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Study on fattening and slaughtering characteristics of lambs of Srednostaroplaninska and Koprivshenska sheep

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SUMMARY

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 , 60 .
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 ,
 - 43,89%
 42,91%
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 1 kg 4,38%
 5,85% ,
 .
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 1 kg 7,14%
 7,20% ,
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The experiment studied the fattening and slaughtering performance of lambs of Srednostaroplaninska and Koprivshenska sheep breed at the Experimental Base of the Research Institute of Mountain Stockbreeding and Agriculture in Troyan, which were fattened intensively for 60 days. The lambs of Koprivshenska breed had higher growth rates – higher absolute and average daily gains as well as higher slaughter yield – 43.89% for male and 42.91% for female lambs. The male lambs of Srednostaroplaninska breed had 1 kg increase with 4.38% less FUG (feed units of growth) and 5.85% IDP (intestinal digestibility of protein), compared to those of Koprivshenska breed. Female lambs of Koprivshenska breed use for 1kg increase with 7.14% less FUG and 7.20% less FUG, compared to female lambs of Srednostaroplaninska breed. The leg had the highest weight and the largest share of the left half of the carcass during its

1,930 kg
 30,00%
 31,16%
 1:2,23,
 1:2,16.
 1:2,57,
 1:2,40.
 61,88%
 57,88%
 63,46%
 59,36%

packaging. The lambs of Koprivshtenska breed had higher values for these indicators - 1.995 kg for males and 1.930 kg for females, respectively 30.00% and 31.16% of the weight of halves. Bone:meat ratio in male lambs of Srednostaroplaninska breed was 1:2.23, and for female lambs was 1:2.16. For male lambs of Koprivshtenska sheep breed, this ratio was 1: 2.57 and for females it was 1: 2.40. The carcasses of lambs of Koprivshtenska sheep breed had higher meat content - 63.46% for the males and 61.88% for the females, against 57.88% for the male lambs and 59.36% for the females of Srednostaroplaninska breed.

Key words: Srednostaroplaninska sheep breed, Koprivshtenska sheep breed, lambs, fattening performance, slaughtering performance

INTRODUCTION

Given the high degree of importance of sheep fattening and meat production properties, the high relative share of meat revenues as well as that of feed costs in the sheep farms, their in-depth study is imperative. One of the tasks of sheep-breeding science is to clarify the optimal periods for fattening and the most desirable preslaughter weight of young animals of different breeds.

The studies of a number of authors on the fattening performance, the slaughtering qualities of lambs from local aboriginal, semifine fleeced, fine-fleeced and dairy sheep breeds and their crossbreeds show that the optimal live weight for slaughter is between 30 and 40 kg (Stankov, 1983; Boykovski, 1995; Nedelchev and Raicheva, 2001; Slavova et al., 2001; Nedelchev, 2005; Ignatova et al., 2005; Slavov et al., 2005; Laleva et al., 2007; Raschidi et al. 2008; Stancheva et al., 2011) etc.

Consumer preferences in some

()
 ,
 25-28 kg
 10,0-13,0kg (Stancheva
 and Stoykova , 2009).
 Cunhal-Sendium et al. (2003)
 , 68-75%
 8,5 13kg.
 Pinkas Marinova (1984)

European countries (Italy and Greece) on the consumption of lambs from light carcasses and the associated price definitions imply that the lambs will be realized at 25-28 kg live weight and carcass weight of 10,0-13,0 kg (Stancheva and Stoykova, 2009).

Cunhal-Sendium et al. (2003), in their marketing research in Spain, found that 68-75% of the lamb carcasses weighing between 8,5 and 13 kg were sold.

Pinkas and Marinova (1984) accept that the criteria for the taste and technological qualities of meat in the future will occupy a central place in the selection programs for the different types of farm animals.

The purpose of this study is to evaluate and compare the fattening performance and slaughtering characteristics of lambs of Srednostaroplaninska and Koprivshenska breeds, intensively fattened for a 60-day period.

60-

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The experiment of studying the fattening performance and slaughtering characteristics of male and female lambs from the local autochthonous breeds of Srednostaroplaninska and Koprivshenska was conducted in 2017 in the Experimental Base of RIMSA-Troyan. The animals originate from purebred farms in the regions of the towns of Apriltsi, Gabrovo and Koprivshitsa. The total number of experimental lambs was 24. Four groups were formed – 2 groups of each breed, respectively 6 males and 6 female lambs. Weaning of lambs were done at 45 days of age and 16-18 kg live weight. The four groups were formed by the analogue method - an equal number of male and female lambs and an equal number of single and twins. The animals were raised according to the method of free breeding in boxes on non-replaceable bedding according to the requirements of

2017

24.

– 2

6

6

45-

16-18 kg.

44. ,
 (180)
 1kg 0,84 132,98g ,
 96,53g , 1kg 0,63
 0,5kg. 15
 , 60-
 . 3
 . -
 (. 99/1999 .) 27
 Zahariev Pinkas (1979).
 4 ° 24h,
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 Statistica for Windows,
 2000

Regulation 44. Feeding is carried out in compound feeders, the animals being fed voluntarily with compound feed for lambs (KF180) certified and produced by a forage factory in Lovech, containing in 1kg 0,84 FUG and 132,98g IDP and ground lucerne hay containing 1kg 0.63 FUG and 96.53g IDP. The feed cost is reported daily and by periods. The live weight control of the experimental lambs was performed within 15 days with an accuracy of 0.5 kg.

To determine the levels of slaughtering characteristics, a slaughter analysis has been carried out after a 60-day fattening period. Three lambs were slaughtered from each group with a live weight close to the average for the group. The slaughter was carried out according to the requirements of Regulation No 27 (updated in State Gazette 99/1999). The carcasses are cut according to the method of Zahariev and Pinkas (1979). The carcasses were cooled at 4 °C for 24h, after that they were longitudinally cut by cutting in the middle of the spine. The weight of the halves was determined, after the cut of the left halves, and each separate part. After boning, the amount of meat, bones and fat as well as the bone:meat ratio of the carcass and the individual parts were determined. Linear measurements of carcasses were performed and the extent of fat localization in the chest and the tail root was investigated.

The results are processed with a statistical package of Statistica for Windows, 2000 and are presented in tables.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The growth rate of lambs and the feed cost per 1 kg gain greatly determine the economic efficiency and profitability of production in sheep breeding.

- 6,3 982g
 15,3% - 14,7%
 (1kg 2).
 - 2,9% - 2,8%
 - ,
 - 4,38% - 5,85%
 - ,
 - 7,20% - 7,14%
 - ,

female lambs of the same breed have the highest – 6,3 FUG and 982g IDP. Male lambs of this breed spend 15.3% less FUG and 14.7% less IDP per 1kg gain than females (Table 2). Male lambs of Koprivshenska breed spend for 1 kg gain with 2.9% less FUG and 2.8% less IDP compared to females.

International analysis shows that male lambs of Srednostaroplaninska breed get 1 kg gain with 4.38% less FUG and 5.85% less IDP compared with Koprivshenska breed. Female lambs of Koprivshenska breed spend on 1kg gain 7,14% less FUG and 7,20% less IDP, compared to females of Srednostaroplaninska breed.

2. 1 kg
Table 2. Fodder consumption, FUG and IDP for 1 kg gain

/Breed	n	gender	1 kg /Feed cost per 1 kg gain		Feed units of growth /FUG/	Intestinal digestibility of protein /IDP/ g
			Concentrated kg	Hey kg		
Srednostaroplaninska	6	/M	3,310	4,250	5,46	838
	6	/F	3,900	4,800	6,30	982
Koprivshenska	6	/M	3,500	4,400	5,71	890
	6	/F	3,840	4,200	5,88	916

3.
 - 30,69 kg 29,73 kg.
 - 27,70 kg,
 (0,05).

The mean values of the live weight before slaughter, the weight of the hot and cooled carcass, and the slaughter yield, by breed and by gender are shown in Table 3. With higher preslaughter live weight, male and female lambs of Koprivshenska breed - 30.69 kg and 29.73 kg. The male lambs of Srednostaroplaninska breed had the lowest slaughter weight - 27.70 kg, as the differences between males and females of Koprivshenska breed are mathematically proven (p 0.05). Gender differences within the studied breeds are small and unreliable.

Male and female lambs of Koprivshenska breed have higher values of warm carcass weight and cooled carcass weight, compared to those of Srednostaroplaninska breed. There is a

0,01). (0,05
 - 43,89%
 42,91%
 - 41,66%.
 (1,67 6,58),

mathematical proof of the differences between the males from Koprivshenska breed on the one hand and the male and female lambs of the Srednostaroplaninska breed on the other (p 0.05 and p 0.01). The male lambs of Koprivshenska breed are superior to the females in terms of these two characteristics, but the differences are not mathematically proven. In Srednostaroplaninska breed lambs, the differences between the groups by gender are small and also unreliable. The lambs of Koprivshenska breed have higher slaughter yields – 43.89% for males and 42.91% for females. The female lambs of Srednostaroplaninska breed have the lowest values – 41.66%. Variation coefficients score low values (from 1.67 to 6.58), which is indicative of the good equilibrium of the animals within the study groups.

3.

Table 3. Preslaughter live weight, carcass weight and slaughter yield

/Breed	n	Preslaughter live weight kg		Warm carcass weight kg		Cooled carcass weight kg		Slaughter yield %
		\bar{x}	$\pm Sx$	\bar{x}	$\pm Sx$	\bar{x}	$\pm Sx$	
Srednostaroplaninska	3	27,70±0,287*	1,79	11,73±0,330*	4,87	11,60±0,340**	5,07	42,34
	3	28,39±0,425	2,59	11,83±0,450*	6,58	11,45±0,402**	6,08	41,66
Koprivshenska	3	30,69±0,570*	3,21	13,46±0,342*	4,75	13,23±0,320**	4,18	43,89
	3	29,73±0,287*	1,67	12,75±0,402	5,46	12,37±0,413	5,78	42,91

* 0,05 / Credibility of differences
 ** 0,01 / Credibility of differences at

4

24-
 43,10%,
 - 40,33%.

Table 4 presents the results of slaughter characteristics of the breeds studied. The highest percentage of carcass weight after 24 hours of cooling, compared to live weight before slaughter, is found in male lambs of Koprivshenska breed – 43.10%, and the lowest percentage in female lambs of Srednostaroplaninska breed – 40.33%. In both studied breeds male lambs exceed the females according to this characteristics. Analyzing international differences, we establish the superiority of

5,70 kg 6,65 kg 6,20 kg
5,73 kg

- 20,18%.

- 20,57%

21,66%.

Koprivshenska breed lambs in both gender.

Male and female lambs of Koprivshenska breed again have a higher weight of the left half, respectively 6,65 kg and 6,20 kg versus 5,70 kg and 5,73 kg in those of Srednostaroplaninska breed. The female lambs of Srednostaroplaninska breed have the lowest weight percentage of the left half compared to the preslaughter weight – 20.18%. In all other groups, the values of this characteristic are close – from 20.57% to 21.66%. For other slaughter characteristics, the values in groups are close and the differences are insignificant.

4. (kg) %

Table 4. Slaughter characteristics (kg) and % of live weight before slaughtering

/Slaughter characteristics		/Breed, gender									
		Srednostaroplaninska				Koprivshenska					
		kg	%	kg	%	kg	%	kg	%		
/Measure units		kg	%	kg	%	kg	%	kg	%		
/Preslaughter weight, kg		27.70		28,39		30.69		29.73			
kg	/Carcass,	/warm		11.73	42.34	11.83	41,66	13.46	43.85	12.75	42.88
		cooled	/whole		11.60	41.87	11.45	40,33	13,23	43,10	12.37
	/lefthalf		5.70	20.57	5.73	20,18	6.65	21,66	6.20	20.85	
/Head, kg		/skinned		0.95	3.42	0.99	3.41	1.10	3.58	0.95	3.20
		/skin		0.59	2.13	0.54	1.90	0.53	1.72	0.42	1.41
/Legs, kg		0.69	2.49	0.66	2.32	0.93	3.03	0.76	2.56		
/Skin, kg		3.99	14.40	3.53	12.43	3.23	10.52	2.70	9.08		
Empty intestines, kg		/Small		0.78	2.82	0.75	2.64	1.00	3.26	0.90	3.02
		/Large		0.48	1.73	0.47	1.65	0.50	1.63	0.63	2.12
, kg		/Liver		0.64	2.31	0.67	2.34	0.80	2.60	0.67	2.25
		/Lung		0.44	1.59	0.40	1.40	0.67	2.18	0.68	2.29
/Heart, kg		0.14	0.51	0.12	0.42	0.20	0.65	0.18	0.61		
/Spleen, kg		0.05	0.18	0.04	0.14	0.07	0.23	0.07	0.24		
/Stomach, kg		0.76	2.74	0.79	2.78	0.95	3.09	0.83	2.79		
/Inner fats, kg		0.62	2.24	0.59	2.08	0.63	2.05	0.63	2.12		
/Kidneys, kg		0.14	0.51	0.14	0.49	0.20	0.65	0.20	0.67		
/Testest, kg		0.07	0.25	-	-	0.10	0.32	-	-		

The results of the left half cut show that the leg has the highest weight and the largest share of it in all the studied groups (Table 5). The lambs of Koprivshenska breed have higher values for these indicators - 1,995kg for the males and 1,932kg for the females,

5).

1,995kg
31,16%
kg/ 10,94% /1,719 kg/
29,99%.

1,932 kg
30,00%
15,39% /1,687
-29,60%

- 1,405 kg
- 22,67%,
1,610 kg 24,21%,
1,492 kg /26,18%/ 1,527 kg /26,64%/.

respectively, representing 30,00% and 31,16% of the weight of the halves. Male and female lambs of Srednostaroplaninska breed are 15.39% /1.687 kg/ and 10.94% /1.719 kg/ lower in weight and with a lower weight share of the half - 29.90% and 29, 99%. It is noteworthy that female lambs of both breeds are superior, although in a lesser extent, the male ones according to the relative share of the leg from the weight of the half.

The female lambs of Koprivshstenska breed have the lowest chest weight – 1,405 kg and their lowest share of the half weight – 22,67%, compared to the male lambs of the same breed – 1,610 kg and 24,21% thus compared to the male and female lambs of Srednostaroplaninska breed, respectively 1,492 kg /26,18%/ and 1,527 kg /26,64%/.

Regarding the shoulder weight and its relative share of the half weight, the lambs of Koprivshstenska breed exceed those of Srednostaroplaninska breed. There are no significant differences in gender within the breed groups. In all other carcass sections that have smaller relative shares of the half weight, the results are similar and do not give rise to report on breed and gender differentiation.

5.

%

Table 5. Weight of the individual parts in the cut and % of the half weight

Parts in the cut	/Breed, gender							
	Srednostaroplaninska				Koprivshstenska			
			/f				/f	
	kg	%	kg	%	kg	%	kg	%
/Neck	0,477	8,37	0,483	8,43	0,577	8,68	0,498	8,03
/Shoulder	1,028	18,03	1,025	17,88	1,292	19,43	1,240	20,00
/Loin	0,429	7,53	0,437	7,62	0,556	8,36	0,565	9,11
/Leg	1,687	29,60	1,719	29,99	1,995	30,00	1,932	31,16
/Chest	1,492	26,18	1,527	26,64	1,610	24,21	1,405	22,67
/Abdomen	0,450	7,89	0,430	7,50	0,498	7,49	0,450	7,26
/Tail	0,137	2,40	0,111	1,94	0,122	1,83	0,110	1,77

25,74%, 11,88% 24,65% 12,38%
 1:2,23, 1:2,16.
 1: 2,40.
 1: 2,57,

to Koprivshenska breed, where bones are 24.65% and 25.74%, and fat is 11.88% and 12.38%.

The ratio of bones: meat (meat coefficient) in male lambs of Srednostaroplaninska breed is 1: 2.23 and for females it is 1: 2.16. In male lambs of Koprivshenska breed, this ratio is 1: 2.57 and for females it is 1: 2.40. These results are indicative of the better meat qualities of the lambs of Koprivshenska breed.

6.

Table 6. Meat, bones and fat contents in the different parts of the carcass, in %

/Breed	Number/gender	/Neck			/Shoulder			/Loin			/Leg		
		meat	bones	fats	meat	bones	fats	meat	bones	fats	meat	bones	fats
Srednostaroplaninska	3	64,29	27,31	8,40	61,42	25,27	13,31	55,81	30,70	13,49	67,99	23,12	8,89
	3	64,27	29,23	6,50	61,72	25,10	13,18	51,30	30,72	17,97	66,24	26,15	7,61
Koprivshenska	3	69,20	23,39	7,41	63,85	23,11	13,04	64,03	24,11	11,86	67,21	25,50	7,29
	3	67,20	26,16	6,64	63,20	24,21	12,59	67,91	24,47	7,62	66,48	24,97	8,55
/Breed	Number/gender	Abdomen			Chest			Tails			Total of the carcass		
		meat	bones	fats	meat	bones	fats	meat	bones	fats	meat	bones	fats
Srednostaroplaninska	3	50,67	-	49,33	48,26	34,18	17,56	29,12	36,91	33,97	57,88	25,95	16,17
	3	56,51	-	43,49	53,36	36,35	10,29	30,00	37,00	33,00	59,36	27,48	13,16
Koprivshenska	3	70,54	-	29,46	56,33	32,21	11,46	30,61	33,67	35,72	63,47	24,65	11,88

The female and male lambs of Koprivshenska breed are superior to Koprivshenska lambs regarding the characteristics of the great length of the carcass, small length of the carcass and measurement of the leg. (Table 7). The male lambs of both breeds are superior to females. However, there is no credibility of the differences between them, except for the difference in the measurement of the leg between the male lambs of Koprivshenska breed and the male and female lambs of Srednostaroplaninska breed on the one hand and female lambs of Koprivshenska breed and male and female lambs of Srednostaroplaninska breed on the other (at P 0.05).

The examined fat depots in the lamb carcass are on the chest and at the tail root. There are no differences in the thickness of the fat between the male

0,05).

10 mm,

(0,01).

Stankov (1983), Laleva et al. (2007)
Stancheva et al. (2011).

lambs of both breeds. Whereas, the female lambs of Koprivshenska breed surpassed the female lambs of Srednostaroplaninska breed, as the differences being mathematically proven (at P 0.05). They are also superior to male lambs from Koprivshenska and Srednostaroplaninska breed, but the differences are not mathematically proven. Srednostaroplaninska breed male lambs are superior to females of the same breed, but the differences are unreliable again. Regarding the fat thickness indicator at the tail root, male and female lambs of Srednostaroplaninska breed are superior to Koprivshenska breed by about 10 mm, as the international differences being mathematically proven (at P 0,01).

There are no gender differences in this indicator within the studied breeds. Our results are similar in value and correspond to the results by Stankov (1983), Laleva et al. (2007) Stancheva et al. (2011).

7.

Table 7. Linear dimensions of the cooled carcass and topographical location of the fat in the carcass

/Breed	gender	Great length of carcass, m		Small length of carcass, m		Leg measurement, m		Fats at chest, mm		Fats at tail root, mm	
		-	±Sx	-	±Sx	-	±Sx	-	±Sx	-	±Sx
Srednostaroplaninska		66,33±1,252	3,28	53,33±0,577	1,88	23,00±0,467*	3,55	53,1±1,177	3,84	57,4±0,666**	2,01
		59,00±1,632	4,81	52,33±0,718	2,38	22,67±0,272*	2,08	43,3±0,720*	2,88	57,2±1,086**	3,32
Koprivshenska		70,00±1,280	3,18	60,67±2,678	7,65	29,33±0,719*	4,25	53,2±1,010	3,29	47,4±0,747**	2,73
		68,00±1,247	3,18	57,67±2,596	7,80	27,33±1,088*	6,90	60,6±1,249*	3,57	47,1±0,870**	3,20

*

0,05 / Credibility of differences 0,05

**

0,01 / Credibility of differences at 0,01

CONCLUSIONS

- Male lambs of Koprivshenska
- breed show higher growth intensity
- compared to the male lambs of
- Srednostaroplaninska breed, as their
- average daily gain is 0.214 kg. It is 13.1%
- higher than the male lambs of

-	-	-	-	-	Srednostaroplaninska breed - 0.186 kg. Males and females of Koprivshhtenska breed achieve almost the same absolute and average daily gain.
			- 0,186 kg.		
				1 kg.	The male lambs of Srednostaroplaninska breed make 1 kg gain with 4.38% less FUG and 5.85% less IDP than those of the same gender of Koprivshhtenska breed. The female lambs of Koprivshhtenska breed spend with 7,14% less FUG and 7,20% less IDP on 1 kg of gain compared to those of Srednostaroplaninska breed.
5,85%	-	4,38%	-		
				1 kg.	
7,14%	-			7,20%	
			- 43,89%		Males and females of Koprivshhtenska breed achieve a higher slaughter yield - 43.89% and 42.91%. The lowest values for this characteristics are 41.66% for female lambs of Srednostaroplaninska breed.
42,91%	-			41,66%	
					Greater relative meat share in the halves was found in the lambs of Koprivshhtenska breed - 63,47% in the males and 61,88% in the females, against 57,88% in the males and 59,36 in the female lambs of Srednostaroplaninska breed.
63,47%				61,88%	
				57,88%	
59,36					
					The coefficient of meat yield is higher in the lambs of Koprivshhtenska breed. The ratio of bones: meat is 1: 2.57 for males and 1: 2.40 for females, while for lambs of Srednostaroplaninska breed it is 1: 2.23 and 1: 2.16. The better meat qualities of the lambs of Koprivshhtenska breed are due to the higher values of the big and the small length of the carcass and the measurement of the leg, as well as the lower content of bones and fat in the carcass.
				1:2,57	
				1:2,40	
				1: 2,23	
1: 2,16.	-				

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Milk production of first lactation sheep grazing temporary and natural pastures

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SUMMARY

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2 : 10
7-8 10
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(*Dactylis glomerata*) (25 kg
ha⁻¹) (*Onobrychis viciifolia*)
(120 kg ha⁻¹) 1: 1
2
69% 80%
26%

The purpose of this study was to compare the milk production of first lactation sheep grazing on temporary and natural pastures. For this purpose 40 ewes at first lactation from Pleven Blackface breed were used, divided into 2 groups. Each group consisted of 2 subgroups: 10 early impregnated sheep at 7-8 mounts of age (IS-7/8m.) and 10 impregnated sheep at 1.5 years of age (IS-1.5y.). Sheep was grazing on natural pasture in lowland and on temporary pasture of cocksfoot (*Dactylis glomerata*) (25 kg ha⁻¹) and sainfoin (*Onobrychis viciifolia*) (120 kg ha⁻¹) in a ratio of 1:1 by sowing norm and was seeded 2 years ago. The share of grasses ranged from 69% to 80% of the total grass composition for the natural and temporary pastures in the second year of vegetation. There were no significant differences in the milk production of sheep grazing on natural or temporary pastures. The milk yield of IS-1.5y. was 26% higher compared to that of IS-7/8m., regardless of the type of pasture for a period of 4 weeks.

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(8,2%),

(8%),

The proportion of fat in milk was significantly higher in IS-7/8. (8,2%) compared to IS-1.5y. (8%), regardless of the type of pastures. There were no significant differences in protein, lactose and total solids content in milk of sheep grazing on temporary and natural pasture.

Key words: first lactation sheep, milk production, temporary pasture, natural pasture

INTRODUCTION

Sheep farming as a means of providing income and a means of using and maintaining grassland ecosystems is very well suited to rural development programs. In our country, milk sheep are traditionally developed, sheep meat occupy a very small share (Stankov et al., 2007). The Plevan blackface sheep breed (PBFS) is one of the most numerous of local dairy breeds in our country. Increasing dairy milk yield of sheep need to optimize and use throughout their reproductive potential since birth to their rejection (Todorov, 2007; Simeonov, 2013; Todorov, 2013; Todorov et al., 2013; Todorov and Simeonov, 2013; Todorov and Aleksandrov, 2013).

It was found that among all the indicators, the level of nutrition, respectively the availability of energy and protein, is a major factor affecting the quantity and composition of milk, especially in milk of sheep (Bocquier and Caja, 1993; Agabriel et al., 1995; Bencini and Pulina, 1997; Bocquier et al., 1997).

Highmilk sheep breed develops in areas with good forage with grazing opportunities during the spring-summer period and for the production of high-quality roughage. The nutritional composition of natural and temporary pastures varies considerably in terms of quality depending on the grass species and the plant phase of vegetation

(Todorov, 2007; Simeonov, 2013; Todorov, 2013; Todorov et al., 2013; Todorov and Simeonov, 2013; Todorov and Aleksandrov, 2013).

(Bocquier and Caja, 1993; Agabriel et al., 1995; Bencini and Pulina, 1997; Bocquier et al., 1997).

(Todorova and Kirilov, 2002; Vasilev, 2006, 2008; Vasileva and Ilieva, 2016; Stoycheva et al., 2017).

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: 70-80%
, 10-15% 10-15%
(Todorova and Kirilov, 2002; Ali, 2006).

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(Vasileva and Ilieva, 2012; Ilieva and Vasileva, 2016).
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,
(Kirilov and Vasileva, 2016; Vasilev, 2006, 2008).

(Todorova and Kirilov, 2002; Vasilev, 2006, 2008; Vasileva and Ilieva, 2016; Stoycheva et al., 2017). Usually, the energy feed of green forages depends of the roportion of legumes crops, which is associated with higher protein content is higher, respectively, and the quality of grazing is more better. The most common of the natural pastures and meadows in our country most often has the following botanical composition: 70-80% grasses, 10-15% legumes and 10-15% other grasses (Todorova and Kirilov, 2002; Ali, 2006). In the temporary pastures, the ratio between grass and legume is controlled, this improves not only the nutritional value but also increases the yield (Vasileva and Ilieva, 2012; Ilieva and Vasileva, 2016). The most common are the annual grasses, legumes, grass mixtures, as well as the perennial grasss-legumes mixtures (Kirilov and Vasileva, 2016; Vasilev 2006, 2008).

The combination of the method of impregnation of female lambs in the year of birth and the grazing on temporary and natural pastures during the summer period of feeding is one of the approaches to obtaining more milk, which was the basis of this study.

The purpose of this study was to compare the milk production of first lactation sheep grazing on temporary and natural pastures.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The experiment was carried out at the Institute of Forage Crops, Pleven. For this purpose 40 ewes at first lactation from Pleven Blackface breed were used, divided into 2 groups of 10 animals. Each group consisted of 2 subgroups: 10 early impregnated sheep at 7-8 mounts of age (IS-7/8m.) and 10 impregnated sheep at 1.5 years of age (IS-1.5y.). Sheep were separated in groups according to the analogue method: milk production, days after lambing, live weight and body status.

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, 10
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7-8
() 10
(1,5-)
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25
 35 (Simeonov,
 2013). 28 (4).
 133. *Milko Scan*,
 0,4 kg
 (N 43 ° 23,312 'EO 24 ° 34,856',
 - 230 m)
 (*Dactylis glomerata*)
 (25 kg ha⁻¹) (*Onobrychis*
viciifolia) (120 kg ha⁻¹) 1:1
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 9 45 m
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 105 ° (BDS-
 ISO 6498).
 () *Kjeldahl* (BDS-ISO 5983)
 () (BDS-ISO 6492);
 () (, 2007);
 () (BDS-ISO 5984).
 ()
 MS Office 2007.
 t-test ()
 > 0,05.

The lambs were weaned 25 days after the birth and the sheep entered the experiment 35 days after lambing (Simeonov, 2013). The experimental period lasted 28 days (4 weeks).

Throughout the experimental period the daily milk yield from each group was controlled and in two consecutive days of the week the individual daily milk yield was controlled. The milk composition was determined every week by *Milko Scan*, *odel 133*.

All animals during the grazing were fed on 0.4 kg of maize grain per day.

Sheep was grazing on natural pasture (NP) in lowland (N 43°23,312' ; EO 24°34,856'; altitude - 230 m.) and on temporary pasture (TP) of cocksfoot (*Dactylis glomerata*) (25 kg ha⁻¹) and sainfoin (*Onobrychis viciifolia*) (120 kg ha⁻¹) in a ratio of 1:1 by sowing norm and was seeded 2 years ago. The sheep was grazing on natural pasture with start grass height from 9 to 45 cm. at the end and temporary pasture respectively: from 25 to 65 cm. Every week an area of 1m² was cut four times and the biomass was weighed to determine the yield. Botanical composition was determined by separation and weighing of grass and legume components.

Dry matter content (DM) at 105° C, to constant weight (BS-ISO 6498), crude protein (CP) to *Kjeldahl* (BDS-ISO 5983), fat (BDS-ISO 6492), crude fiber (CF) (AOAC, 2007) and ash (BDS-ISO 5984) were determined.

The data from the experiments were statistically analyzed by reporting the average (x) and its error (± Sx) with the application of statistical program MS Office 2007. The accuracy of difference between the values is determined by applying a t-test (in Student) and confidence level P > 0.05.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The decrease of CP in the temporary pasture was 26.1%, while in the permanent pasture the decrease was less expressed, respectively 21.5% for the period of 4 weeks (Table 1).

1. , g kg⁻¹

Table 1. Chemical composition of pastures, g kg⁻¹ DM

	/ DM	/ CP	/ F	/ Fat	/ Ash	/ NFE
/ Natural pasture						
1-2	218.70	218.95	163.30	56.60	100.41	460.75
1-2 week	±5.81	±3.95	±20.81	±6.31	±3.52	±14.05
3-4	288.91	171.85	216.50	43.50	109.45	458.70
3-4 week	±7.01	±6.15	±30.2	±0.70	±3.75	±28.50
/ Temporary pasture						
1-2	212.92	206.00	217.20	41.70	94.40	440.80
1-2 week	±1.43	±6.30	±26.75	±6.40	±10.1	±13.05
3-4	257.42	152.20	294.20	30.60	88.80	434.30
3-4 week	±3.92	±16.55	±11.51	±0.05	±0.72	±5.83

24,6% 26,0%

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(1-4)

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3

(2).

The content of CF decreased by 24.6% and 26% respectively for natural and temporary pastures for 4 weeks. Higher content of CP and low of CF at the beginning of the grazing period (1-4 weeks) were regular, then with the advancing of the vegetation period there was a decrease in the CP and increase of the CF. The temporary pasture grasses had a faster growth rate compared to the natural pasture grasses and reached a higher yield, accumulating large quantities of dry matter per unit area. Dry matter yield was more than 3 times higher in the sown pasture compared to that of the permanent pasture in the first and last week of experiment (Table 2).

2. () (: :)

Table 2. Yield (DM) and botanical composition (grass:legume:other)

/ Week	I	II	III	IV
/ Natural pasture				
kg ha ⁻¹	498.8±114.1	1086.1±131.0	1673.5±139.4	2503.3±194,7
: : /gr:leg:other	75:14:11	75:16:9	77:17:6	69:22:9
/ Temporary pasture				
kg ha ⁻¹	1459.3±217.7	3627.6±366.5	5705.9±387.7	8195.9±587.2
: : /gr:leg:other	80:14:6	76:17:7	75:18:7	79:15:6

69% 80%
17%
16%
(Vasilev et al., 2005, Ali, 2006; Vasileva, 2011)
4-
(3).

The proportion of grass components was similar in the two types of pastures (temporary and natural). The share of grasses ranged from 69% to 80% of the total grass composition for the natural and temporary pastures in the second year of vegetation. The share of the legumes was 17% on average in the natural pasture and 16% in temporary pasture. The data correspond to the results of other authors (Vasilev et al., 2005; Vasileva, 2011) and they are considered typical of the country's natural pastures. The same proportion of legumes in the natural and sown pastures was the reason for the small differences in the nutritional value of both types of pastures expressed in the milk yields. There were no significant differences in the average daily milk yield of first lactation sheep grazing on temporary and natural pastures during the 4-week period (Table 3).

3.

Table 3. Milk production and composition

Sheep groups	Daily milk yield, l	Total milk per sheep, l	Fat, %	Protein, %	Lactose, %	Total Solids, %
/ Natural pasture						
IS (7/8m)	0.715 ^g ±0.083	20.02 ^e ±0.121	8.32 ^d ±0.23	6.32 ^b ±0.35	5.08 ^c ±0.49	11.89 ^a ±0.75
IS (1.5y.)	0.893 ^h ±0.087	25.00 ^f ±0.143	8.09 ^c ±0.26	6.37 ^b ±0.38	5.19 ^c ±0.45	11.97 ^a ±0.69
/ Temporary pasture						
IS (7/8m)	0.758 ^g ±0.073	21.22 ^e ±0.114	8.26 ^d ±0.39	6.30 ^b ±0.32	5.17 ^c ±0.22	11.93 ^a ±0.68
IS (1.5y.)	0.958 ^h ±0.095	26.82 ^f ±0.123	8.00 ^c ±0.34	6.29 ^b ±0.22	5.20 ^c ±0.32	11.92 ^a ±0.69

* Results in a column indicated by different letters are significantly different at P> 0.05

20,0 l 25,0 l,
21,22 l 26,82 l,

The total milk yield of sheep (IS-7/8m. and IS-1.5y.) grazing on natural pasture was 20.0 l and 25.0 l respectively, and for the temporary pasture sheep – 21.22 l and 26.82 l, respectively, but the differences were not significant.

There were differences of milk yield of IS-1.5y., compared to the

26% - , -
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 (Stoycheva and Kirilov, 2014).
 .
 (8,2%)
 (8%),

IS-7/8m., regardless of the type of pastures. The milk yield of IS-1.5y. was 26% higher compared to that of IS-7/8m., regardless of the type of pasture for a period of 4 weeks.

his fact was due to the age of fertilization of the animals (Stoycheva and Kirilov, 2014). It was observed the inverse correlation between the milk yield and the content of fat. The proportion of fat in milk was significantly higher in IS-7/8. (8, 2%) compared to IS-1.5y. (8%), regardless of the type of pastures.

There were no significantly differences of protein, lactose and total solids content in milk of sheep grazing on temporary and natural pasture.

➤ 69% 80%
 ➤
 ➤ 26% - , -
 , 4
 ➤ (8,2%), -
 (8%),
 ➤

CONCLUSIONS

- The share of grasses ranged from 69% to 80% of the total grass composition for the natural and temporary pastures in the second year of vegetation.
- There were no significant differences in the milk production of sheep grazing on natural or temporary pastures in the second year of vegetation.
- The milk yield of IS-1.5y. was 26% higher compared to that of IS-7/8m., regardless of the type of pasture for a period of 4 weeks.
- The proportion of fat in milk was significantly higher in IS-7/8. (8, 2%) compared to IS-1.5y. (8%), regardless of the type of pastures.
- There were no significantly differences in protein, lactose and total solids content in milk of sheep grazing on temporary and natural pasture

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Past and Present of Pleven Blackface Sheep Breed

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SUMMARY

- Sheep Breeding is a traditional sub-sector of Livestock in Bulgaria, a resource for milk and meat production that enables socio-economic stability of rural areas. The Pleven blackface sheep breed is the second largest number of sheep from the milk breeds in Bulgaria. The aim of the present study is to analyze the current state of the breed and to determine the tendencies for its development based on the analysis of the dynamics of the breed development in the historical aspect.

- For this purpose an analysis of the breeding documentation was carried out using official statistics of the Breeding Association of Pleven Blackface Sheep Breed, Pleven. Official statistics of MZH, Agrostatics Department and State Agricultural Fund were also used.

- In order to follow the trends of breed development in historical aspect, a thorough analysis of publications, books, archives and data related to studies of the Pleven blackface sheep was carried out and the database was built on scientific and applied materials published from

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1929 to 2018. The main breeding purpose set in the Breeding Program is to protect it as a genetic resource, to overcome the risk of extinction and its pure breeding. The average daily milk of sheep under selection control during lactation period for the last 8 years is 0,714 to 0,893 l per day and the milk production for the period is from 85,7 to 107,1 l. Fertility of controlled herds is 110,1-117,2%. In recent years there has been an increase in the number of animals under selection control and an extension of the breed's range.

Key words: Pleven blackface sheep breed, selection, production

INTRODUCTION

Sheep Breeding is a traditional sub-sector of Livestock in Bulgaria, a resource for milk and meat production that enables socio-economic stability of rural areas.

In the 1980s sheep reached almost 11 million heads (FAOSTAT, 2018), but during the transition period from planned to market economy, due to the strong disintegration and chaotic liquidation of the cooperative farms, their number decreased more than 5 times.

In recent decades, a decrease in sheep numbers has been observed in other countries of the European continent, mainly in the Mediterranean, the Balkan Peninsula and the British Isles (Kirilov, 2007), but the sheep remain an integral part of the rural landscape.

Sheep breeding in Bulgaria as a mean of providing income and a means of using and maintaining grazing ecosystems are very well suited to the European agricultural programs.

The Pleven blackface sheep breed is the second largest number of sheep from the milk breeds in Bulgaria. And in the future, sheep milk will rely on the

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breeding of this unique genetic resource. Significantly, in this respect, the demand for breeding animals of this breed has increased significantly in recent years. Incentive to develop the breed and breeding of highly productive animals is the new support scheme for sheep under selection control, as entitled to additional payment farms are members of breeding organizations (DFZ, 2017). In addition, in EU directives on support for dairy farms, direct payments are distributed not only per heat but also according to the yield (per liter of milk), which stimulates farmers with larger farms (over 100 animals) to declare the milk produced.

As stated by representatives of MZH (2017) intention not to seek continuation of the derogation period for implementing the requirements for raw milk since 2015, accelerates the process of adapting to larger dairy farms to EU requirements. In the end of 2014, almost half of the dairy animals are on European requirements farms and receiving support as herds under selective control.

An incentive for the rearing of the Plevan blackface sheep is also the increased interest in sheep breeders from Romania, Greece, Macedonia and Turkey, which is about to turn it from a national to a regional attractive genetic resource.

The aim of the present study is to analyze the current state of the breed and to determine the tendencies for its development based on the analysis of the dynamics of the breed development in the historical aspect.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

In order to achieve the purpose, an analysis of the breeding documentation was carried out using official statistics of the Association for Breeding the Plevan Black-headed Sheep, Plevan.

Official statistics of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food (MZH), Agrostatics and State Agriculture Fund (DFZ) were also used.

A detailed analysis of publications, books, archives and data related to studies of the Pleven blackface sheep breed was carried out in a historical perspective and the database was built on scientific and applied materials published from 1929 to 2018.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The breed of Pleven blackface sheep (PBFS) has over 100 years of history. Its creation began in the years of the Ottoman slavery as a result of a purposeful section on milk production based on Tzigai sheep breed with a black head (Hinkovski *et al.*, 1979). A significant contribution to the establishment of the breed is the "State Clementina livestock" near the town of Pleven. It was founded in 1890 with the aim of improving livestock farming in the country and especially in Northern Bulgaria. During this period, the Pleven region was a very well-developed stock-breeding.

In this connection, the first breeding exhibition held in 1938 probably played a major role in the development of the breed and its distribution of the Pleven "Sir Market" (Andreev, 2016), who was also one of the greatest at that time in the Principality of Bulgaria. In 1895. an agricultural cattle-breeding competition is organized on this market, which is awarded prizes for distinguished animals.

It is believed that the PBFS is the highest achievement in the native selection in the past, with the creation of the breed going through three stages:
First stage. It covers the period from liberation until 1920-1921, when the owners then decided that the breed was excellent and did not need crossing.

70-	1970	80 120	<p>Orehovitsa and IF - Pleven, and at a later stage in Slatina and throughout the country. Selective tribal work is carried out by zoengineers and breeders, headed by Dr. Dimitar Georgiev. In the 70-years of the last century, five stations for the assessment of poppies and stalks were revealed in the country. In 1970, a station for the assessment of rams – milk direction was opened in the town of Pleven. In the station, rams are judged by progeny, tenderness and wool yield, percentage of milk fat from elite rams.</p>
26 kg.	1997-1998	1800-2100	<p>Here are produced from 80 to 120 elite male lambs for the needs of the breed in the whole country, taken as lambs from the farms with a live weight of 24 to 26 kg. As a result of this activity a generic linear structure of the breed was built. In the country in the breeding flocks are produced 1800-2100 male lambs for the needs of the country. Annually, all countries produced by the country are donated under the guidance of the heads of stations for the assessment offspring of rams. With the closure of the Station in 1997-1998 and the influence of other negative factors, the selection is transferred to the Department of Ovine Production, which is highly narrowed.</p>
1	2000	2006	<p>The breeding activity with the pride is restored with the establishment of the Association of Pleven Blackface Sheep Breed in 2000 with the chairperson Hristo Motov. From 2006 until now, the chairman is Dr Dimitar Georgiev.</p>
		8	<p>In the Table 1 is the number of sheep of PBFS controlled by the Association of Pleven Blackface Sheep Breed during the last 8 years. The breed is established in Central Northern Bulgaria, but it is evident from the Table that it is spread throughout the country. The largest number of sheep is controlled in the North Central and Northwest regions. The table also shows that the number of animals under selection control</p>
		2010	

2014-2015

(Hinkovski, 1979-1980; Konstantinov et al., 1984; Boikovski and Georgiev, 2005; Nikolov, 2007) –

kg
cm
2003).

(Konstantinov et al., 1984).

55-65% (Nedelchev,

increases from 2010 to 2014-2015, after which it remains relatively constant, at high levels to date. With the increase in the number of animals controlled, it can be argued that in recent years there has been a tendency to extend the range of breeding to the South-East and Southwest regions of the country.

Controlled animals have a typical Pleven blackface breed exterior (Hinkovski, 1979-1980; Konstantinov et al., 1984; Boikovski and Georgiev, 2005; Nikolov, 2007) – a well developed bone system, large, high, straight backbone. The head is large, with a straight or slightly convex nasal line, dry, black, with animals with a small white spot on the back. The head is without wool, the face is covered with short pigmented hairs.

The ears are black, large, standing most often down. The chest is narrow, deep, and the tail is long, thin and sacred. The legs are healthy, black. The violin is well developed with properly placed cycles.

The average live weight of ewes is 55-65kg, and for rams – 75-90kg. The wound is white, semi-open and starts from the back of the neck, and in some animals it does not cover the neck. The abdomen is low or no. The wool is homogeneous, coarse and rarely uneven (Konstantinov et al., 1984). Annually, sheep yield 3-4.5 kg semi-wool, 12-14 cm long and 55-65% yield (Nedelchev, 2003).

1.

Table 1. Number of Plevan Blackface Sheep Breed under selection control. Data of Breeding Association of Plevan Blackface Sheep Breed

		2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
North Central Region	Total number	5346	8839	11202	12373	13050	15037	12744	13639
	- /from them:								
	- /Ewe	4707	7156	9020	10268	11023	12843	8490	11031
	- /Rams	120	182	237	293	314	359	288	270
	- /f.lambs*	411	1460	1856	1755	1649	2167	3641	2256
- /m.lambs*	0	41	72	57	64	162	325	26	
Northwest area	Total number	6040	3628	462	533	585	1024	996	882
	- /from them:								
	- /Ewe	5179	3200	384	340	473	840	779	715
	- /Rams	105	64	12	13	15	26	18	24
	- /f.lambs	657	362	66	180	97	202	199	199
- /m.lambs	0	2		0	0	0	0	0	
Southwest region	Total number	189	461	779	661	525			250
	- /from them:								
	- /Ewe	45	352	639	563	434			217
	- /Rams	4	9	29	24	13			3
	- /f.lambs	40	361	108	74	78			32
- /m.lambs	0	0		0	0			5	
Southeast region	Total number	389	732	939	1285	2285	3786	3600	3997
	- /from them:								
	- /Ewe	370	635	792	1188	1671	3321	2535	3158
	- /Rams	13	13	19	27	46	89	76	122
	- /f.lambs	0	84	128	70	568	1126	989	817
- /m.lambs	0	0		0	0	3	0	2	
Northeast region	Total number				158	157	1516	1429	1601
	- /from them:								
	- /Ewe				120	120	1114	1070	1273
	- /Rams				3	2	20	22	34
	- /f.lambs				35	35	242	337	248
- /m.lambs				0	0	1	0	4	

*Abbreviations used - m.lambs - male lambs; f.lambs - female lambs.

- The Plevan blackface sheep is a breed for milk. Milk productivity of sheep in individual herds varies widely and is directly dependent on feeding and

(Boikovski and Georgiev, 2005).

(Mydrov, 1936; Hlebarov, 1940; Ivanov, 1942; Savov, 1948; Tachev, 1976; Hinkovski, 1979; Tzvetanov, 1989; Boikovski Georgiev, 2005; Vitkov, 1987; Nikolov, 2007, Lazarov, 2007).

(Kirilov et al., 2011; Kirilov and Simeonov, 2012; Simeonov, 2013; Todorov, 2013; Todorov and Simeonov, 2013; Stoycheva et al., 2014; Stoycheva, 2015).

(Dimitrov, 1986; Vitkov, 1987; Dimov, 1995, 1996; Petrova et al., 1998; Dzorbineva et al., 1998, 2002). Dimov (1996)

(Ganchev and Platikanov, 1929)

– 82,84 kg. Hlebarov (1940)

1936 150/ 185/ 203 –

237 . Ivanov (1942) 153,66 kg.

Savov (1948)

172 kg, – 150 194 kg. Georgiev (1990)

200- 2,5 3,5- 175,14

191,74 kg. Stoycheva (2015)

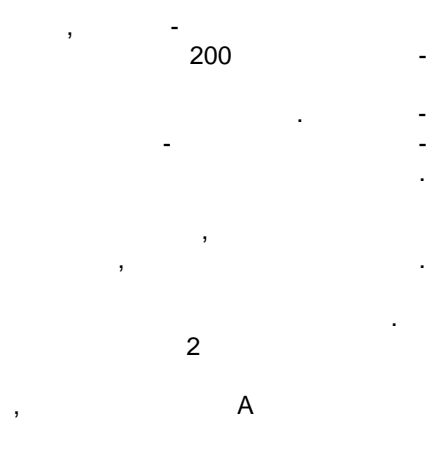
150 l 182

Nikolov (2007)

1986 . Georgiev (1989)

cultivation conditions (Boikovski and Georgiev, 2005). The milk mildew of Pleven blackface sheep has been the subject of many studies (Mydrov, 1936, Hlebarov, 1940, Ivanov, 1942, Savov, 1948, Tachev, 1976, Hinkovski 1979, Tzvetanov 1989, Boikovski and Georgiev, 2005; Nikolov, 2007, Lazarov, 2007). The methods used for raising milk are also studied (Kirilov et al., 2011; Kirilov and Simeonov, 2012; Simeonov, 2013; Todorov, 2013; Todorov and Simeonov, 2013; Stoycheva et al., 2014; Stoycheva, 2015). The quantitative indicators of PBFS milk and its cross-fertilizing milk have also been studied by many authors (Velev et al., 1984, Dimitrov, 1986, Vitkov, 1987, Dimov, 1995, 1996, Petrova et al., 1998; Dzorbineva et al., 1998, 2002). According to Dimov (1996) the constancy of lactation in Pleven blackface sheep is influenced by the effects of the flock, the type of the lactation curve and the beginning of the first control period.

In one of the first PBFS studies (Ganchev and Platikanov, 1929), they established an average milking rate of 82,84 kg. According to Hlebarov (1940), the average milking rate of controlled sheep in 1936 in the Pleven region ranged between 150 and 185 l with an average lactation period of 203-237 days. Ivanov (1942) indicates an average daily milk yield of 153,66 kg. According to Savov (1948), the average lactating milking rate of sheep from PBFS was 172 kg, varying in individual years from 150 to 194 kg. Georgiev (1990) found differences in breed for a 200-day lactation period at 2,5 and 3,5 years of age, respectively 175,14 and 191,74 kg. According to Stoycheva (2015) sheep milk production, with early weaned lambs of the Pleven blackface sheep, is 150 l for a 182-day lactation period. Summarizing the milk results of the controlled flocks, Nikolov (2007) found a tendency to reduce milk production in sheep after 1986. In a study by Georgiev (1989) it was found that the highest milk of the first



lactation for a 200 day lactation period showed animals from four genealogy lines. The ewes reach their highest average daily milk in the first month. There is progress in the sheep milk production resulting from the selection that has taken place. Similar dependencies were also observed with respect to average daily milk.

Table 2 presents the average milk yield of sheep, controlled by the Association of Pleven Blackface Sheep Breed.

2.

Table 2. Milk production of Pleven Blackface Sheep Breed. Data of Breeding Association of Pleven Blackface Sheep Breed

Year	Average daily milk, l	Lactating milk for 120 days
2010	0,893	107,1
2011	0,837	100,4
2012	0,787	94,4
2013	0,714	85,7
2014	0,833	99,9
2015	0,884	106,1
2016	0,863	103,6
2017	0,826	99,1

Over the last 8 years, average daily milk ranged from 0,714 to 0,893 l per day and 120 days of milk milking from 85,7 to 107,1 l. Over the period 2010-2013, there has been a reduction in milk production, but after that period it has been rising, keeping its relative values in recent years.

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Fertility is another major controlled indication in PBFS breed sheep. Table 3 shows the impregnation and fertility of the sheep under selective control. Biological fertility is determined in percent based on the ratio of the number of live-birgh to the number of sheep gave birth.

The average impregnation rate over the

8
94,65%,
114,38%.
Boikovski and Georgiev (2005),
e
1940-1941
97,4%.
93,66% 3,5
1981-1986,
93,70% 2,5
(Ivanov, 1935; Boikovski, 1995).

last 8 years is relatively high and is 94,65% and fertility averages is 114,38%. According to Boikovski and Georgiev (2005), fertility depends of nutrition. Over the years, the fertility of the sheep of this breed has not changed significantly. In 1940-1941, PBFS fertility rate was 97,4%. In 1981-1986, fertility rates were 93,70% at 2,5 years and 93,66% at 3,5 years age of old. Some authors establish a relationship between sheep age and their fertility (Ivanov, 1935; Boikovski, 1995).

3.

Table 3. Impregnation and fertility of Pleven Blackface Sheep Breed. Data of Breeding Association of Pleven Blackface Sheep Breed

Year	Impregnation, %	Fertility, %
2010	94,0	111,6
2011	92,6	110,1
2012	96,4	117,1
2013	95,2	111,0
2014	95,8	116,7
2015	93,6	117,2
2016	95,2	114,9
2017	94,4	116,4

Stoycheva and Kirilov (2014)
74,57% – 142,20%
(2003)
– 160-180
100
Savov (1948)
131%
161%. Metodiev (2012),
100-140%

Stoycheva and Kirilov (2014) found an average impregnation of 74,57% and a fertility of 142,20% in early pregnant sheep after a hormonal stimulation of the Pleven blackface sheep. According to Nedelchev (2003), the fertility rate for PBFS is higher - 160-180 lambs from 100 ewes. According to Savov (1948) fertility in PBFS varies from 131% to 161%. According to Metodiev (2012), fertility is genetically determined and in the majority of sheep breeds it is 100-140% and is a major factor determining the economic efficiency in sheep breeding regardless of the productive strand.

In general, the development of the Pleven blackface sheep breed in recent years is not different from the general state of sheep breeding in the country. For this reason, the main breeding

(Todorov, 2007; Kirilov, 2007; Simeonov, 2013; Todorov et al., 2013; Todorov and Aleksandrov, 2013; Stoycheva, 2015).

purpose set in the Breeding Program is to protect it as a genetic resource, to overcome the risk of extinction and its pure breeding. Studies of population status, exterior characteristics, biological and economic qualities will provide guidance for selection and preservation of the breed.

It is also intended to increase the amount of milk obtained during the lactation period, which, in addition to long-term selection, in the short term involves the prolongation of the lactation period through early weaning of lambs, early fertilization of the sheep and the application of adequate feeding systems (Todorov, 2007, Kirilov, 2007, Simeonov, 2013, Stoycheva, 2015, Todorov *et al.*, 2013, Todorov and Aleksandrov, 2013).

To increase the efficiency of breeding and realization of the genetic potential of the breed in the phenotype, it is also necessary to improve nutrition, intensify fertilization and increase the number of lifetime lactations, improve breeding technology, etc.

The main work at this stage should be aimed at expanding the population size of Plevan blackface sheep in its natural range of distribution through extended reproduction of female and male lambs for breeding and creating new flocks. If possible, the size of the controlled portion of the population should be increased.

Inbreeding in flocks should be kept to a minimum by strictly following the contingency plans developed by the breeder specialists. In order to increase the competitiveness of the Plevan blackface sheep among the other sheep breeds in the country, combined methods of use must be applied based on its productive features: fertility, longevity, growth abilities, milk production.

CONCLUSIONS

It is clear from the analysis that the Pleven blackface sheep has a rich and dynamic history.

The main breeding purpose should be to protect the PBFS as a genetic resource, to overcome the risk of extinction and pure breeding.

The average daily milk production of sheep under selective control during the lactation period for the last 8 years is 0,714 to 0,893 l per day and the milk production for the lactation period is from 85,7 to 107,1 l.

Fertility of controlled flocks is 110,1-117,2%.

In recent years there has been an increase in the number of sheep under selection control and an expanding the range of the breed.

ú
8
0,714 0,893 l
85,7 107,1 l.
-
110,1-117,2%.

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Immobilization of proteolytic and amylolytic enzymes in a collagen carrier

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SUMMARY

- Collagen is one of the preferred natural carriers for enzyme immobilization because of its availability and structural characteristics. The fibrillar structure and the high degree of order in collagen fibers is a prerequisite for mechanical strength and elasticity. Collagen is resistant to most proteolytic enzymes, with the exception of collagenases.

- The aim of the study is to create a technology for immobilizing proteolytic and amylolytic enzymes in a collagen carrier and to determine the extent to which enzyme activity and stability are retained in the product series. Highly purified, water-soluble collagen, extracted from waste products of the meat and leather industry, is used as a carrier.

- A total of five variants of collagen products have been developed and experimented with by inclusion of the corresponding enzyme: papain, trypsin, alkaline protease, fungal α -amylase and bacterial α -amylase respectively. It has been found that the bioactive collagen matrices obtained are stable at room temperature, provide the catalytic stability

of the enzyme molecules involved therein and can be used in the food and pharmaceutical industry.

Keywords: collagen carrier, immobilization, papain, trypsin, alkaline protease, fungal -amylase and bacterial -amylase

INTRODUCTION

Large part of the farm animals are mainly grown for meat. Residues after the utilization of the meat are 60% - 70% of the carcass of slaughtered animals, of which about 40% are edible products (Ranganayaki and Srinivasan, 1999).

The residual amount of protein from the meat industry represents more than one-eighth of the total amount of protein in pure meat (Webster et al., 1982). After various technological processes, these by-products may be used. The market for protein hydrolysates is expanding and the technological and economic opportunities for their application are increasing.

In leather production, there are also tons of clippings that can be a source of high quality products such as collagen, gelatin and collagen hydrolyzate (Dong et al., 2008; Zhang et al., 2006).

Collagen is the main insoluble protein in the extracellular matrix and connective tissue of vertebrates. It accounts for 25% of all proteins in the body and is mainly found in the skin, bones, tendons, cartilage, etc.

At present, 46 different polypeptide chains are known to be involved in the construction of different collagen molecules. (Silvipriya et al., 2015). Depending on the combination, about 28 types of collagen are found, where different structures provide different biological functions (Heino, 2007; Gebauer et al., 2016). Of the known

60% - 70%
40%
(Ranganayaki and Srinivasan, 1999).
(Webster et al., 1982).
(Dong et al., 2008; Zhang et al., 2006).
25%
46
(Silvipriya et al., 2015).
28
(Heino, 2007; Gebauer et al., 2016).

collagen types, the most common and most relevant in industry is type I collagen. Its main building unit, the tropo-collagen molecule, is a triple helix comprising 3 polypeptide chains (two $\alpha 1$ and one $\alpha 2$).
(Nacheva, 2001; Hanachi, et al., 2015).

By using certain immobilization techniques, such as adsorption in a appropriate carrier, the application of a number of enzymes can be enhanced and optimized. The advantages of the method are not related to the more precise dosing and prolongation of the enzyme components, increasing their sustainability and storage stability (Mateo et al., 2007).

Collagen is one of the preferred natural carriers for the immobilization of enzymes because of its availability and structural characteristics. The compact fibrillar structure and the high degree of ordering in collagen fibers are a prerequisite for mechanical strength and elasticity. Collagen is also resistant to most proteolytic enzymes, with the exception of collagenases
The objective of the study is to develop a technology for the immobilization of enzymes in a collagen carrier and to determine the extent to which active enzymes created retains the activity and stability of the enzyme.

collagen types, the most common and most relevant in industry is type I collagen. Its main building unit, the tropo-collagen molecule, is a triple helix comprising 3 polypeptide chains (two $\alpha 1$ and one $\alpha 2$).

Collagen has specific properties such as fibrillar and porous structure, thermal stability, permeability and hydrophilicity, making it a biocompatible matrix for other biomolecules (Nacheva, 2001; Hanachi et al., 2015).

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MATERIAL AND METHODS

Materials:

- Type I collagen - (obtained by own technology from pork skin).
- Enzymes: Proteolytic Enzymes - Papain* (EH 3. 4. 22. 2) (Merck); Alkaline proteinase (EH 3.4.21.14) (Vetprom); *Trypsin* (EH 3.4.21.4) (Bulgaria);

:
- ()
(3. 4. 22. 2) (Merck);
(3.4.21.14) ();
(3.4.21.4) ()

(3.2.1.1) ();
 (3.2.1.1) ()
 :
 •
 1109-89 -
 "Sartorius"
 ;
 •
 103 / / - - G -
 "Seibold" -
 •
 •
 Anson.
 1min
 , 1µmol
 •
 "Hochvakuum-TG 16.50".

- *Amylolytic enzymes* - Fungal -amylase
 (EH 3.2.1.1) (Vetprom); Bacterial -
 amylase (EH 3.2.1.1) (Vetprom).
Methods of analysis:
 • *Moisture content* according to
 BSS 1109-89 – the method has been
 modified using the "Sartorius" electronic
 scale with infrared heating of the samples;
 • *Determination of the active acidity*
 (pH) of the pH-meter G-103 of "Seibold" -
 Austria
 • *Amylolytic activity*
 Amylolytic activity is expressed in units
 per gram. One unit of activity is the
 amount of enzyme that catalyses the
 hydrolysis of 1 gram of soluble starch
 under strictly defined standard conditions
 – temperature, time and pH.
 • *Proteolytic activity*
 Proteolytic activity is determined by a
 modified Anson method. One unit of
 proteolytic activity is that amount of
 enzyme which, for 1 min, converts the
 substrate casein into an amount
 corresponding to 1 µmol tyrosine under
 conditions and pH of the medium specific
 for the enzyme.
 • *Sublimation drying* - vacuum
 sublimation installation "Hochvakuum-TG
 16.50".

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

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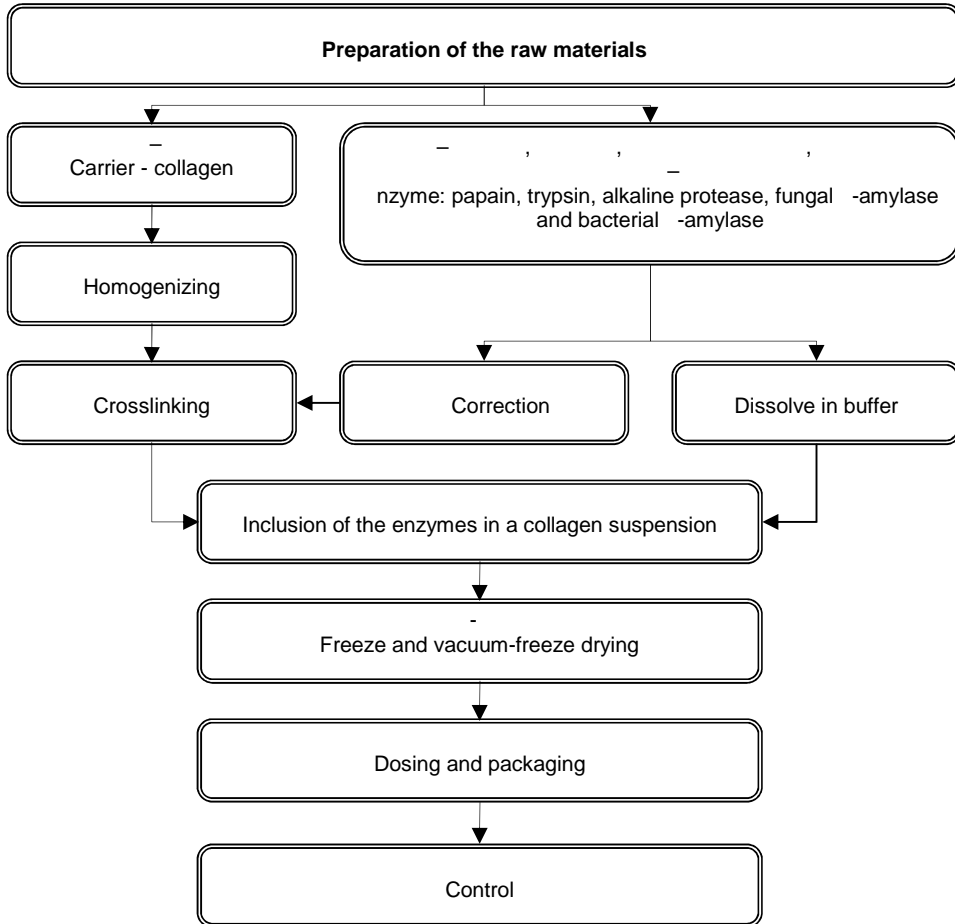
- A total of 5 variants of collagen
 - products with enzymes were developed
 - and experimented in the technological
 - testing process: Variant 1 – immobilized
 papain; Variant 2 – immobilized trypsin;
 Variant 3 – immobilized alkaline protease;
 Variant 4 – immobilized fungal -amylase
 and Variant 5 immobilized bacterial -
 amylase.
 The main criteria for selecting
 enzymes suitable for inclusion in the
 collagen carrier were structural stability,
 catalytic specificity, physiological
 - tolerance, affordability and low cost.

(Dyankova et al., 2011).

- As a carrier, collagen dispersion
 - obtained from an optimized by us
 - technology for the production of collagen
 - from waste products from the meat and
 - leather industry is used (Dyankova et al.,
 - 2011).

- Based on the experiments carried
 - out, a method for immobilizing enzymes in
 - a collagen carrier comprising the following
 - steps (Figure 1) is described.

(1).



. 1.

Fig. 1. Summarized technological scheme for the immobilization of the enzymes – papain, trypsin, alkaline protease, – amylase and bacterial – amylase, in a collagen carrier

Following the lyophilization process and preliminary rehydration of the experimental variants, enzyme activity and yield of immobilization were measured. Based on the activities obtained for each variant, a collagen product was defined as “% yield of immobilization”; The results are shown in Table 1.

1.
Table 1. Enzyme activity and yield of immobilization

Variants	Activity native enzyme U/g	Activity product U/g	Yield immobilization AY (%)
Variant 1	49130	1953,6	34,88±2,57
Variant 2	44390	1074	21,22±3,60
Variant 3	23370	680,7	25,52±1,79
Variant 4	8760,93	50,33	50,4±4,73
Variant 5	2065,14	9,15	38,88±2,17

Enzyme activity of all five collagen variants was reported. The analysis of the results showed a higher catalytic activity of the collagen variants with the proteolytic enzyme involved (variant 1, 2 and 3) compared to those containing amyolytic. Highest enzymatic activity was recorded in variant 1 - inclusion of trypsin in a collagen matrix (1953.6 U/g, respectively).

A factor that determines the sensitivity and stability of immobilization enzymes is the degree of complexity involved in the organization of their molecules. The five enzymes used are of different origins and amino acid composition, but their common is that their molecules are made up of one polypeptide chain.

Therefore, they have a stable secondary and tertiary structure and preserve their biological properties in the processing, including immobilization and vacuum -

sublimation drying.

The more precise criterion for determining the effectiveness of the immobilisation process is the "immobilization yield" indicator. The highest value for this indicator is reported in variant 4 (collagen film with immobilized fungal α -amylase). The type of carrier and the molecular structure of the enzyme molecules determine the amount of enzyme that may be incorporated therein. The lower percent "immobilization yield" is probably due to the weaker capacity for binding the corresponding enzyme to the collagen carrier.

Collagen as a carrier of a hydrocolloid nature, on the one hand, can be defined as an effective matrix for the incorporation of enzymes and, on the other, as a cryoprotector ensuring the preservation of the catalytic properties of the enzymes that we have experimented with.

The good adsorption capacity and the high porosity of the lyophilized collagen sponges enable them to incorporate various active ingredients. The presence of multiple reactive functional groups in the collagen molecule allows the formation of stable and chelated complexes with the incorporated enzyme components.

The cryoprotective effect of collagen is due to its collagenous properties, i. e. the ability to bind water more effectively than traditional cryoprotectors - sucrose, trehalose, amino acids, etc. Thus, the colloid water is increased and the amount of frozen water is reduced, resulting in a lower eutectic temperature.

This effectively overcomes the negative impact of the freezing process on the native structure of the enzyme molecules.

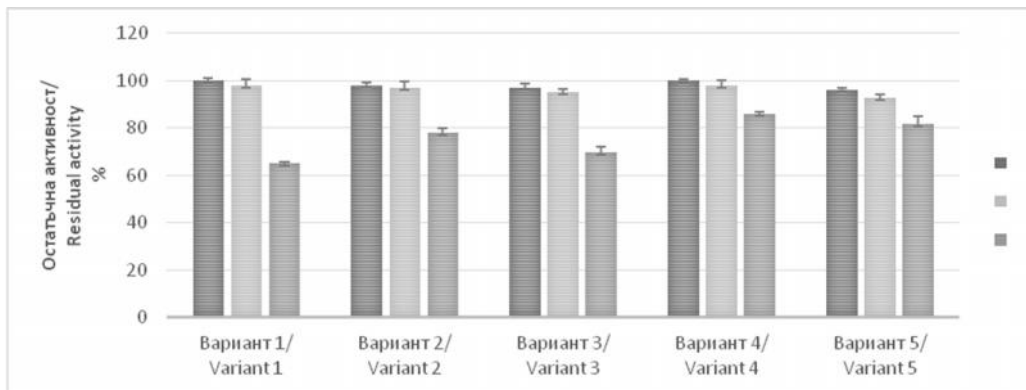
Therefore, the lyophilized collagen matrix has a protective effect and stabilizes the

structure of the enzyme involved therein.

The stability and change in residual activity of the freeze-dried test variants in the storage at room temperature were monitored.

The residual enzymatic activity of the lyophilized samples was examined periodically after 6 and 12 months of storage and calculated as a percentage of the value of this indicator reported immediately after their production.

The results of the analysis of the enzymatic activity of the test variants on storage are presented graphically in Figure 2.



2. Residual storage enzyme activity (\pm SD)

A high level of enzyme activity and catalytic stability of the test specimens in the storage process has been reported. Characteristically, even at room temperature, enzyme activity remains above 90% of the initial value for 6 months storage.

Of all the experimental variants, the most complete preservation of enzyme activity for 12 months was observed in collagen products with an amyolytic enzyme involved (variants 4 and 5). A slightly lower percentage of

12

12

1, 2 3 60 75%

6%, . .

residual activity after 12 months was reported in the immobilized proteolytic enzyme variants, most likely due to partial autolysis and inhibition of a portion of the enzyme molecules. It is known that immobilized enzymes create sterile limitations and reduce the mobility of enzyme molecules.

Therefore, the proteolysis process is severely restricted by immobilization compared to a native enzyme preparation stored under the same conditions, which is a prerequisite for collagen products incorporating proteases to retain their enzymatic capacity even during prolonged storage. This is also confirmed by the outcomes obtained – the residual activity for variants 1, 2 and 3 is between 60 and 75% after 12 months of storage.

A significant influence on the behaviour of lyophilized products during storage is the moisture content indicator. This index affects the microbiological and biochemical resistance of the freeze dried materials as well as their rheological and structural properties.

In our variant samples, the residual moisture content is below 6%, i.e., in standard norms, which explains the high percentage of residual enzymatic activity after the lyophilization and storage process. Existence of a higher percentage of moisture can initiate a process of denaturing enzyme molecules in the final products.

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the technological studies, 5 variants of biologically active collagen products were obtained.

The bioactive collagen matrices thus formed with immobilized proteolytic and amyolytic enzymes have structural and microbiological stability in the storage process and are suitable for use in

various fields of the food and pharmaceutical industry.

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