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E-mail: * k.kaneva@iae-bg.com, ** v.stoychev@iae-bg.com

Problems of dairy farming efficiency in mountain areas

Krassimira Kaneva*, Vassil Stoychev**

Institute of Agricultural Economics, Tzarigradsko shosse Blvd., Bl. 1, 1113 Sofia, Bulgaria

SUMMARY

- Accession of Bulgaria to the EU has resulted in an expansion of areas with commodity crop products and decrease in number of animals and livestock production.
- This trend requires along with support of CAP to develop specific national support mechanisms, so as to ensure the sustainability of farms.
- The aim is to perform analysis, draw conclusions and make recommendations for solving the problems of efficiency in the farms with dairy cows and sheep based on location – mountain, flat and less favoured areas.
- Economic efficiency is measured by a system of indicators reflecting yield of livestock, cost of production and profitability of the farms.
- Data have been used from FADN, MAF and FADN, Brussels. The farms are grouped according to size of main herd. The efficiency is measured according to

FADN,

2012 .

- survey of FADN, MAF for 2012. The analysis includes only those groups that have holdings in mountain areas.
- Graphically presented are productivity, cost and profitability of farms with dairy cows and sheep; the cost structure in cattle and sheep farms; net income with and without subsidies.
- Tabulated are presented cost, net income and economic net income per ton of milk compared to selected EU countries.
- A comparison of productivity, cost and profitability of the farms in groups is made. Conclusions are formulated about the impact of subsidies on the net income and efficiency of beef and sheep farms, compared according to the area of planning.

Key words: dairy livestock, mountain areas, subsidies, economic efficiency

INTRODUCTION

- Accession of Bulgaria to the EU has resulted in an expansion of areas with commodity crop products and decrease in the number of animals and livestock production.

- At present in structure of the gross production, crop production takes up to 70% and 30% share for livestock.

- Among EU countries, only Romania and Greece have a higher share of crop production (72-74%) and ratio crop-livestock for EU average is 55:45.

- Indicated trend requires,

70%,
30%.

(72-74%),

55:45.

- along with total support under the CAP for dairy farms to develop specific national support mechanisms so as to guarantee sustainability of agricultural holdings, in order to ensure increased production of competitive animal products.

The purpose of this paper is to perform analysis, draw conclusions and make recommendations for solving efficiency problems in dairy farms with cows and ewes.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

- Economic efficiency is measured by a system of indicators reflecting livestock productivity, cost of production and profitability of the farms.

- Productivity indicators of animals for milk and natural growth per 1 cow/sheep and value of Gross output (GO).

- GO is a generalization measure of the received heterogeneous products in dairy farms. It reflects changes in both quantitative production volumes and prices. In this study is used GO in value.

- In order to determine the cost of production is used a ratio of production costs to gross production.

- For cow's milk the cost is pointed

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out per 1 ton of milk.

- The yield of the farms is measured by the amount of Net income (NI) and the Rate of return (ROR) with and without subsidies.
 - Increasing the share of subsidies in NI is an indicator of decreasing efficiency of farms activity and lower returns on investment costs reflected in ROR.

- Investigation of various sources of subsidies for holdings enables the assessment of the impact of particular subsidizing instruments on efficiency of the farms.

- Data used from FADN, MAF and FADN, Brussels for 2007-2013 period. For the purposes of this study efficiency for 2012 is determined by location of the farms - in flat and less favoured areas (LFA) in mountains and other regions.

- The farms are grouped according to size of main herd. In the analysis are included only those groups that have holdings in mountain areas. For cows this is the group with herd size from 10 to 50, while for ewes from 10 to 300.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

- Productivity, costs and profitability of farms with dairy cows and sheep for 2007-2013

2007-2013

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2007

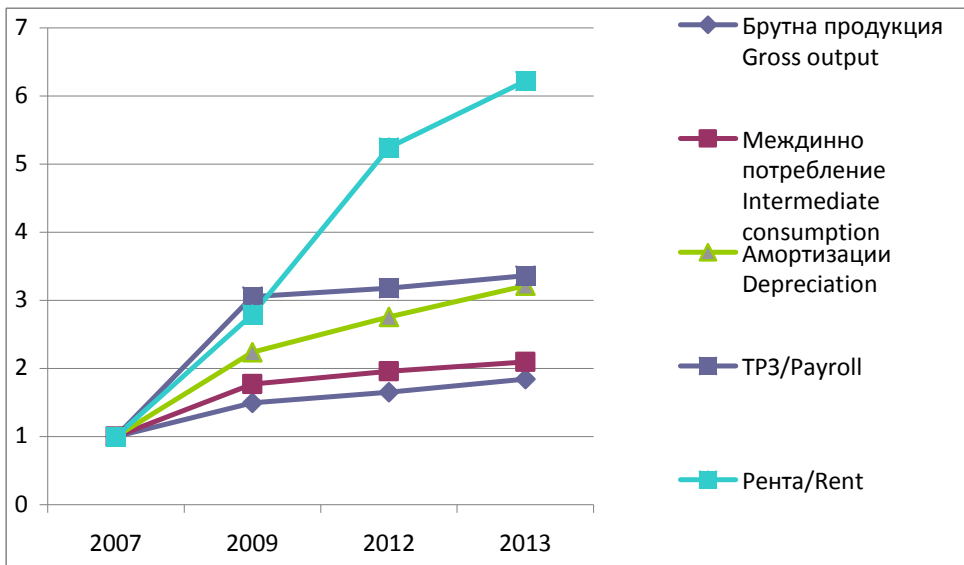
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2009

period

Figure 1 and 2 show the increase in GO after 2007 on average per farm as a result of increase in size of farms and rising prices of agricultural products.

At the same time expenses comprising the cost of production² rose by a higher rate than GO. The most notable increase is in rent payments, over 6 times. This is clearly a result of increase in direct payments per 1 unit area. Labor costs also increased but at much slower pace after 2009.



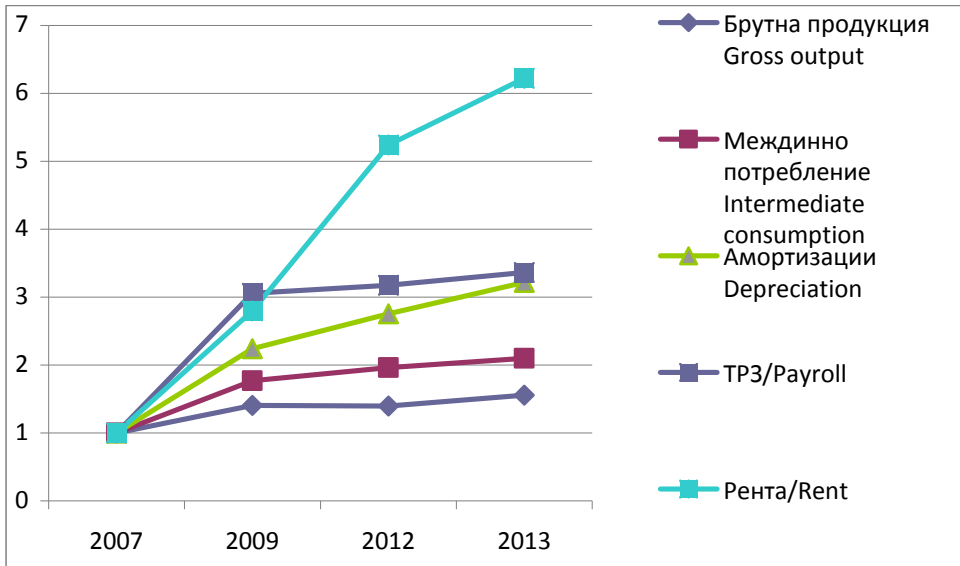
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Fig. 1. Dynamic of GO and expenses for dairy farms with cows

/Source: FADN, EC, Brussels

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² The cost of production is defined as total expenses are divided by quantity of production in kilograms or GO. Total costs are the sum of the cost of intermediate consumption, depreciation, labor, rent and interests.



. 2.
Fig. 2. Dynamic of GO and expenses for farms with ewes
 /Source: FADN, EC, Brussels

4). () 100
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 2007
 1.7

In the cost structure of expenses principal share occupies intermediate consumption. Its value is determined by value of feeding forage and other specific livestock expenses. Therefore changes in the cost of production essentially follows the change in intermediate consumption (Figure 3 and 4).

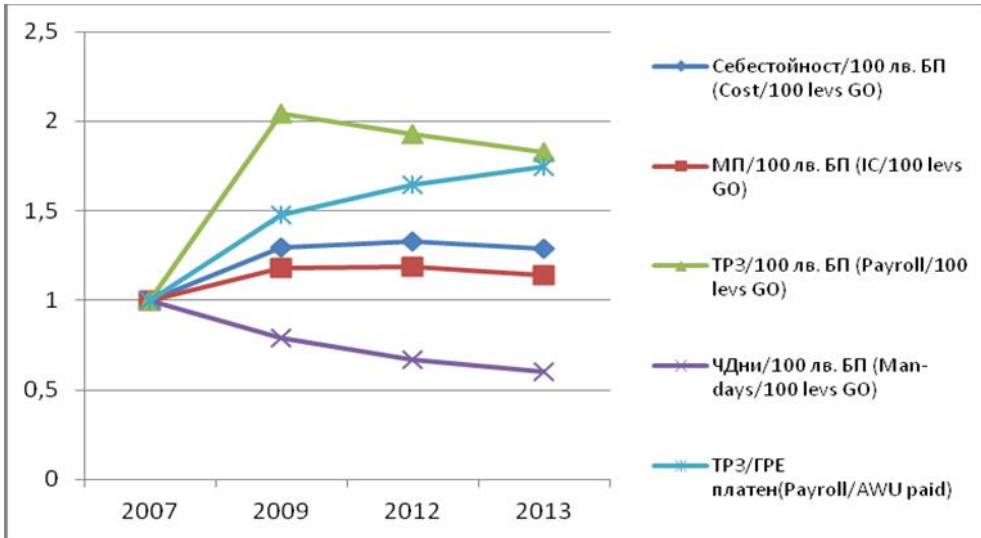
Significant decrease in live labor (days) per 100 levs of GO while keeping the total AWU (permanent employees). This means that with the same number of employees is obtained bigger output and its labor intensity decreases.

At the same time expense for wages increased three times compared to 2007 and the amount paid for AWU grew 1.7 times in

- both sectors. The predominant
- family unpaid work in sheep-breeding and lower wage levels lead to keeping the cost per 100 levs of GO compared to 1.3 times increase for dairy cows.

100

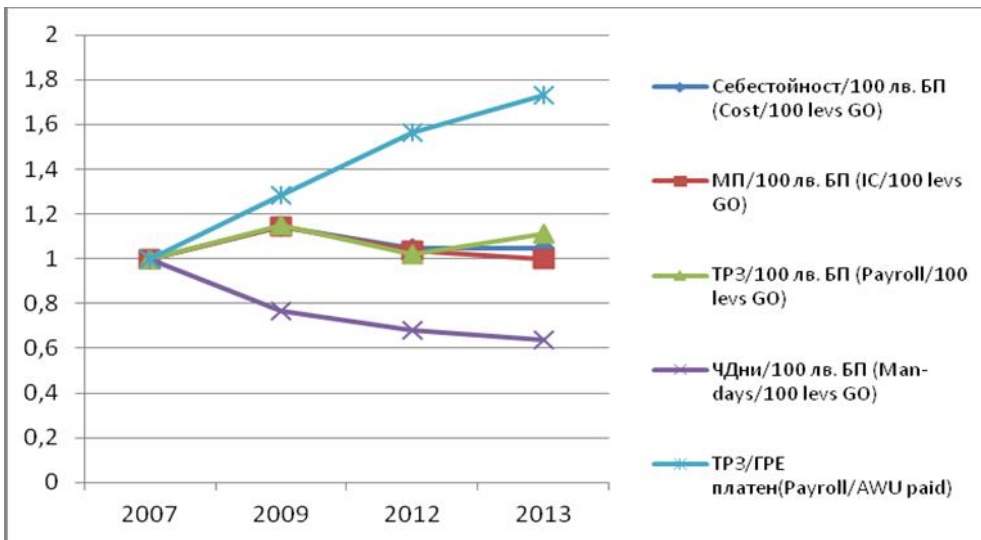
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Fig. 3. Cost of Gross output for farms with dairy cows

: , / Source: FADN, MAF



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Fig. 4. Cost of Gross output for dairy farms with ewes

: , / Source: FADN, MAF

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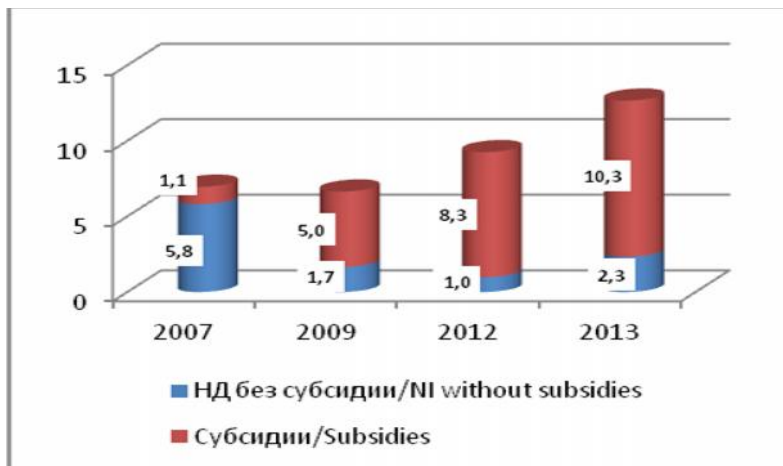
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2013

Relatively higher proportion of cost in the GO of farms with dairy cows leads to lower Net income (NI) compared to farms with ewes. In 2013 farms with dairy cows have on average 12.6 thousand levs NI. The main source are received subsidies (Figure 5). NI without subsidies decreased 2.5 times compared to 2007, while the amount of subsidies increased 9 times.



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Fig. 5. Net income with and without subsidies for farms with dairy cows

/Source: FADN, Brussels

30%,

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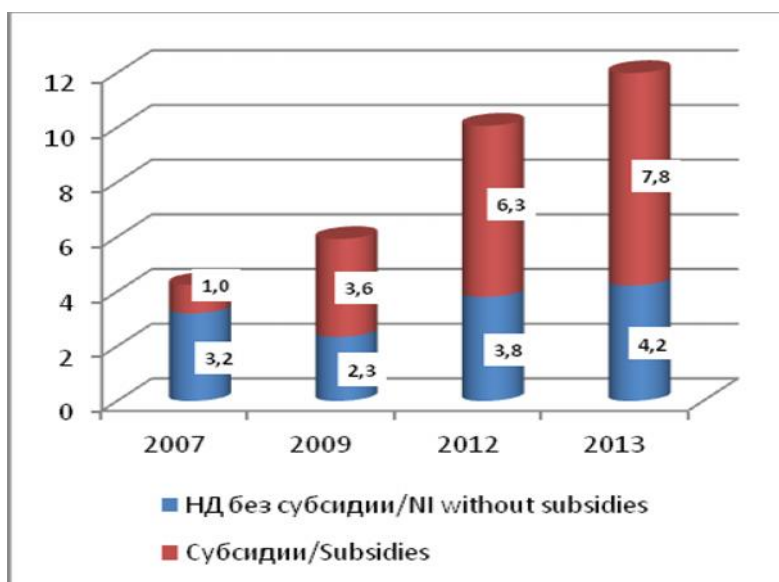
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In the farms with ewes NI without subsidies increased by 30%, but subsidies form a net income two times higher due to a higher growth rate, nearly 8 times. This trend leads to equation of NI with subsidies compared with those farms with dairy cows, at 12 thousand levs (Figure 6).



6. Fig. Net income with and without subsidies for dairy farms with ewes

/Source: FADN, Brussels

1. An idea about the cost, NI and economic net income per ton of milk gives information in Table 1.

1.

Table 1. Cost per ton of cow's milk in Bulgaria and selected EU countries, levs

| | Bulgaria | Hungary | Czech Republic | Romania | Italy |
|--------------------------------|----------|---------|----------------|---------|-------|
| - / Dairy cows - LU | 14 | 36 | 139 | 4 | 45 |
| . - ha / Crop area per LU - ha | 0.61 | 1.23 | 1.85 | 0.72 | 0.48 |
| - kg/ / Yield - kg/cow | 3,188 | 6,749 | 7,073 | 3,405 | 6,738 |
| / Price | 632 | 649 | 651 | 640 | 874 |
| Support, state aids | 47 | 51 | 16 | 0 | 4 |
| , / Costs, total | 618 | 808 | 819 | 346 | 575 |
| . . / Including material costs | 452 | 569 | 520 | 241 | 454 |
| a / depreciations | 53 | 61 | 84 | 78 | 70 |
| , , / labour, land, capital | 113 | 178 | 215 | 27 | 51 |
| Net income without support | 12 | -158 | -168 | 293 | 158 |
| Net income with support | 61 | -108 | -155 | 293 | 160 |
| , % | | | | | |
| ROR with support, % | 10% | -13% | -19% | 85% | 28 |

/Source: FADN, Brussels

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 (3 188 kg),
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- Noteworthy are several facts:
 - first, Bulgaria has the lowest
 - average cow milk yield per head in
 - the EU (3 188 kg), which
 - continues to decrease, second,
 - availability of forage crops area
 - per LSU in Italy, Spain and others
 - is lower than in Bulgaria but milk
 - yield is twice as high; third,
 , Bulgaria is among the few
 countries that provide state aid for
 production of cow's milk and the
 amount of such aid per ton of milk
 is higher than most except Finland
 and about the same as in
 Hungary; fourth, cow's milk in
 Bulgaria is with positive NI unlike
 the Czech Republic, Estonia,
 Slovakia, and the like countries
 incurring losses despite
 significantly higher productivity of
 herds; fifth, the trend is toward a
 significant increase in NI; sixth,
 around 90% of the quantity of milk
 is produced in the farms with
 positive gross income; seventh,
 economic net income is negative,
 but we should acknowledge that
 calculated cost includes only aid
 for milk, but no other subsidies
 farms with dairy cows receive.

- Finally, data for large farms in the
 - Czech Republic and Slovakia are
 - persuasive for the low efficiency
 - on such a scale.

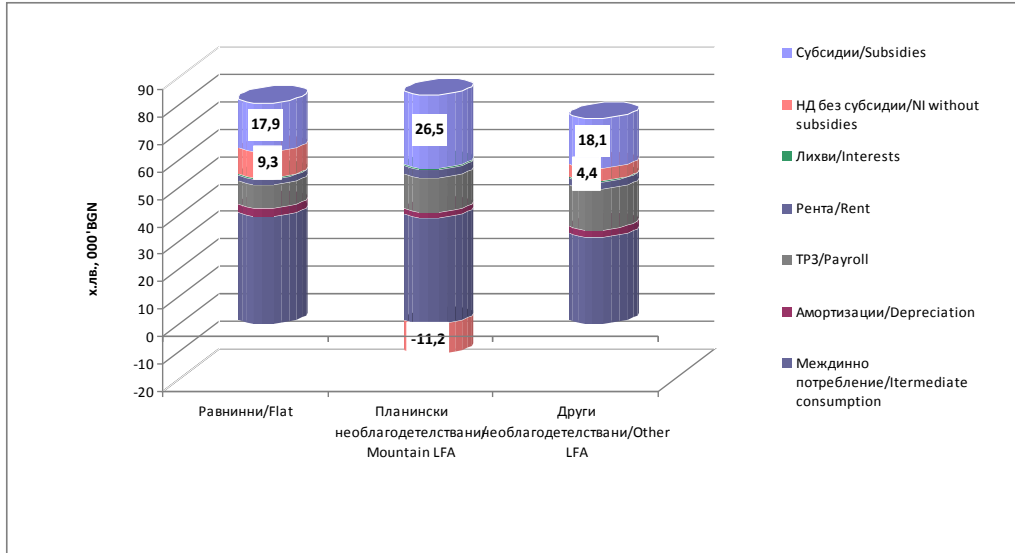
- Productivity, cost and
 - profitability of farms in groups
 - according to number of animals
 - and location

7

10-50

Dairy cows

On Figure 7 are presented farms with herd size from 10 to 50 cows in the three types of regions in Bulgaria.



7.

10-50

, 2012 .

Fig. 7. Structure of Gross output of farms with 10-50 dairy cows, 2012

: , , 2012 / Source: FADN survey, MAF, 2012

Holdings in mountain areas realize positive NI because the subsidies offset losses. The remaining NI per average farm is 15 thousand levs, which is enough for survival of the farms, but the opportunities for investments are limited. Holdings incomes in other disadvantaged areas occupy a place in the middle. They are higher than farms in mountain areas and lower than those in flatlands. The difference is in the range of 5-7 thousand levs per farm.

Subsidies are levelled for the farms in the flatlands and in other disadvantaged areas. The ROR and NI are the lowest in the mountain and highest in flatland areas (Table 2).

2. 10-50
Table 2 Costs per LU in farms with herd size 10-50 cows

| Regions | Average number cows | Average number LU | Costs per LU, levs | NI with subsidies per LU, levs | Subsidies per LU, levs. | % ROR with subsidies, % | % ROR without subsidies, % |
|--------------|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| Flat lands | 27 | 35 | 1 524 | 777 | 511 | 51% | 18% |
| Mountain LFA | 22 | 29 | 1 958 | 526 | 913 | 27% | -20% |
| Other LFA | 23 | 31 | 1 681 | 727 | 584 | 43% | 9% |

: , , 2012 / Source: FADN survey, MAF, 2012

Ewes

The most efficient farms are from 10 to 300 ewes in size in the mountain areas, due to significantly higher subsidies they receive compared to farms in the flatland areas. NI with subsidies on average per farm in mountain areas is nearly twice as high (25 thousand levs), while without subsidies farms in flatland areas receive NI three times higher (Figure 8).

In other LFA farms in that group realize NI whose only source are subsidies, without these the group would not have survived.

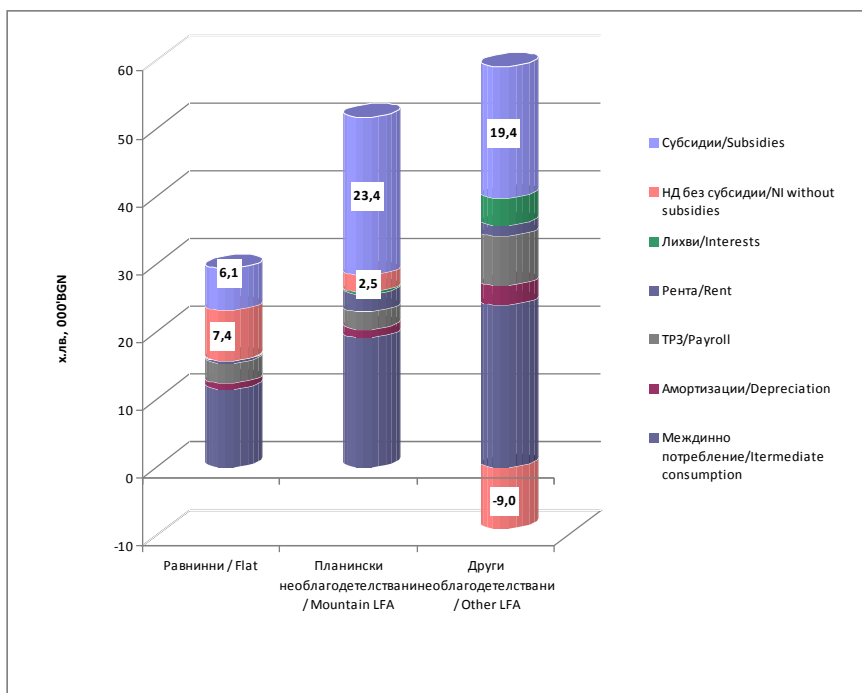


Fig. 8. Structure of Gross output of farms with 10-300 ewes, 2012
 Source: FADN survey, MAF, 2012

The ROR of farms in flatland areas shows they make better use of resources than other groups because with a significantly lower amount of subsidies and NI they have a relatively high yield (Table 3).

Table 3. Costs and incomes per LU in farms with herd size 10-300 sheep

| Regions | Number of farms | LU | Costs (BGN) | Incomes (BGN) | Net Income (BGN) | Costs (%) | Incomes (%) |
|------------|-----------------|----|-------------|---------------|------------------|-----------|-------------|
| Flat lands | 126 | 19 | 827 | 712 | 322 | 86% | 47% |
| Mountain | 136 | 20 | 1292 | 1297 | 1169 | 100% | 10% |
| Other LFA | 164 | 25 | 1588 | 414 | 776 | 26% | -23% |

Source: FADN survey, MAF, 2012

Sources of subsidies for farms with dairy cows and ewes

Accession to the common

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 2007
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 2007

European market has led to a deterioration in the competitiveness of Bulgarian agriculture. The survival of the farms is possible only with support from CAP and national budget. Figure 9 and 10 show the increase of the main groups of subsidies compared to 2007. As for cows, they increased 6.5 times and 9 times for sheep. Very significant is subsidization under RDP, especially for sheep that in 2007 did not receive such a support.

Attention deserves significant share of "other support" for cows which exceeds the share of subsidies for animals. It is necessary the other support cost to be analyzed further and to be reduced. In that group are usually placed minimal costs whose values are not monitored separately.

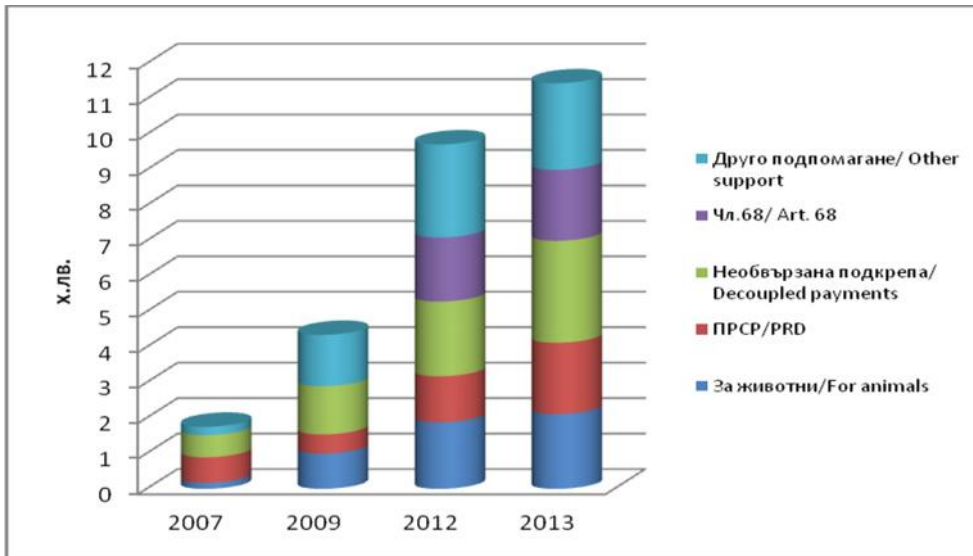
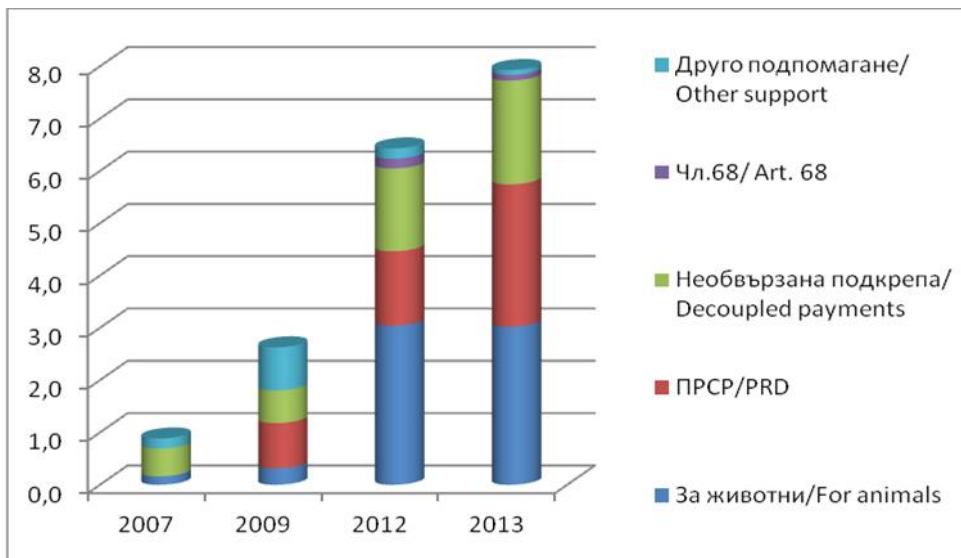


Fig. 9. Current subsidies for farms with dairy cows, thousand levs
 /Source: FADN, Brussels



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Fig. 10. Current subsidies for farms with ewes and mother-goats, thousand leva
 /Source: FADN, Brussels

CONCLUSIONS

- Efficiency of farms with dairy cows without subsidies decreased compared to 2007. Net income grew as a result of the accelerated rate of increase of subsidies, despite extremely low average milk yield.
- In addition to national payments, farms with dairy cows receive subsidies from a number of other sources as the first pillar of CAP and RDP. National payments per ton of milk in our country are higher in comparison with the majority of EU member states. Accumulation of subsidies in the farms makes it difficult to assess the effect of each support mechanism separately.

- Holdings with dairy cows located in mountain areas realize lower net income compared to other regions, although subsidies on average per holding are higher.

- Farms with ewes located in the mountain regions have a positive net income without subsidies. Due to significantly higher amount of subsidization especially relative to farms in flatland areas, they realized the highest net income, which reached the level of cattle farms.

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 *E-mail: gercho_g@abv.bg

Chemical composition and biological value of milk protein of Tsigai and Karakachanska sheep breeds and lamb meat of their F1 crossbreeds with Awassi

Gercho Gerchev^{1*}, Nikolina Naydenova², Snezhana Slavkova¹,
 Gyurga Mihaylova²

¹ Research Institute of Mountain Stockbreeding and Agriculture, 5600 Troyan, Bulgaria

² Trachian University, 6000 Stara Zagora, Bulgaria

SUMMARY

The aim of the present study is to

- found the chemical and biological value of milk protein of Tsigai and Karakachanska sheep breeds and lamb meat obtained from their F1 crossbreeds of Awassi. The milk yield was studied of two groups of ewes of Tsigai and Karakachanska breeds with crossbred lambs of Awassi, after lambing until two months old. The quality parameters of milk and meat were found, as well as their amino acid composition.

It was found that the milk of Karakachanska sheep breed had higher values of dry matter (<0.05), protein (<0.05) and NCP (<0.01) and caseine. There was a tendency for a higher percentage of dry matter and protein in the sample of lamb meat of Karakachanska crossbreeds, taken from m. Longis. Dorzi.

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 (<0.05),
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 m. Longis. dorzi,

66.9 74.6%
85.1%

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82.9

87.9 97.4%,
- 89.8 91.6%.

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The milk of Karakachanska sheep breed had a higher percentage of aspartic and glutamic acid, as well the cyclic group of amino acids, such as tyrosine and histidine. The content of amino acids in the meat of both groups of lambs had similar values, with the exception of amino acids, such as phenylalanine, arginine and tyrosine, which had higher values in Karakachanska meat.

Higher was the percentage in milk protein of monoaminodicarbonic acids, which were involved in nitrogen exchange of cells, while in meat monoaminomonocarbonic had priority, including the essential sulphur-containing and aromatic amino-acids.

The chemical index of milk and meat for both groups of sheep was relatively high, as it constituted respectively 66.9 and 74.6% for milk and 82.9 and 85.1% for meat of F1 crossbreeds, due to higher concentration of methionine and cysteine in the respective product. Biological value of milk, obtained from sheep, was respectively 87.9 and 97.4%, and for meat from F1 crossbreeds was 89.8 and 91.6%.

Key words: milk, meat, chemical composition, amino acids, biological composition

INTRODUCTION

The amount of milk proteins and their amino acid composition are well studied in different animal species. Differences among species in protein amount and the chemical composition are influenced by nutritional requirements of small animals, the differences in the postnatal growth rate, the stage of maturity, the body composition at birth, the influence of environment etc.

1995).

(, , 2006)

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The interest in milk protein is associated with their biological and nutritional value or the nitrogen retention degree in their body (Gachev, 1995). Comparing the amino acid composition of milk from Karakachanska and Tsigay sheep breed (Mihailova et al., 2006) found a higher content of proline, valine and isoleucine, as well as a higher biological value of the first breed.

Meat proteins also serve as an important source of energy and essential amino acids for humans but at a later stage of their lives. The quality of meat largely depends on protein digestibility because proteins must be broken down to amino acids or small peptides in order to pass through the intestinal wall and to enter into the blood stream.

Little is known about the effect of oxidation of proteins from meat and their absorption (Santé-Lhoutellie et al., 2008). According to Hofman et al. (2001), the content of amino acids in meat does not depend on the area of breeding and sex of the animals.

The aim of the present study is to found the chemical and biological value of milk protein of Tsigai and Karakachanska sheep breeds, and lamb meat obtained from their F1 crossbreeds of Awassi.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The survey was conducted with two groups of sheep with lambs from Tsigai and Karakachan sheep flocks of RIMSA - Troyan. Each group included 6 male lambs, F1 crossbreeds of Awassi breed with their mothers, evenly matched in weight and type of birth. Live weight of lambs was registered at birth and every 15 days until the end of the trial. Mothers were barn raised and pasture breeding during the months after lambing, as they were fed with harsh fodder in the morning, and they were grazing during the day. The experimental period lasted 78 days. At the end of the experiment, 3 male lambs were slaughtered from both groups for analysis. From each slaughtered animal were taken meat samples form *m. Long. dorzi* to study its quality indicators.

Lambs were fed with a starter mixture after the seventh day, consisting of: corn, sunflower meal (SM 33%), wheat, wheat bran, soybean meal (SM 46.5%), chalk, supplements and premixes. The nutritional value of the starter mixture is: dry matter – 89.7%, crude protein – 16.49%, fat – 2.13%, crude fiber – 7.2%, ash – 6.71 calcium – 1.19%, phosphorus– 0.49%, manganese – 0.21%, sodium – 0.34%.

During the suckling period, a control of milk yield of ewes was conducted. The basic chemical

composition of milk was determined by Milko-skan 133B.

Milko-skan 133B.

FoodSkan.

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(Amino Acid Analyzer T 339M Mikrotehchna-Praha),

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Statistika for Windows (Release. 4.3. Stat. Soft. Inc., 1994).

The data obtained were processed using variation statistical methods Statistika for Windows (Release. 4.3. Stat. Soft. Inc., 1994).

- Studies on quality characteristics of the meat samples according relevant indicators were performed on apparatus FoodSkan.

- To determine the amino acids to the total protein of milk and meat was used the principle of ion exchange column chromatography. For this purpose, the sample treated by acid hydrolysis with 6 n hydrochloric acid solution at 110 °C for 24 hours. Dissolving of residue was carried out in buffer with pH 2.2. Sulfur-containing amino acids (methionine and cysteine) were determined after oxidation of the sample with a mixture of hydrogen peroxide and performic acid. Separation of the individual amino acids (except tryptophan) was performed on Aminoanalizer (Amino Acid Analyzer T 339M Mikrotehchna-Praha), and their quantity was estimated by their elution volume and standard mixture.

The data obtained were processed using variation statistical methods Statistika for Windows (Release. 4.3. Stat. Soft. Inc., 1994).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

- Milk of Karakachanska sheep breed had higher values of dry matter (<0.05), NCP (<0.01) and caseine (Table 1). There was the same tendency for the content

(<0.05), (<0.05), (<0.01)

(1).

of dry matter and protein in meat of crossbreeds – they had higher values as compared with the meat of Tsigai crossbreeds.

1.

Table 1. Chemical composition of sheep milk and lamb meat

| /Breed | /Milk | | | | /Meat | |
|-------------------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------------|------------|
| | Dry matter % | Protein % | Caseine % | NCP % | Dry matter % | Protein % |
| | X+Sx | X+Sx | X+Sx | X+Sx | x+Sx | x+Sx |
| Tsigai I /group | 15.93+0.43 | 5.25+0.13 | 4.00+0.22 | 1.35+0.01 | 23.56+0.74 | 20.59+0.45 |
| Karakachanska II /group | 17.83+0.57 | 5.89+0.25 | 4.45+0.26 | 1.49+0.04 | 23.93+0.45 | 20.75+0.62 |

2.

<0.05

<0.01

(p>0.05).

et al. (2007).

Storcksdieck

- Data for the average values
 - of amino acid composition of milk protein for both groups are shown
 - in Table 2. The milk proteins of Karakachanska sheep breed had a higher content of aspartic and glutamic acids, respectively at p <0.05 and p <0.01 compared with Tsigai sheep breed.

- The values of threonine, alanine, leucine and isoleucine in milk of Karakachanska sheep breed were significantly higher. It is known that the two amino acids – aspartic and glutamic acids improve brain function.

- Moreover, the same amino acids are in the composition of ferruginous peptides (Storcksdieck et al., 2007).

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Table 2. Amino acids in sheep milk and lamb meat

| Amino acids % | /Milk | | /Meat | |
|------------------|--------------|---------------|--|---|
| | Tsigai | Karakachanska | F1 Tsigai F1 crossbreeds of Awassi | F1 Karakachanska F1 crossbreeds of Awassi |
| | ± S | ± S | 1 /group ± S | 2 /group ± S |
| Aspartik acid | 0.386±0.020 | 0.446±0.011* | | |
| Threonine | 0.222±0.013 | 0.239±0.007 | 2.02±0.06 | 2.03±0.05 |
| /Serine | 0.217±0.005 | 0.229±0.006 | 0.70±0.03 | 0.73±0.06 |
| Glutamic acid | 1.143±0.074 | 1.441±0.035* | 0.40±0.04 | 0.43±0.06 |
| /Proline | 0.512±0.029 | 0.503±0.029 | 4.22±0.21 | 4.06±0.07 |
| /Cysteine | 0.061±0.002 | 0.071±0.003* | 1.06±0.08 | 1.13±0.03 |
| /Glycine | 0.099±0.001 | 0.086±0.019 | 0.21±0.03 | 0.22±0.02 |
| /Alanine | 0.224±0.007 | 0.242±0.006 | 1.01±0.07 | 1.02±0.13 |
| /Valine | 0.406±0.016 | 0.467±0.029 | 1.36±0.05 | 1.31±0.03 |
| Methionine | 0.080±0.013 | 0.077±0.005 | 1.12±0.04 | 1.15±0.06 |
| Izoleucine | 0.288±0.005 | 0.320±0.010* | 0.39±0.04 | 0.40±0.04 |
| /Leucine | 0.471±0.032 | 0.491±0.036 | 1.01±0.03 | 1.08±0.04 |
| /Tyrosine | 0.227±0.005 | 0.261±0.006** | 1.79±0.04 | 1.78±0.03 |
| Ph nylalanine | 0.254±0.012 | 0.265±0.015 | 0.46±0.02 | 0.57±0.04* |
| Histidine | 0.183±0.007 | 0.282±0.015** | 0.82±0.03 | 0.91±0.03 |
| /Lisine | 0.425±0.025* | 0.316±0.037 | 0.78±0.08 | 0.65±0.15 |
| /Arginine | 0.200±0.006 | 0.267±0.025* | 2.02±0.09 | 1.98±0.06 |
| /Total | 5.398 | 6.03 | 1.27±0.04 | 1.34±0.07 |
| | | | 20.64 | 20.79 |

*p<0.05; ** p<0.01

(2006)

The percent of glycine (amino acid) in milk was higher in Tsigai breed without proven reliability, while methionine values were close in both sheep groups. The latter is involved in synthesis of complex lipids and choline. The cystine content in milk of Karakachanska breed was reliably proven. Our results of amino acids were higher than those reported by Mihailova et al. (2006) for Tsigai and Karakachanska Tsigayski sheep breed, with the exception of the glutamatic acid. The same authors reported

0.170mg%
0.113 mg%,
- 0.184
- 0.118

al. (2012)
mg/g
108.1, 72.4 71.9
Sabahelkheir et

- significantly higher values for sulphur-containing amino-acids in milk of Tsigai and Karakachanska sheep breed, respectively methionine – 0.184 and 0.170mg% and glycine – 0.118 and 0.113 mg%, which we believe is due to the composition of the pastures on which the animals are kept.

- Amino-acids, such as leucine, isoleucine and valine, are in the composition of proteins and have an important biological significance for the animal organism. Differences between groups were minimal, but Karakachan sheep breed had a priority. Our data are much higher than those established by Sabahelkheir et al. (2012) in sheep milk – respectively 108.1, 72.4 and 71.9 mg / g was the total amino acids amount. The cyclic group of amino-acids, tyrosine and histidine fulfill a functional role in the body, such as tyrosine is involved in the synthesis of thyroid hormone, and it stimulates metabolism and functioning of the nervous system. Their content was higher in the milk of Karakachanska sheep breed, while the phenylalanine (amino acid) was similar for both breeds.

- Lysine and arginine are basic amino acids, since they contain two amino groups and one carboxylic, they serve the nuclei of cells of the animal organism, as they are mainly responsible for

e
 -
 -
 -
 -
 -
 (1986) (8.30 7.77 g/100g).
 (1986) (571 mg/100g)
 (206 mg/100g).
 (2002) (19.03 g/l).
 2.

proper growth and bone formation.
 Arginine (amino acid) strengthens the immune system and acts as a vasodilator of blood vessels. The value of lysine in milk of Tsigai sheep was higher, as arginine was higher in Karakachanska sheep.
 Our results, regarding the content of lysine, are significantly lower than those of Tanev et al. (1986) in sheep from dairy breeds (8.30 and 7.77 g/100g).
 Aleksieva et al. (1986) summarized closer to our values for lysine (571 mg/100g milk) and arginine (206 mg/100g milk).
 Our results for the individual amino acids in sheep milk from both studied groups were higher than the results of Stancheva (2002) in a high milk yield sheep population (19.03 g/l).
 The average content of the amino acid composition of meat of crossbred lambs is shown in Table 2. It shows that the values among different amino acids are similar in content and there is no reliable/significant difference. More substantial differences were established in histidine (amino acid) in meat of Tsigai crossbreeds compared to Karakachanska sheep, but the difference is not enough to register reliability of results. Similar results were seen in the amino acids in

the meat of Karakachanska crossbreeds, with respect to phenylalanine, arginine and tyrosine, wherein the reliability was taken into account only at the last amino acid at $p < 0.05$.

Despite the differences in the content of amino acids in milk, these differences are reduced when are turned into meat, which means that the increase in muscle becomes in a certain way and only certain amino acids are used, regardless of what is accepted as food.

Differences between groups of amino acids into milk of Tsigai and Karakachanska breed and minor (Table 3).

3.

Table 3. Amino acid groups in sheep milk and lamb meat

| Amino acid group % | /Milk | | /Meat | |
|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| | Tsigai | Karakachanska | F1 | F1 |
| | | | Tsigai F1 crossbreeds of Awassi | Karakachanska F1 crossbreeds of Awassi |
| | 1 /group | 2 /group | 1 /group | 2 /group |
| | $\pm S$ | $\pm S$ | $\pm S$ | $\pm S$ |
| Essential / | 3.521 \pm 0.092 | 4.099 \pm 0.167 | 12.02 \pm 0.58 | 12.13 \pm 0.41 |
| / Non-essential | 1.769 \pm 0.084 | 2.002 \pm 0.129 | 8.62 \pm 0.39 | 8.68 \pm 0.49 |
| / MAMC | 1.385 \pm 0.060 | 1.470 \pm 0.052 | 9.27 \pm 0.74 | 9.60 \pm 1.07 |
| / MADC | 1.529 \pm 0.094 | 1.886 \pm 0.047 | 6.24 \pm 0.27 | 6.10 \pm 0.12 |
| / DAMC | 0.625 \pm 0.031 | 0.678 \pm 0.062 | 3.29 \pm 0.06 | 3.32 \pm 0.06 |
| / CAA | 0.695 \pm 0.035 | 0.785 \pm 0.044 | 1.84 \pm 0.08 | 1.78 \pm 0.08 |

- / MAMC – monoaminomonocarmonic amino acids
- / MADC – monoaminodicarmonic
- / DAMC – diaminomonocarmonic
- / CAA – ciclic amino acids

The amount of essential amino acids (EAA's) in milk is higher than that of the nonessential amino acids (NAA). The highest was the content of monoaminodicarmonic acids

(),
 (),
 ().
 3
 28.5% ()
 ()
 (),
 ()
 ().
 Santé-
 Lhoutellier et al. (2008)
 (, 1995).
 4

(MADC), followed by monoamino-
 monocarbonic (MAMC) and cyclic
 amino acids (CAA), and the lowest
 was the content of diaminmono-
 carbonic (DAMC).

Table 3 reflects the content
 of amino acids by groups in the
 meat Tsigai and Karakachansa
 crossbred lambs. In both groups,
 the quantity of essential amino
 acids (EAA's) is greater by 28.5%
 compared with that of the
 nonessential amino acids (NAA).
 Unlike milk, the amount of
 monoaminomonocarbonic acids
 (MAMC) in meat is the highest,
 followed by monoaminodicarbonic
 (MADC), diaminomonocarbonic
 (DAMC) and the lowest is the
 amount of cyclic amino acids
 (CAA). Differences between
 groups were minimal and
 unreliable. Santé-Lhoutellier et al.
 (2008) showed that high levels of
 amino acids with carboxylic groups
 are due to the concentrate for
 animal nutrition.

For biological value of a
 product is judged by comparing
 the established in the experiment
 results of amino acid composition
 with the so called "ideal amino
 acid scales", corresponding to the
 fully balanced amino acid protein.
 On this comparison is based the
 method of amino acid index
 (Gachev, 1995). Table 4 compares
 the values obtained for the
 different essential amino acids in

sheep milk and meat of the groups with reference values "ideal" and whole egg protein.

4.

Table 4. Biological value of sheep s milk protein end meat

| g/100 g / Essential amino acids, g/100 g / Total protein | /Referene pattern (FAO/WHO) | Whole egg protein | Milk of Tsigai sheep | / Index of milk, % | F1 (Meat of F1 sheep crossbreeds (Tsigai x Awassi) | / Index of meat, % | # Karakachaska sheep milk | / Index, % | F1 (Meat of F1 sheep crossbreeds (Karakachanska. x Awasi) | / Index, % |
|--|--------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|--------------------|--|--------------------|------------------------------|------------|---|------------|
| /Threonine | 4.0 | 4.8 | 4.11 | 102.5 | 3.96 | 99.01 | 3.96 | 99 | 3.51 | 87.8 |
| /Leucine | 7.0 | 8.8 | 8.73 | 124.7 | 8.67 | 123.9 | 7.81 | 111.6 | 8.56 | 122.3 |
| /Isoleucine | 4.0 | 6.7 | 5.36 | 134.0 | 4.89 | 122.3 | 4.78 | 119.5 | 5.19 | 129.8 |
| /Valine | 5.0 | 7.2 | 7.52 | 150.4 | 5.43 | 108.6 | 6.73 | 134.6 | 5.53 | 110.6 |
| /Methionine + /Cysteine | 3.5 | 5.2 | 2.61 | 74.6 | 2.90 | 82.9 | 2.34 | 66.9 | 2.98 | 85.1 |
| /Lysine | 5.5 | 6.2 | 7.87 | 143.1 | 9.78 | 177.8 | 7.05 | 136.4 | 9.52 | 173.0 |
| /Phenylalanine | 6.0 | 5.7 | 8.91 | 148.5 | 6.02 | 102.2 | 7.98 | 133.0 | 7.11 | 118.5 |
| /Tyrosine | | | | | | | | | | |
| /Tryptophane | 1.0 | 1.6 | | | | | | | | |
| essential amino acids | 36.0 | 46.3 | 45.11 | | 41.58 | | 40.65 | | 42.40 | |
| Chemical index, % | 100 | 100 | 74.57 | | 82.86 | | 66.86 | | 85.14 | |
| Biological value | | 97 | 97.43 | | 89.81 | | 87.80 | | 91.58 | |

” ”
+
+
+
- 74.57 %
- 66.86.
- 82.86%
85.14%

Milk in both groups of sheep is superior in content the "ideal" almost for all EAA's, total phenylalanine + tyrosine except methionine + cysteine. The chemical index in sulphur-containing methionine + cysteine is higher in milk of Tsigai – 74.57% against that of Karakachanska sheep – 66.86. For meat this index is significantly higher – respectively 82.86% in meat of crossbreed with a base of Tsigai

97%
 97.43 87.80%.
 89.81%
 91.58%

- ewes against 85.14% based on Karakachanska ewes. High levels of the chemical index are due to the feeding of sheep and lambs during the test period.

- Biological value of sheep milk obtained from Tsigai and Karakachan sheep, compared to egg protein, which is considered for 97%, respectively is 97.43 and 87.80%. Meat biological value is slightly below that of the benchmark/etalon, respectively 89.81% in meat of Tsigai crossbreeds and 91.58% in meat of Karakachanska crossbreeds.

CONCLUSIONS

(<0.05),
 (<0.01)
 m. Longis. dorzi,
 (<0.05),

- It has been found that the milk of Karakachanska sheep had higher values of dry matter (p <0.05), protein (p <0.05), NCP (p<0.01) and cazeine. In relation to dry matter and protein in samples of lamb meat taken from m. Longis. dorzi, is accounted a trend for higher rates in crossbreeds of Karakachanska breed.

- The milk of Karakachanska sheep breed had a higher percentage of aspartic and glutamatic acid, as well the cyclic group of amino acids, such as tyrosine and histidine. The content of amino acids in the meat of both groups of lambs had similar values, with the exception of amino acids, such as phenylalanine, arginine and tyrosine, which had higher values in Karakachanska meat.

| | | | |
|-------|---|------|-------|
| | I | II | |
| 66.9 | | | 82.9 |
| 74.6% | | | |
| 85.1% | | F1 | |
| | | | |
| | I | II | |
| 97.4% | | | 87.9 |
| - | | F1 | |
| | | | |
| | | 89.8 | 91.6% |

There was a higher percentage of monoaminodicarbonic acids in milk protein, which were involved in nitrogen exchange of cells, while monoaminomonocarbonic had priority in meat, including the essential sulphur-containing and aromatic amino acids.

The chemical index of milk and meat for both groups of sheep was relatively high, as it constituted respectively 66.9 – 74.6% for milk and 82.9-85.1% for meat of F1 crossbreeds, due to higher concentration of methionine and cysteine in the respective product. Biological value of milk, obtained by sheep respectively for I and II groups was 87.9 and 97.4%, and for meat of F1 crossbreeds – respectively 89.8 and 91.6%.

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*,
, 2232
*E-mail: sherry_bg@abv.bg

Research on some reproductive parameters in White New Zealand and Californian rabbit does

Krasimir Velikov*, Maya Ignatova

Institute of animal science, 2232 Kostinbrod, Bulgaria

SUMMARY

The aim of the present research was to determine the average duration of pregnancy, relative values of variants in each sequence (first, second, third, etc. pregnancy) and the amortization of does in Californian and White New Zealand rabbit breeds.

The object of research were 60 White New Zealand and 60 Californian does, raised in industrial conditions, which have thrown at least twice. The mean duration of pregnancy in the White New Zealand rabbit does was lower than in the Californian does. In over 65% of cases, the duration of pregnancy in both breeds lasted 31-32 days. In the White New Zealand does, the proportion of cases with 30 day duration of pregnancy was greater than that with pregnancy lasting 33 days for each sequence. The opposite was observed in the Californian breed. The amortization of the White New Zealand rabbit does was slower than that of the Californian rabbit does.

Key words: rabbit, Californian breed, White New Zealand breed, reproduction, duration of pregnancy, amortization

INTRODUCTION

- The optimal level of reproductive parameters was one of the ways for impact on economic efficiency of Rabbit breeding sub-branch. Some of them were exposed to influence by people via different mechanisms, but others are relatively constant, describing the species, such as duration of pregnancy

- As mean value of duration of pregnancy, Damyanova and Grigorov (1990) indicated 30 days with range of 28 to 33 days, while Grigorov (2005), Marinov et al. (2009) reported 30-32 days with range of 28 to 34 days.

- According to the same authors, the factors affecting gestation period, are the age of does and litter size, as the pregnancy period is longer, when litter size is smaller.

- Grigorov (2008) determined that gestation of Angora rabbits lasted from 30 to 33 days no matter breeding technology (outdoor or indoor).

- Most often, the pregnancy of does lasted 31 days (47.1% of indoor bred does and 39.3% of outdoor bred does).

(1990),
28 30
(2005), 28 33
(2009)
30 32
34
33
(), 47.1%
39.3%
31-

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>yyat Marai (1998)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ayyat and Marai (1998) - determined that mean gestation period in White New Zealand does in condition of sub-tropical climate of Egypt was within the range of 29.2 and 29.7 days, depending of the season. |
| <p>29.2 29.7</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A parameter, which could be affected by technology of breeding in rabbits, is amortization of does. - In professional rabbit breeding, intensive and semi-intensive reproductive cycle is used. Thus from 7-8 to 10 cycles a year is achieved (Grigorov, 2005, Marinov et al., 2009). |
| <p>10 2005,</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The duration of reproductive cycle is an important factor influencing amortization of does. higher productivity is awaited in a shorter reproductive cycle (number of birth rabbits for a year). |
| <p>7-8 ()</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In practice, however, in intensive and semi-intensive technologies, the does were replaced after 4.7 reproductive cycles (Xiccato et al., 2007), and about 50% of rabbit does were culled until weaning of their third litter (Rosell and De la Fuente, 2009). This rapid does amortization decreased economic efficiency of rabbit farm, because the breeding of new young does have made the production more expensive (Castellini et al., 2010). |
| <p>4.7 (Xiccato et al., 2007)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - - - - - |
| <p>(Rosell and De la Fuente, 2009).</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - - - - - |
| <p>(Castellini et al., 2010).</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - - - - - |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The aim of present study was to determine the mean duration of pregnancy in White New Zealand |

- and Californian does and the
- number of reproductive cycles for a doe in industrial conditions in Bulgaria.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

- The present study was carried out in the experimental rabbit farm of the Institute of Animal Science-Kostinbrod. It included 60 White New Zealand and 60 Californian rabbit does, which were selected with sole requirement – the does to be thrown at least twice.

- The does were naturally mated and the 1-st day of pregnancy was reported the next day. Usually, the mating was performed until 4 p.m. The does, which were thrown until 4 p.m. were recorded on present day, and those, thrown after 4 p.m. were recorded on the next one.

- The does were bred indoors, in individual cages with sizes 800/600/350. The does were fed with commercial pellets and had unlimited access to water provided by nipple drinkers.

- The data were statistically processed by Microsoft Excel 2003.

60
60

16

16

16

800/600/350 mm.

Microsoft Excel

2003.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

- Duration of pregnancy. The results for the duration of pregnancy were shown in Table 1.

1.

1.

($x \pm SD$),
()

Table 1. Mean ($x \pm SD$), minimal and maximal duration of pregnancy (days) in Californian and White New Zealand does

| Sequence of reprod. cycle | Californian does | | | | White New Zealand does | | | | Significance |
|---------------------------|------------------|-----|-----|------------|------------------------|-----|-----|------------|--------------|
| | n | min | max | Mean | n | min | max | Mean | |
| First | 60 | 30 | 33 | 31.53±0.93 | 60 | 29 | 34 | 31.17±0.87 | * |
| Second | 60 | 30 | 34 | 31.62±0.92 | 60 | 30 | 34 | 31.23±0.87 | * |
| Third | 49 | 30 | 34 | 31.74±0.89 | 50 | 30 | 33 | 31.30±0.74 | ** |
| Fourth | 25 | 30 | 33 | 31.84±0.90 | 42 | 30 | 33 | 31.29±0.64 | ** |
| Fifth-seventh | 33 | 29 | 33 | 31.72±0.98 | 49 | 30 | 33 | 31.33±0.72 | * |
| First – seventh | 227 | 29 | 34 | 31.66±0.92 | 261 | 29 | 34 | 31.26±0.78 | *** |

(Significance) P<0.001-***; P<0.01-**; P<0.05-*;

(mean) – (mean duration of pregnancy, days, $x \pm SD$),
min. – (minimal duration of pregnancy, days);
max. – (maximal duration of pregnancy, days);

178.65±54.54 ,

168.83±41,23 .

31.66

The age of first insemination of does in Californian breed was 178.61±54.54 days, and in White New Zealand does was 168.83±41.23 days.

The mean duration of pregnancy in Californian does was 31.66 days. Mostly, the gestation period in them lasted 32 days, but

32 ,
 -
 -
 31- 32-
 -
 -
 (1.5%).
 -
 30 33-
 -
 -
 ,
 -
 33- (+9%),
 30- .
 -
 29 34 (1).
 ,
 -
 -
 -
 -
 -
 - 31.26 .
 a a
 (<0,001).
 31-
 ,
 32- ,
 20%.
 ,
 - 30 ,
 33 (1).
 (2005)
 . (2009),
 (1990)

the distribution of 31- and 32- day variants was similar (the difference was less than 15%).

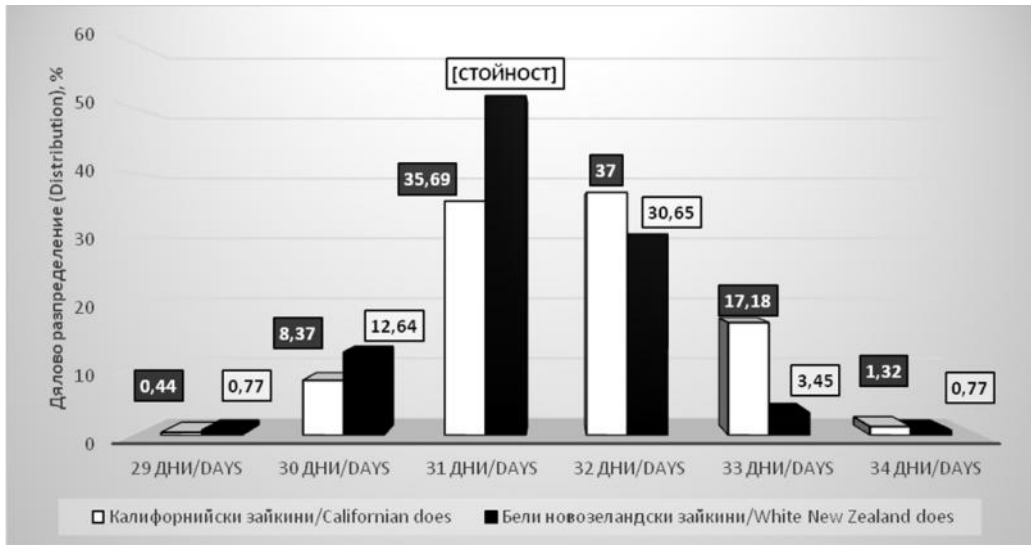
Californian does threw more often on the 33rd day (+9%) than on the 30th day.

They were observed unimportant parts of pregnancies lasted 29 and 34 days (Figure 1).

The mean duration of pregnancy in White New Zealand does was shorter than Californian– 31.26 days. The difference between the mean values of the trait in both breeds was significant ($P < 0.001$)

For most of them, the pregnancy lasted 31 days. It overtopped 32-days duration of pregnancy with over 20%. In White New Zealand does, the duration of pregnancy lasted more often 30 days, than 33 days (Figure 1).

Our results support these of Grigorov (2005) and Marinov et al. (2009), but they disagree with results, published by Damyanova and Grigorov (1990) about mean gestation period.



. 1.

Fig. 1. Distribution of duration of pregnancy from first to seventh reproductive cycle in Californian and White New Zealand rabbit does

1.14% -

(<0.05).

Nulliparous Californian does had longer gestation period (+1.14%) than White New Zealand does ($P < 0.05$).

Some differences were observed in the data of nulliparous rabbit does in both breeds.

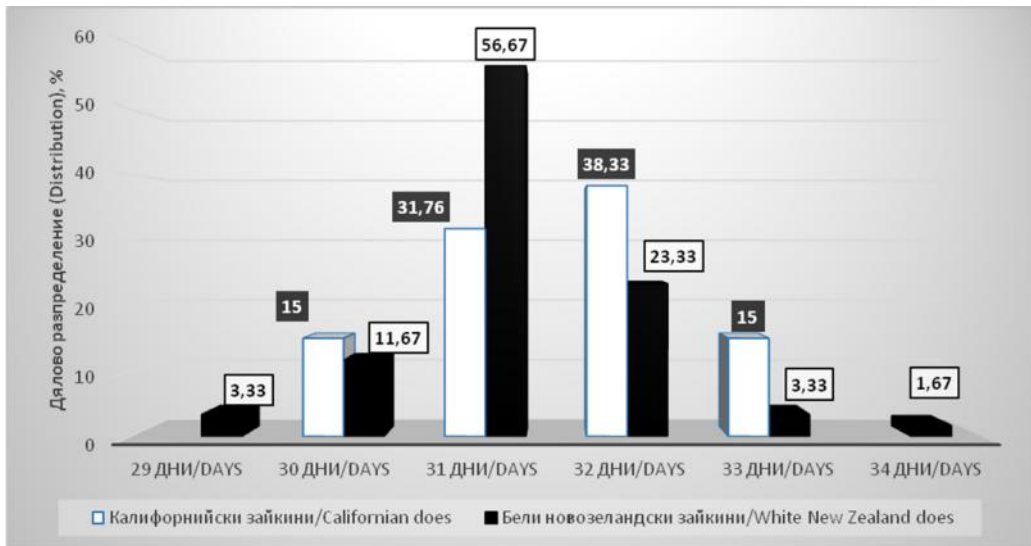
32
Mostly, gestation period in Californian does lasted 32 days, and in White New Zealand does – 31 days.

30 33
15%),

In Californian does the distribution between gestation periods of 30 days and 33 days was both 15%, whereas White New Zealand does have thrown more often on the 30th day (+8.34%).

30
 8.5% -
 33-
 29- 34- (2).

Besides, in the nulliparous White New Zealand does we observed more variation. Although a small percentage, there were animals given birth at 29th and 34th day. them, a 29- and a 34-days gestation periods have been observed (Figure 2).



. 2.

Fig. 2. Distribution of duration of pregnancy in nulliparous Californian and White New Zealand does

0.4 -
 (<0.05).

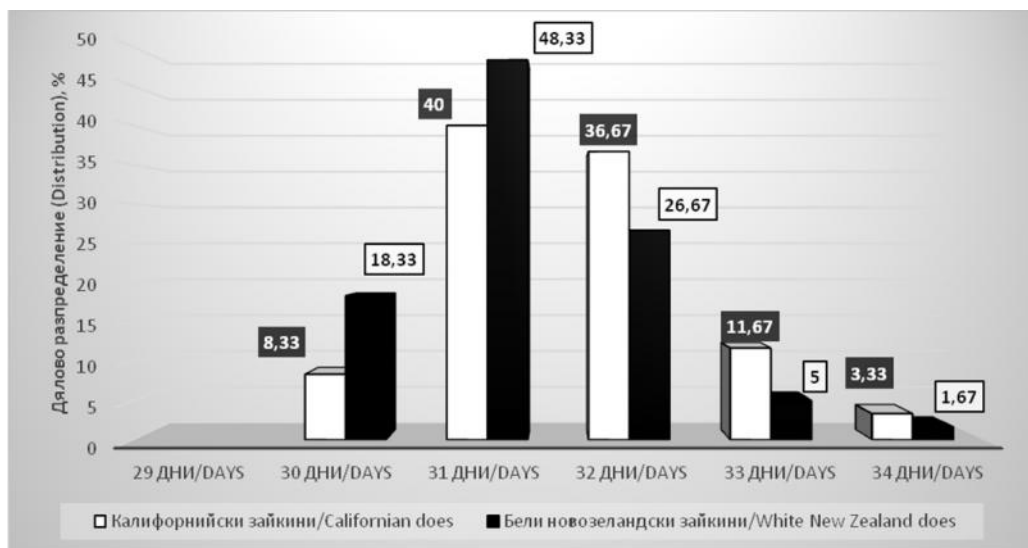
The mean duration of pregnancy in primiparous Californian does was 0.4 days longer than that of White New Zealand rabbit does ($P < 0.05$).

31 -
 Mostly, the gestation period in primiparous does of both breeds lasted 31 days. In Californian does, difference between the most common variants was negligible (3.33%), whereas in White New

) (31 32
(3.33%),
31-
-
30- 33-
(3).

Zealand does – twice as many does threw on the 31-st day.

The female primiparous rabbits of White New Zealand breed threw more often on the 30th day than on the 33-rd day, and in Californian does – opposite (Figure 3).



. 3.

Fig. 3. Distribution of duration of pregnancy in nulliparous Californian and White New Zealand does

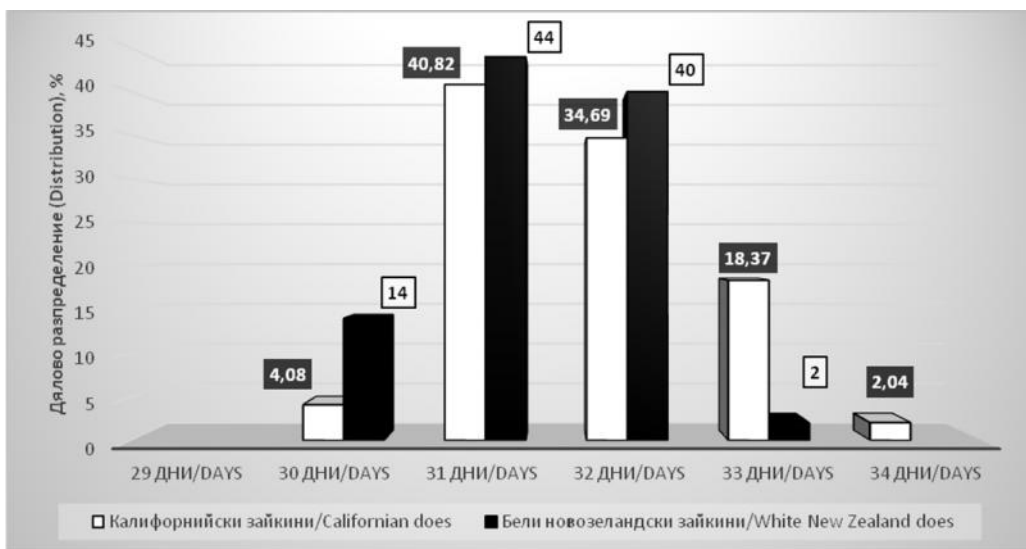
31.74 ,
31.30
(<0.01).
31 32

The mean duration of third pregnancy in Californian does was 31.74 days, and in White New Zealand does - 31.30 days. The difference between values of both breeds was statistical significant (P<0.01).

In White New Zealand does, the number of does, thrown on the 31-st and 32-nd days was similar.

31- (40.82% vs. 34.69%).
 30- 33-
 33 (+14%),
 30- (+12%, 4).

In Californian does, predominated gestation period was that of 31 days (40.82% vs. 34.69%). The similar distribution of variants of 30 days and 33 days as the first sequence was remained. More often, Californian does have thrown on the 33rd day (+14%), and White New Zealand does – on the 30th day (+12%, Figure 4).



. 4.

Fig. 4. Distribution of duration of third pregnancy in Californian and White New Zealand rabbit does

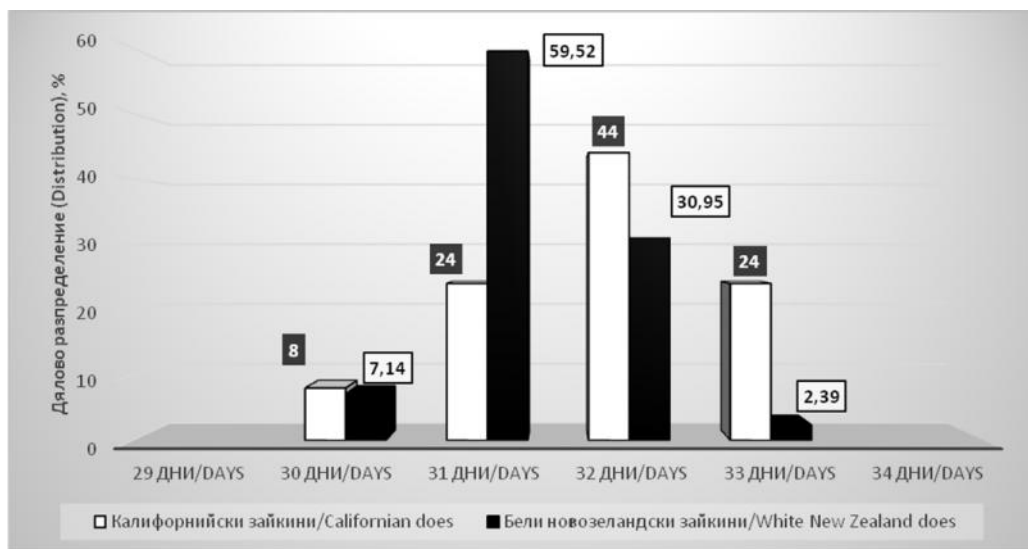
1.73%
 (<0.01).
 31-

The mean duration of the fourth pregnancy in Californian does was with 1.73% longer than those of White New Zealand does (P<0.01).
 t the fourth pregnancy in both breeds the tendencies we observed were confirmed.
 The fourth pregnancy lasted 31 days in White New Zealand does

(+20%),
32 (+ 20%).
30 33-
33- 30-
(5).

(+20%) and 32 days in Californian does (+20%)

As regards variants of 30 and 33 days, more often the gestation period in Californian does lasted 33 days, and in White New Zealand does – 30 days (Figure 5).



5.

Fig. 5. Distribution of duration of fourth pregnancy in Californian and White New Zealand rabbit does

31.72 ,
– 31.33 (<0.05).

Due to the insufficient number of does with five - seven pregnancies, we considered these values together.

The mean duration of the fifth-seventh pregnancy in Californian rabbits were 31,72 days, and in White New Zealand does - 31,33 days (P <0.05).

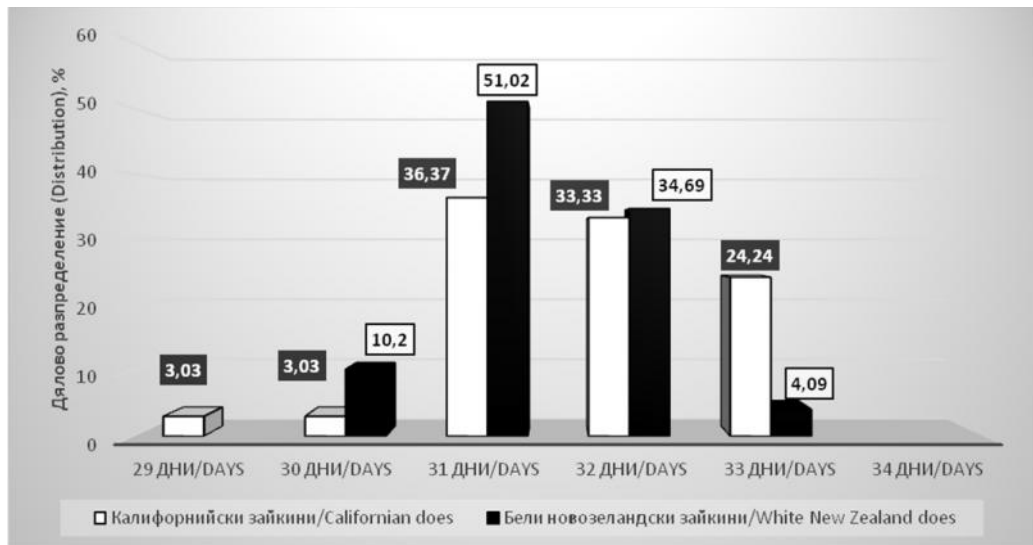
31 32-

(+16%).

30 33

(6).

- After comparing results, we
- determined that, there was no
- significant difference between the
- distribution of 31- and 32-day-
- duration of pregnancy in
- Californian does. In White New
- Zealand does, such a difference
- was observed (+16%). About 30-
- and 33-day gestation period, it
- was observed the same
- depending as previous sequences
- (Figure 6).



. 6.

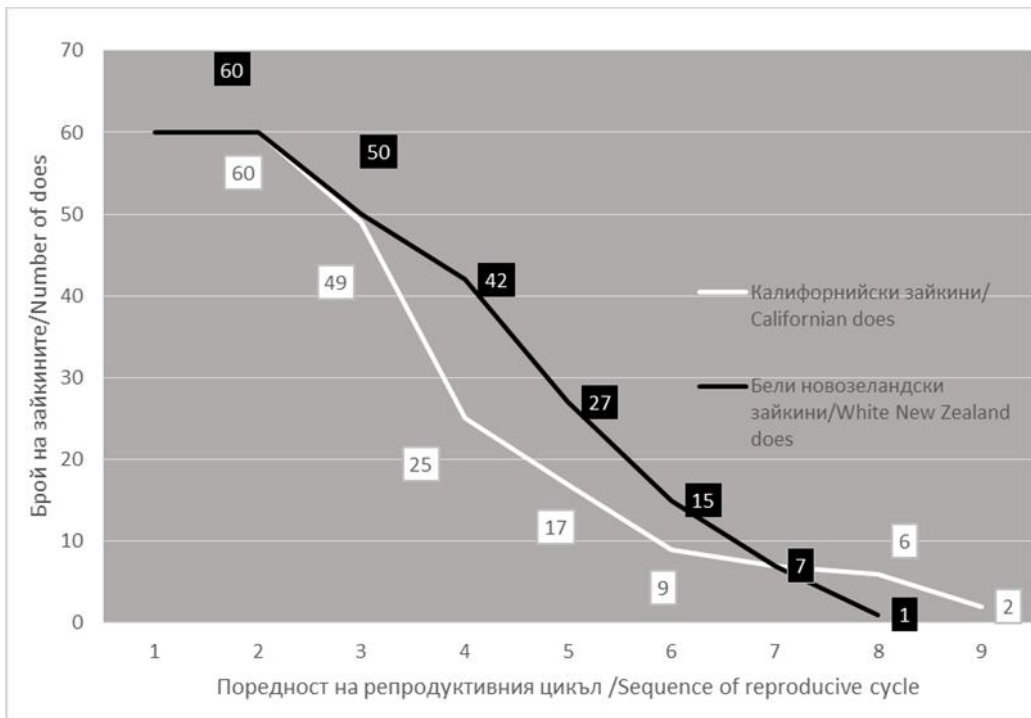
Fig. 6. Distribution of duration of pregnancy from fifth to seventh reproductive cycle in Californian and White New Zealand rabbit does

- Does amortization. The does
- amortization is an indicator which
- is directly related to the technology
- and intensity of farming,
- environmental conditions and their
- effects on animals. It represents
- the speed of does replacement.

7.
A
-
7-
-
7-

The results are presented in Figure 7.

The amortization of White New Zealand does until 7th reproductive cycle was slower than those of Californian does. Probably, it is due to better adaptation possibilities of White New Zealand breed. The results after 7th reproductive cycle will not be discussed because of insufficient number of the observed subjects.



. 7.

Fig. 7. Amortization in does of White New Zealand and Californian rabbit breed

CONCLUSIONS

1.

1. The mean duration of pregnancy in White New Zealand

2. 31 32

31-

31-

32-

32-

3.

33- 30-

4.

does was shorter than that of Californian does for each sequence of reproductive cycle.

2. The most common duration of pregnancy in both breeds was 31 or 32 days. In White New Zealand does, the pregnancies lasted most often 31-days, while in Californian does – the distribution of pregnancies in these two variants was similar, often with a preponderance of 32-day-duration of pregnancy.

3. The duration of pregnancy in New Zealand White rabbit does was mainly 30 days, while in Californian rabbit does it was 33-days.

4. There was a slower amortization of White New Zealand does, compared with those of Californian rabbit does.

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(*Scomber scombrus*)

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1407
*E-mail: dani_pm@abv.bg

Effect of gamma rays on the microbiological status of the mackerel fish (*Scomber scombrus*)

Daniela Miteva*, Iliana Nacheva, Krasimir Dimov

Institute of Cryobiology and Food Technologies, 53 Cherni Vrah Blvd., 1407 Sofia, Bulgaria

SUMMARY

Ionizing irradiation is widely applied in various branches of the food industry: for shelf-life of foods, sterilization and improvement the quality of food products.

Some pathogens such as *Escherichia coli*, *Salmonella* and *Campilobacter*, are the most wide-spread dangers for human health.

The use of ionizing rays could reduce and eliminate pathogenic microorganisms, causing food diseases.

The aim of the study is to establish the effect of three doses of gamma rays (2, 3 and 4 kGy) on the microbiological status of fish mackerel fillet (*Scomber scombrus*).

The samples – unirradiated and irradiated fish were stored at cool temperature (-20 °C) for a period of 6 months.

The results show a positive effect of treatment with gamma rays as a technological method of keeping the

- microbiological purity and quality of the fish immediately after treatment and storage.

Key words: gamma rays, fish mackerel, microbiological status, storage

INTRODUCTION

Food safety requires the use of technology for food processing, which eliminates pathogenic microorganisms or such that deteriorate the food's quality.

There are different methods for population reduction of microorganisms in food products.

A relatively new and effective method for this use would be the use of ionizing radiation.

The irradiation of food is a process during which the products are exposed to a controlled dose of radiation energy from natural sources, such as Co^{60} or Cs^{137} or accelerated electrons obtained from linear particle accelerators.

Fish and crustaceans might be contaminated with pathogenic bacteria, such as *Salmonella*, *Shigella*, *Vibrio*, as well as with different parasites. The market value of fish products is lowered if they have rotting bacteria, which worsen the product's taste or smell, cause mucus coating and other unfavourable changes.

The nutritional value of the fish and the fish products is determined mainly by their

Shigella, Vibrio,

Salmonella,

biological value.

Fish meat is characterized by high absorption, due to its insubstantial quantity of connective tissue, its high content in extract substances and high biological value of proteins and fats (Grozev et al., 1999).

(, 1999).

Fish, unsterilized fish products and culinary items made of fish are considered to be perishable products and are quick to deteriorate, so they require cold storage.

The methods applied in artificial canning are expected to provide prolonged storage in ready-for-consumption conditions. The canning effect of low temperatures occurs by inactivation and cessation of tissue enzyme activity, which is achieved by suppression of the vital activity of the microorganisms or their full destruction.

Sado et al. (2005)

Salmo salar,

3,6 logN,

+6

8

5915-82

biological value.

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According to Sado et al. (2005) during the storage of trout, species *Salmo salar*, a high number of mesophilic microorganisms has been recorded: 3,6 logN, stored in ice and above +6 . The authors have reached the conclusion that the analysed fish samples show a very well preserved microbial quality up to 8 days of ice storage.

Depending on the temperature of storage, BDS 5915-82 expects longer storage of

8 %

HACCP.

(2, 3 4 kGy)

(*Scomber scombrus*).

–

(-20 °C)

6

fish with fat content below 8 %, mackerel being one of them.

- The use of gamma rays in fish processing and crustaceans
- can be regarded as part of good manufacturing practice or part of HACCP. The food must be in optimal quality, adequately processed and stored before and after radiation. Fish and fish products in general are important for scientific study and because of that the main objective is the study and application of ionizing radiation as a safe technology for extension of storage duration of fresh fish.

*The objective of the study is establish the effect of three doses of gamma rays (2, 3 and 4 kGy) on the microbiological status of fish fillet mackerel (*Scomber scombrus*). The samples – irradiated and non irradiated fish were stored at low temperature (-20 °C) for a period of 6 months.*

MATERIAL AND METHODS

(*Scomber scombrus*),

1.

2.

2 kGy

- For experiments is used fish fillet mackerel (*Scomber scombrus*), purchased from commercial and packaged in individual plastic bags under vacuum.

The frozen fishes are divided into three groups as follows

1. Control – non irradiated fish
2. Irradiated fish with 2 kGy gamma rays

| | | | |
|----|-------|----|--|
| 3. | 3 kGy | 3. | Irradiated fish with 3 kGy gamma rays |
| 4. | 4 kGy | 4. | Irradiated fish with 4 kGy gamma rays |
| | | | The following microbiological analyses have been conducted: |
| | | | - the preparation of a slide -imprint, |
| | | | - culture-imprint on hard surface, |
| | | | - total count of aerobic mesophilic and psychrophilic microorganisms, |
| | | | - coliforms, coagulase positive staphylococcus, Bacterium cereus, Bacterium proteus, Clostridium botulinum, botulinum toxin, salmonella, sulfate-reducing Clustridia, fungi and yeast. |
| | | | In accordance with BDS |
| | | | 14973-80 when growing cultures – |
| | | | - an imprint for mesophilic and psychotrophic microorganisms on agar surface; the analysis of the grown cultures is conducted at 1 cm ² according to the following scheme: |
| | | | No growth - the culture no colonies. |
| | | | Low growth - has from 1 to 5 colonies per 1 cm ² . |
| | | | Middle growth– has from 6 to 10 colonies per 1 cm ² . |
| | | | Abundant growth - over 10 colonies per 1 cm ² . |
| | | | According Tomasyan (1984) the estimated rate of overall microbial contamination for fresh fish after thawing, is 10000 bacterial cells per 1 cm ² . |
| | | | Statistical analysis |
| | | | The results were processed using the software MS Office Excel. |

MS Office Excel.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The experimental results are presented in Tables 1 and 2.

1 2.

1.

– logN

(*Scomber scombrus*)

Table 1. Total count of aerobic mesophilic microorganisms – logN in fish fillet mackerel (*Scomber scombrus*) during storage

| Storage | | / Experimental groups | | | |
|---------|---------|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| | | 1. Control | 2. Irradiated with 2 kGy | 3. Irradiated with 3 kGy | 4. Irradiated with 4 kGy |
| 0 | /day | 2,1 | 1,2 | 2,1 | 2,0 |
| 1 | /month | 2,7 | No growth | No growth | No growth |
| 2 | /months | 2,5 | 2,3 | No growth | No growth |
| 3 | /months | 2,5 | 2,3 | 2,4 | 2,0 |
| 4 | /months | 2,7 | No growth | No growth | No growth |
| 5 | /months | 2,3 | 2,5 | 2,1 | No growth |
| 6 | /months | 2,0 | 2,0 | No growth | No growth |

The data indicates that immediately after radiation there is no significant difference in the value of total mesophilic microorganisms between radiated and non-radiated samples of fish fillet. The values vary in the range of 2 log units. This lack of difference in the total amount of mesophilic microorganisms between radiated and non-radiated samples is the result of their refrigeration at low temperatures.

The microorganisms show higher radio resistance when deeply frozen and the radiation effect is seen during the storage period. In the first 0 to 6 months of research the initial values stay the

0 6 , - same most probably because of
 - the negative storage temperature
 and vacuum packaging. These two
 factors restrict the reproduction of
 - vegetative forms of aerobic
 mesophilic microorganisms.
 -
 -

2. - logN
 (*Scomber scombrus*)

Table 2. Total count of aerobic psychrophilic microorganisms – logN in fish fillet mackerel (*Scomber scombrus*) during storage

| Storage | / Experimental groups | | | |
|------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | 1. | 2. | 3. | 4. |
| | Control | 2 kGy Irradiated with 2 kGy | 3 kGy Irradiated with 3 kGy | 4 kGy Irradiated with 4 kGy |
| 0 /day | 3,0 | 3,1 | No growth | No growth |
| 1 /month | 3,5 | 3,8 | No growth | No growth |
| 2 /months | 3,2 | 3,1 | 2,0 | No growth |
| 3 /monthsh | 2,5 | 2,1 | 2,5 | 2,0 |
| 4 /months | 3,2 | 3,5 | 2,2 | 2,0 |
| 5 /months | 2,1 | 3,0 | 2,0 | No growth |
| 6 /months | 2,0 | No growth | No growth | No growth |

3 logN.
 kGy.
 kGy
 3 4 kGy,
 - In respect to the number of
 - psychrophilic aerobic microorganisms
 2 the registered values are from 2 to
 3 logN. Non-radiated samples have
 as many psychrophilic
 2 microorganisms as samples
 2 radiated with 2kGy, which only
 - shows that a 2kGy dose is not
 - sufficient to influence this group of
 microorganisms. The results from
 the analyses indicate that a dose
 of 3 or 4kGy causes reduction by 3
 3 log units. The data in the table
 indicates that psychrophilic
 microorganisms are more sensitive
 - to higher radiation doses.
 -

Their low count during storage can be explained by the applied negative temperatures, which suppress, inactivate and practically terminate the activity of their enzyme systems.

By the end of the observation period, the values of the total amount of aerobic psychrophilic microorganisms in the third group begin to increase, which is probably caused by the restoration of some of the cells damaged from radiation (Kuzin and Kaushanskiy, 1981).

The presence of *St.albus*, *St.citreus*, micrococci, *Bac. subtilis* is established in the microscopic slides of the grown mesophilic and psychrophilic colonies. In accordance with BDS regulations for the conducted microbiological analyses, throughout the whole storage period no pathogens were found – fungi, yeast, salmonella, coagulase positive staphylococcus, coliforms, *B. proteus*, *B. cereus*, anaerobic *Cl. perfringens*, *Cl. botulinum* and botulinum toxin.

(, 1981).

St.albus, *St.citreus*,
Bac.subtilis.

B.proteus, *B.cereus*,
Cl.perfringens, *Cl botulinum*

CONCLUSIONS

1. The application of gamma rays has a positive effect as a technological method of preserving the microbial purity and quality of the fish fillet, immediately after irradiation and storage.
2. During the storage period the total amount of aerobic

- | | | | |
|----|-----|-----|--|
| 3. | kGy | 3-4 | <p>mesophilic microorganisms in the non-radiated sample remains the same, while the total amount of psychrophilic microorganisms decreases by 1 log unit.</p> <p>3. The dose of radiation of 3-4 kGy is sufficient for the reduction of aerobic mesophilic and psychrophilic microorganisms down to a level, at which low growth or lack of growth can be found.</p> |
| 4. | | | <p>4. Throughout the entire period of study no pathogenic microorganisms were found: fungi, yeast, salmonella, coagulase positive staphylococcus.</p> |

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