 21.00 h)

biometrically and presented in charts and tables.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Aberdeen-Angus breed was created in Northern Scotland, in the conditions of foothill regions, covered by woods, but rich in intensive grass plants, which are well absorbed by animals. It has been acclimatized and raised in many countries all over the world, including Bulgaria. The heterosis effect has always been searched for in the industrial crossbreeding of cattle, which is in the basis of crossbreeding of two breeds F1 AAxHer and AAxBRC.

The influence of climate conditions in the region is of interest in studying behavioral reactions. The temperature and air humidity are fundamental elements characterizing the climate, and together with the other examined components and their values are presented in Figure 1.

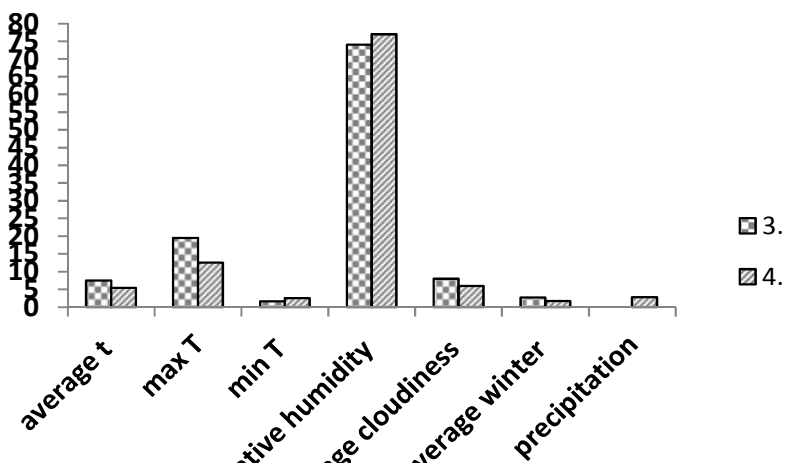


Fig. 1. Climate conditions in pasture area in different days

7,5° (.19,5°
 .1,6°).

The climatogram show that in the first day the average air t°, measured according to dry and wet thermometer, was 7.5° (max.19.5° and min.1.6°). There was a large temperature range. The relative humidity was 74%,

74 %, 100, 2,7 m/s (), t° 5,4°
 (.12,5° .2,5°).
 77%, 100, 1,7 m/s, 2,8 l/m².
 t° 2,1°
 t° 7°
 0,9°
 3%.
 1.

cloudiness was 8 at maximum 100, the average winter value was 2.7 m/s (light breeze), there was no precipitation. The weather was nice and soil – humid.

During the second day, the average t° was 5.4° C (max.12.5°C and min. 2.5°C). Although it was smaller, there was again a significant temperature range. The relative humidity was 77%, the cloudiness was 6 at a maximum of 100, the average value of the wind was 1.7 m/s, and the rainfall was 2.8 l/m². The weather was nice, and soil was moist. The reported temperatures were lower than the first day, the average t° by 2.1°C less, the maximum t° less with 7°C and the minimum t° showed higher values by 0.9°C. There were low rainfalls. The air humidity was higher by 3%. The soil was significantly humid.

The values of observed behavioural reactions in cows are presented in Table 1.

1.

F1

Table 1. Distribution in time of different behavioural reactions in lactating cows of AA breed and crossbreeds F1 AA x HER and AA x BRC

Elements of behaviour	/ Lactating cows for meat			
	Aberdeen-Angus, n=3		F1 / Crossbreeds F1	
	min	%	min	%
Grazing	299,3	20,78	312,3	21,69
Rest: total	901,5	62,60	874,0	60,69
Including standing	300,1	20,84	261,8	18,18
Lying	601,4	41,76	612,5	42,53
Ruminating	355,5	24,69	367,1	25,49
Movement	86,6	6,01	89,7	6,23
Water intake	23,1	1,60	24,5	1,70
Suckling of calves	137,5	9,55	139,3	9,67
/ Total	1440	100	1440	100

(299,3min.)	5,12	4,59 (312,3min.)
		2-3
		2-3
	7-9	
	15,02	14,34
32	3,43 %	
	874,0 m	
901,5 m	60 %	
	35-40%	
		6-7
	2-3	

Cows of both observed groups were grazing respectively 4.59 hours (299.3min.), and 5.12 hours (312.3min.) average for twenty-four-hours. During the grazing there was a distance of 2-3 meters among animals in a group of 2-3 animals, as the distance among different groups was 7-9 meters. We assume that the duration of grazing is related to the specific weather conditions.

There was significant difference between both groups according to rest, as a whole, which was 15.02 hours in purebred animals and 14.34 hours in the crossbreeds or a difference of the order of 32 minutes or 3.43%. This difference is mainly attributed to the act of standing. We assume that this is the result of the using of different sections of the pasture, by both groups at different times of the twenty-four hours. The rest was performed on different sections of the pasture, mainly in the periphery during the day and at its center at night. The cows were lying fan-like, as the calves were lying in the center next to them. The value of rest was 874.0 m for the one group and 901. m for the other group or more than 60% of the twenty-four-hour, as about 35-40% of it was during the day time.

Other main behavioural reactions, such as lying, rumination, free movement and water intake are relatively equal in values. Cows were standing and ruminating during the feeding of calves. Two of the mothers allowed calves of another mother to suckle for several times. There was also an act of aggression to people by one of the purebred calves of Aberdeen-Angus breed, especially in the dark part of the twenty-four hours.

During the two days, the observed calves suckled 6-7 times during the day and 2-3 times during the night, as they were grazing periodically at a distance of

3-5
- 17
,
, 5-6
4-5 m
-
Sheveleva
Baharev (2003), Yonikovski et al. (2008)
Kudrin et al. (2008).

3-5 meters from their mothers. They had a rest repeatedly for 17 times in the twenty-four hours, as they were mainly standing during the day, and they were lying at night. They were often paying, 5-6 times in the light part of the day. Calves did not separate from their mothers at a distance more than 4-5 m.
Our data correspond and are close to the results of the ethological examination of Sheveleva and Baharev (2003), Yonikovski et al. (2008) and Kudrin et al. (2008).

2. Velikzhanin
Table 2. Indices determined by formulas of Velikzhanin

/ Breed	/ Indices		
	/ IMA	/ IFA	/ ITA
/ Aberdeen-Angus	0,873	0,455	0,626
F1 / Crossbreed F1	0,862	0,472	0,648

()
0,873
0,862, 0,11
-
()
F1 0,472
0,17
F1.
()
0,626
0,648
F1, 0,22
F1.
,
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,
-

Coefficients participating in the creation of indices are expressed by concrete values. Data analysis of the calculated indices give us an integrated quantitative assessment of the behavior and shows that the index of motor activity (IMA) has high values for both experimental groups, for the first group is 0.873, and for the second group is 0.862, with a difference of 0.11 points in favour of Aberdeen-Angus breed. The index of feeding activity (IFA) for Aberdeen-Angus breed is 0.455, and for the F1 crossbreeds is 0.472, or a difference of the order of 0.17 points in favor of the crossbreeds F1. For the Index of total activity (IGA) values are 0.626 for cows of Aberdeen Angus breed and 0.648 for crossbreeds F1, a difference of 0.22 points in favor of crossbreeds F1. Both groups showed low values for both indices, which classified the examined animals to the class of "Hyper passive". Lowering the Index of total activity is associated with a reduction in the metabolic processes in the organism. This could be explained by the season, the productivity of the pasture and meteorological conditions during the

study.

(2016)

Kudrin et al.

Our researches correspond and are similar to results obtained from researches of Kudrin et al. (2016) on lactating cows.

CONCLUSIONS

F1

386

Climate conditions, physiological conditions and system of breeding have an influence over behavioural reactions of cows. The data obtained allow to make the conclusion that animals from Aberdeen-Angus cattle breed and their crossbreeds F1 have good adaptation abilities to pasture breeding in late autumn in the conditions of a town of Troyan, a foothill terrain of 386 meters altitude of artificial pasture with predominant grasslands of grasses and legumes. The time used for grazing is comparable to that reported in other climate conditions, composition of the pastures and cattle breeds for meat.

Low values of temperature did not have a negative influence on the behavior of cows, but combined with wind and rain reduced the use of pasture grass and this necessitates feeding them with concentrated feed. For animals of both examined groups is typical the imitative (alelometric) behavior especially when they are grazing and having a rest.

e

The selection according to ethological individuality is important feature of selection-tribe work in meat cattle farming and supports the right choice of young breeding animals with suitable temperament.

Joint grazing together with the mother is an important prerequisite for learning the calf to pasture feed. Lactating cows showed relatively good maternal instinct, as it was observed that two of them allowed calves of another mother to suckle. There was an aggressive behaviour towards people by one of the lactating animals of Aberdeen-Angus

, breed, manifested by an attack when it was approached.

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Reproductive characteristics in reproduction of 'Bulgarian black and white cattle' in the region of Pleven depending on the level of productivity

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SUMMARY

A comparative assessment was conducted on milk production and chemical composition of milk from four farms with 'Bulgarian Black and White Cattle' in the region of Pleven. An analysis was made of the impact of insemination age on productivity in the first and second lactation of heifers and cows. The increase of the period between two calvings reduces the efficiency and profitability of using of cows. The fertility of animals is reduced with the increase of quantitative and qualitative parameters of milk production. Population of studied dairy cattle shows good acclimatization abilities and extensive plasticity of the examined indicators.

Key words: cows, reproductive qualities, service period, calving interval, lactation

INTRODUCTION

'Bulgarian Black and White Cattle' have been widely distributed in the north-east central region of Northern Bulgaria

(Zahariev et al., 1988, 1996; Gaidarska et al., 1994; Karabaliev et al., 1994, 1996; Tefera et al., 2001; Samrukov, 2005).

(Karabaliev et al., 1994; Janovski et al., 2001).

Bellousov et al. (2011)

Baidantseva (2013)

Gibbert (2014)

e

and in particular the Pleven region. A number of scientific studies confirm the great potential of cow of Black and White breed for milk production (Zahariev et al., 1988, 1996; Gaidarska et al., 1994; Karabaliev et al., 1994, 1996; Tefera et al., 2001; Samrukov, 2005).

As an indicator of the duration of the main physiological periods associated with milk production, the age of first insemination and first fertilization is of great importance for the duration, effectiveness and profitability of dairy cows from 'Bulgarian Black and White Cattle' (Karabaliev et al., 1994; Janovski et al., 2001)

Bellousov et al. (2011) believe that lactation in Holstein-Friesian cows is changing due to the uneven service period and in all lactations from herds examined by them, the highest value of milk productivity was observed in the second lactation.

Baidantseva (2013) agrees that the intensification of dairy cattle-breeding associated with an increase in milk production is possible only with a complex approach to solving the problem of reproduction of herds.

Gibbert (2014), in examining different lines of the Black and White Holstein Friesian cattle, concludes that the level of reproductive abilities of animals has been reduced by increasing the quantitative and qualitative indicators of milk productivity.

The aim of the research is to study the main reproduction characteristics of heifers and cows from Bulgarian Black and White Cattle in the Pleven region and their impact on the milk productivity of first and second lactation.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

764

The study was conducted in four farms in the Pleven region. The study included 764 cows with different genetic types from 'Bulgarian Black and White Cattle' breed. The characteristics characterizing the milk productivity and reproductive qualities of the studied period were studied. Tribal records of these animals were used.

(I, II, III IV).

A comparative assessment of milk productivity of heifers and cows from farms in Stavertsi, Oryahovitza, Bregare and the farm of prison in Belene (I, II, III and IV farms).

All studied animals were bred hanged, cattle shed in identical conditions of feeding and breeding. The live weight of the heifers and cows at the end of the second month of lactation was determined using a measuring tape for combined research of height and weight, 'Karbali' type. Milk productivity was determined by the results of control milking for lactation from reports of zootechnical records.

The age of first insemination, the age of first fertilization, the age of first calving, the length of pregnancy, the period of service and the period of intercourse were determined using information from zootechnical records.

120"

– %

The chemical composition of milk was investigated with Milkoscan and Milkotester 120 based on control milking – % fat, % protein and kilograms of milk fat in the laboratory of RIMSA Troyan.

305

The information on milk productivity for 305-day lactation of heifers and cows was analyzed.

Survey data was biometrically processed using the commonly used variation statistical method using the Microsoft Excel application program and presented in tables.

Microsoft Excel

1.

Table 1. Live weight, milk yield and chemical composition of milk

Indicators	/ Farms			
	I	II	III	IV
	Stavertsi	Oryahovitsa	Bregare	Belene Prison
Live weight at I calving, kg	544±6,4	561±6,7	554±6,8	563±6,3
Live weight at II calving, kg	594±7,8	601±6,9	596±7,4	608±7,5
	/ 1 lactation			
Duration of lactation, days	318,21±9,1	316,68±9,0	314,79±8,9	324,98±9,3
Milk production, kg	3826,88±12,3	4609,18±12,1	3851,03±11,7	4056,07±12,4
/ Milk fat, %	3,74±0,11	4,41±0,12	3,82±,10	3,79±0,11
/ Protein, %	3,01±0,09	3,12±0,11	3,18±0,12	3,23±0,10
/ Milk butter, kg	142,90±11,0	173,95±13,2	147,03±12,1	169,41±14,3
	/ 2 lactation			
Duration of lactation, days	322,13±8,3	316,62±8,7	327,05±9,1	314,78±8,6
Milk production, kg	4335,97±11,2	4965,66±12,4	4402,79±12,3	5005,00±12,7
/ Milk fat, %	3,76±0,21	3,78±0,18	3,84±0,13	3,85±0,15
/ Protein, %	3,27±0,09	3,29±0,11	3,35±0,12	3,31±0,14
/ Milk butter, kg	158,22±10,3	187,77±11,2	168,84±11,5	192,68±12,3

0,05

The duration of lactations varied as a result of the different service period, and on first lactation the highest milk yields were shown by Oryahovitsa farm – 4609, 18 kg and the lowest in the Stavertsi farm – 3826,88 kg, or it was a difference of 782.30 kg or 16.9%.

The duration of lactations varied as a result of the different service period, and on first lactation the highest milk yields were shown by Oryahovitsa farm – 4609, 18 kg and the lowest in the Stavertsi farm – 3826,88 kg, or it was a difference of 782.30 kg or 16.9%.

2.

(M±m)**Table 2. Age of first fertilization, duration of pregnancy and age of first calving (M ± m)**

Farms	/ Indicators								
	/ Age of fertilization, in days			/ Duration of pregnancy, in days			/ Age of first calving, in days		
	n	x	sx	n	x	sx	n	x	sx
Stavertsi	116	602,2	5,4	116	287,90	0,73	116	885,0	5,24
Oryahovitsa	200	543,2	8,1	200	285,90	0,85	200	818,7	6,63
Bregare	203	544,3	4,4	203	286,10	0,72	203	828,8	3,36
Belene Prison	245	531,6	3,1	245	285,01	0,91	245	832,7	4,96
/ Average	764	555,33	5,25	764	286,23	0,80	764	841,3	5,05

0,05

90 .
 111,25 (91 126)
 - ,
 -
 100 .
 365 .
 (T 3).

In Bulgaria, in dairy cattle breeding for normal duration of the service period is accepted the base is of 90 days. The service period varies for different groups, ranging from 91 days to 126 days, averaging 111.25 days (Table 2). Its prolongation predisposes to development of higher milk yield for the current lactation, but it leads to lower lifelong milk yield and a smaller number of calves from 100 cows.

The optimal duration of the intervals is 365 days. The calving interval (CI) is the sum of the lactation period and the dry period. The analysis of the duration of CI shows an excess for all animals that were examined (Table 3).

3. (M±m)
Table 3. Calving period and service period (M±m)

Farms	/ Indicators					
	1 2 (), Between 1 and 2 calving (CI), days			Service period, days		
	n	x	sx	n	x	sx
Stavertsi	116	391,5	4,33	116	126	5,62
Oryahovitsa	200	408,3	3,35	200	116	5,73
Bregare	203	378,1	4,42	203	91	3,79
Belene Prison	245	374,2	3,37	245	112	4,59
/ Average	764	387,95	3,87	764	111,25	4,93

0,05

-
 - 378,1
 - 08,3
 -
 - 5005 kg,
 4335,97 kg
 13% -
 669,03 kg

There was the smallest excess of CI for animals in Bregare – 378.1 days, and the highest value was for animals in Oryahovitsa – 408.3 days.

Differences in milk productivity have been identified. The highest milk yield in the second lactation was found in animals from the farm of Belene Prison – 5005 kg, followed by animals from Oryahovitsa farm, and the lowest yield of 4335.97 kg for animals of Stavertsi farm, the difference of 669.03 kg or with 13% lower milk yield.

in Zahariev et al. (1988, 1996), Karabaliev et al. (1994, 1996), Belousov et al. (2011) Gibbert (2014).

- The conducted researches allow to use additional reserve to increase milk production and its quality indicators.

Data of the present study are similar in value to those reported in Zahariev et al. (1988, 1996), Karabaliev et al. (1994, 1996), Belousov et al. (2011) and Gibbert (2014).

CONCLUSIONS

- The origin of animals has a significant influence on the milk production, chemical composition and properties of milk. The insemination age and fertilization has a significant impact on milk production and reproductive capacity of heifers.

- The milk yield of cows for normal lactation increases with an increase in the period between two calvings. The increase in the period between two calvings reduces the efficiency and profitability of dairy cows, under the conditions of the farms surveyed.

- It is necessary to shorten the dry period in order to normalize the intervals. Increasing the quantitative and qualitative parameters of the milk production reduces the reproductive capacity of the animals.

- The variation of the percentage of proteins depending on the next lactation is not identical to the percentage of fatty substances and the amount of milk. Cows, which have a high content of protein and fatty substances in milk are used for a longer period and their reproductive problems are less.

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