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Influence of breeds and milk productivity on the fixing arrangement in a goat milking installation in three breed groups of goats

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SUMMARY

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The present study is focused on the influence of goat breed and milk productivity on their entry order into the milking installation and fixation for milking. The behaviour of an experimental group, consisting of 50 goats of Bulgarian White Dairy breed and its crossbreeds with Anglo-Nubian and Toggenburg breeds, has been studied. The animals included in the study are at the age from 1 to 6 years with a live weight in the range 50 ÷ 70 kg. The experimental study was conducted in a milking parlour equipped with a 24-place, single row, linear side-by-side type milking installation. The influence of factors, such as "Level of milk productivity for control milking" and "Animal breed" was evaluated on the order of their entry and fixation of the animals on the milking

platform. The results of the two-factor dispersion experiment show that these factors have a significant impact on the order of animal fixation.

Compared to "Breed" factor, the factor of "Level of milk productivity for control milking" has a stronger impact on the "Fixing order" parameter (Fisher criteria: $F_A = 2.65$ and $F_B = 0.84$). Concerning the influence of "Level of milk productivity", goats with a higher level of productivity takes up a better position (the first place is occupied by goats with 1.6 l milk yield, and the final place is for goats with milk yield of 0.5 l for control milking).

Bulgarian White Dairy breed takes the first place in the process of fixing, and the final place is for crossbreeds of Bulgarian White Dairy with Toggenburg. It is found for the experimental conditions that the order of entry and fixation for goat milking depends on 22.04% on the change of factors "Milk productivity" and "Breed".

Key words: goats, order of milking, milk installation, breed, productivity

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Key words: goats, order of milking, milk installation, breed, productivity

INTRODUCTION

The behaviour of goats in milking is slightly studied compared to other animal species. Better knowledge of the behaviour of the animals during their stay in the milking parlour enables us to improve the humane attitude and welfare of animals. In this way is created a prerequisite for full realization of their genetic potential and increasing the productivity of the herd in compliance with the physiological requirements of these animals.

A number of studies have reported the existence of a strict hierarchical system in animals. There are many factors determining the herd hierarchy (breed, age, horns, live weight, milk yield, etc.). According to Lindberg (2001), the

et al. (2003) . Margetinova - availability of sufficient space is of utmost importance in establishing the hierarchy in the herd. Margetinova et al. (2003) support this claim by pointing out that the social order manifests itself significantly with the reduction of space in the course of waiting before milking.

Barroso et al. (2000) , Barroso et al. (2000) prove that there is a significant relation between the social rank and the milk yield of goats. The goats with an average rank have the highest milk yield, not these with the highest rank.

al., 1998). (Hopster et - When cows are forced to occupy specific positions during milking without being able to choose they are in a stressful situation, the heart rhythm is accelerated and milk yield decreases (Hopster et al., 1998).

The purpose of this study is to evaluate the impact of milk productivity and goat breed on the order of entry into the milking installation and the fixation for milking.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The experiment was conducted between April and September during control milking of goats. It covers 50 goats at the age from 1 to 6 years with live weight from 50 ÷ 70 kg of Bulgarian White Dairy breed (BWD) and its crossbreeds with Anglo-Nubian (BWD x AN) and Toggenburg breed (BWD x T).

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The study was conducted in a milking parlour, where is installed a 24-place, single row, linear side-by-side type milking installation DIK-24PF, "side-by-side" type. The fixing system of the milking installation has been developed on the principle of arranged fixation, which ensures that the order of fixation of animals from the milking group corresponding to the order of their entry onto the milking platform.

Observations on the order of entry of the goats in the milking parlour are made during three control milking, at the beginning of milking (as soon as the first

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 (Bozhanov and Vuchkov, 1983;

goat gets on to the platform). Milking technology provides feed for goats with concentrated fodder during the milking process. Animals enter voluntarily in the milking parlour, as 300 g of concentrated fodder per animal is put in the feeders. Two observers recorded the order of entry of goats.

All goats are identified by their ear label. In accordance with the order of entry on the milking platform, the animals are marked with the numbers from 1 to 50, the first goat is 1 and the last one is 50. The milk yield control measuring was carried out according to the Milk Control Instruction of the Breeding Association of Goats in Bulgaria.

The subject of the study is the influence of the level of milk productivity of the control milking and the animal breed on the order of their fixing on the milking platform

For the purposes of this experiment, the milk productivity level for control milking and animal breeds are considered as factors of the experimental study, while the order of animals' fixation on the milking platform as a parameter of the experiment. (author's note: for the sake of brevity below instead of "Level of milk productivity for control milking", "Animal breed" and "Fixing order of animals on the milking platform" are used the shorter forms, i.e. "Productivity", "Breed" and "Fixing order").

When planning the experimental study, the indicators such as "Productivity" and "Breed" are considered as qualitative factors in the experiment, while "Fixing order" parameter as the experiment parameter. In this case, the study is limited to assessing the influence of the qualitative factors, such as "Productivity" (A) and "Breed" (B) on the quantitative parameter "Fixing order" (Y). The obtaining of such an assessment is subject to the dispersion analysis

Mitkov and Minkov, 1993)

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(0,5 ÷ 1,8 l)

14 : " ()

- 1 - 0,5 l;

- 2 - 0,6 l;

- 3 - 0,7 l;

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- 14 - 1,8 l.

" " " " " " . .

" (B) :

- B₁ - ;

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(Bozhanov and Vuchkov, 1983; Mitkov and Minkov, 1993) and therefore the present experimental study is limited to a 2-factor dispersion experiment.

In the course of the study, individual productivity of goats ranging from 0.5 ÷ 1.8 l (with an increment of 0.1 l) was taken into account, i.e. "Productivity" factor (A) varies in 14 levels:

- level A₁ – 0.5 l milk yield per control milking;
- level A₂ – level of control milking 0.6 l;
- level A₃ – level of control milking 0.7 l;
-
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- level A₁₄ – level of control milking 1.8 l;

In the experimental group animals are included goats of the breed "BWD" and crossbreeds "BWD AN" and "BWD T", i. . the quality factor of "Breed" (B) in the experiment varies in three levels:

- level B₁ - BWD;
- level B₂ - BWD x AN;
- level B₃ - BWD x T;

The order of arrival of the animals on the milking platform and their fixation for milking is recorded by assigning a number to each animal in the experimental group that corresponds to its order of entry and fixation on the milking platform, for example: "1" means that this goat is fixed first from its group, "2" - the second fixed animal in the group, etc. to the number "50" - the last fixed animal in the group. Therefore, the experiment parameter Y_e 1, 50 .

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Tables 1 and 2 show the results of the two-factor dispersion experiment and the ANOVA-analysis of the results.

The values of Fisher criteria are obtained at a level of significance = 0.05 and degrees of freedom: k₁ = 13 (for

A) $k_1 = 2$ (for factor A) and $k_2 = 2$ (for factor B).

Y - 95 %

factor A) and $k_2 = 2$ (for factor B).

Figures 1 and 2 graphically represent the mean values of Y and variation intervals obtained at 95% confidence probability.

1.

”(Y)

”Table1. Point estimates of the numerical characteristics of “Order of fixation“ (Y) parameter

/Levels of factors in the experiment	/ Point estimates:				
	Average, \bar{qX}	Stand.dev., SD	Coeff. of variation, %	Min. value, X_{min}	Max. value, X_{max}
1. Levels of factor A:					
¹⁻ 0,5 l milk yield per control milking	37.00	-	-	37	37
²⁻ milk yield for control 0,6 l	32.43	16,67	51,41	1	50
³⁻ 0,7 l	34.59	12,69	36.68	4	50
⁴⁻ milk yield for control 0,8 l	33.47	14,16	42.32	5	49
⁵⁻ milk yield for control 0,9 l	29.86	16.65	55.76	3	50
⁶⁻ milk yield for control 1,0 l	22.46	15.77	70.22	1	48
⁷⁻ milk yield for control 1,1 l	19.17	10.57	55.13	3	42
⁸⁻ milk yield for control 1,2 l	26.09	14.73	56.47	2	49
⁹⁻ milk yield for control 1,3 l	18.86	14.08	74.57	2	48
¹⁰⁻ milk yield for control 1,4 l	25.81	13.10	50.73	5	47
¹¹⁻ milk yield for control 1,5 l ^{1,5}	18.90	9.87	52.23	4	31
¹²⁻ milk yield for control 1,6 l ^{1,6}	11.50	14.85	129.12	1	22
¹³⁻ milk yield for control 1,7 l	14.00	8.92	63.73	4	30
¹⁴⁻ milk yield for control 1,8 l	14.00	-	-	14	14
2. Levels of factor B:					
B_1 - /BWD	22.73	18.53	81.52	1	47
B_2 - /BWD x AN	25.06	16.68	66.56	1	50
B_3 - /BWD x T	26.34	15.86	60.21	1	50

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A (“
Y (“

Figure 1 reflects the influence of Factor A (“Productivity”) on Y parameter (“Fixing order”). These results show that with the increase in factor A (“Productivity”), the values of Y

parameter ("Fixing order") gradually decrease.

This means that goats with a higher productivity level occupy a forward position in fixing for milking. In the experimental group, animals with milk yield for control milking took first place with 1.6 l (qX = 11,50).

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2.

Table 2. ANOVA analysis of the results of the experimental study

Source of dispersion	Sum of squares	Degrees of freedom	Mean square	F-Ratio values	P-value
/Factor A Between groups	$SS_A = 6\ 187.47$	13	$S_A^2 = 475.96$	$F_A = 2.65$	0.003
B/Factor B Between groups	$SS_B = 302.25$	2	$S_B^2 = 151.13$	$F_B = 0.84$	0.433
/Random and unrecorded factors Within groups	$SS_R = 24\ 040.40$	134	$S_R^2 = 179.41$		
/ Total influence	$SS = 31\ 237.50$	149	$S^2 = 211.07$		

The data in Table 2 show that the influence of factor A ("Productivity") on Y parameter ("Fixing order") is significantly more pronounced than Factor B ("Breed"):

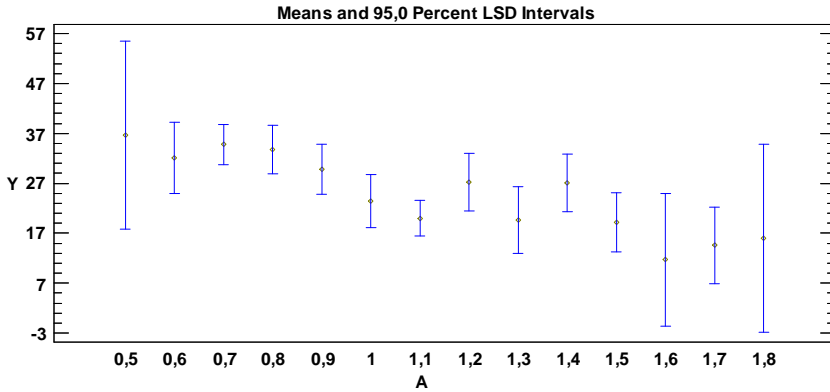
The data in Table 2 show that the influence of factor A ("Productivity") on Y parameter ("Fixing order") is significantly more pronounced than Factor B ("Breed"):

$$F_A = 2.65 > F_B = 0.84;$$

$$P_{-value\ A} = 0.003 \ll P_{-value\ B} = 0.433.$$

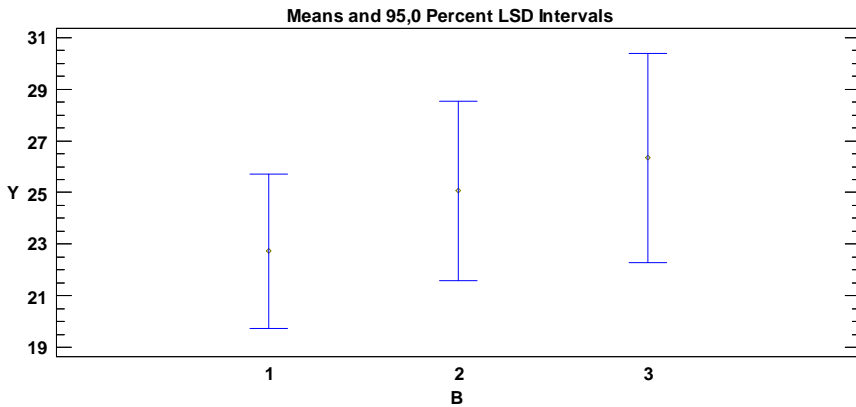
Figure 2 shows the influence of Factor B ("Breed") on Y parameter ("Fixing order"). It is obvious that BWD goats (qX = 22.73) occupied the first place in fixing for milking, and at the last place took the crossbreeds of "BWD" (qX = 26.34). At the same time, this narrow X variation interval confirms what has been said above for the less pronounced influence of factor B on parameter Y.

Figure 2 shows the influence of Factor B ("Breed") on Y parameter ("Fixing order"). It is obvious that BWD goats (qX = 22.73) occupied the first place in fixing for milking, and at the last place took the crossbreeds of "BWD" (qX = 26.34). At the same time, this narrow X variation interval confirms what has been said above for the less pronounced influence of factor B on parameter Y.



1. Y („
A („
”)”)

Fig. 1. Mean values and confidence intervals of Y parameter ("Fixing order") as a function of Factor A ("Productivity")



2. Y („
B („
”)”)

Fig. 2. Mean values and confidence intervals of parameter Y ("Fixing order") as a function of Factor B ("Breed")

To clarify the dependence among random variables: "Productivity" (A), "Breed" (B) and "Fixing order" (Y), the regression analysis method is used. An estimate of the degree of influence of factors A and B on the order of fixation Y is sought, i.e. a functional assessment of dependency is sought

$$Y = f(A;B) \quad (1)$$

ii- : To reveal this dependence, a second degree polynomial is used:

$$Y = b_0 + b_1x_1 + b_2x_2 + b_{1,2}x_1x_2 + b_{1,1}x_1^2 + b_{2,2}x_2^2 \quad (2)$$

3 - Table 3 presents the estimates of the significant coefficients of the model.

3. $Y = f(A, B)$
Table 3 Estimation of regression coefficients of the function $Y = f(A, B)$

Coefficient	estimate	T-statistic	P-value
b_0	22.21	8.77	0.0000
b_2	13.55	6.14	0.0000
$b_{1,2}$	- 11.21	- 6.07	0.0000

R -squared = 22,04 percent

(2), - After replacing the estimates of the coefficients in equation (2), the regression model has the following form:

$$Y = 22,21 + 13,55.B - 11,21.A.B \quad (3)$$

R -squared=0,2204 , The value of coefficient of determination
22,04 % of Y parameter change ("Fixing order") is due to the change in factors A ("Productivity") and B ("Breed") for the experimental test conditions. This means there are other factors that affect the "Fixing order" parameter.

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Gorecki and Wojtowski
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Samraus and Keil (1997) reported that goats with the highest milk yield were the first to enter for milking. According to Margetinova et al. (2003),

Margetinova et al. (2003)

Berry and
 McCarthy (2012)

Gräser-Hermann and
 Sambraus (2001)

Donaldson et al. (1967)

Gorecki and
 Wojtowski (2004)

"A.B"

(3)
 $b_{1,2}$ ($b_{1,2}=-11,21;P\text{-value}=0,0000$),

when studying a Slovak white goat, milk productivity has a significant effect on the milking order in goats - goats with higher milk yield take the first place. Berry and McCarthy (2012) prove the same in dairy cows and Gräser-Hermann and Sambraus (2001) in dairy sheep.

There are few studies on the relationship between the breed and the entry order of animals into the milking parlour. Although the influence of "Breed" Factor in this study is slight, there is a relative dependence on the order of animals entering the milking platform. Goats of BWD breed are the ones that occupy the first places for milking. Donaldson et al. (1967) also found a breed dependency, according to them, Alpine goats entered earlier than Saanen breed for milking. Gorecki and Wojtowski (2004) do not establish a relation between the breed and the order of entry for milking, which is contrary to what was found in this study. It should be noted that Bulgarian White Dairy goats have the highest milk yield during the control milking and this is probably one of the main reasons they occupy the first places. In our opinion, the impact of the breed factor is strongly related to the milk yield factor, namely, the goats with higher milk yield will always occupy the first places.

By analyzing the interaction between both factors "A.B" in the regression model (3) and the significance of the coefficient $b_{1,2}$ ($b_{1,2} = -11.21; P\text{-value} = 0.0000$), a conclusion can be drawn that for a more profound assessment of the influence of the factors and their interaction on the order for fixing the animals on the milking platform, it is advisable to carry out a multifactor experiment with simultaneous consideration of all genetic and non-genetic factors affecting the order of entry into the milking installation and the fixing of goats for milking.

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$F_B = 0,84$: $F_A = 2,65$

3. (qX=11,50), 1,6 l
(qX=37,00), 0,5 l

4. ()

5. -24 22,04 %

6. " " " "

CONCLUSIONS

1. The dispersion experiment carried out shows that the factors "Milk Productivity" and "Breed" in these goat breeds have an influence on the fixing order for milking with the linear single-row milking installation DIK-24PF.

2. Compared to "Breed" factor, "Milk Productivity" factor has a greater impact on "Fixing Order" parameter. For the conditions of the experiment, the values for Fisher criterion are, respectively: $F_A = 2.65$ and $F_B = 0.84$.

3. With regard to the impact of "Milk productivity level", goats with a higher level of productivity took the first places. For the specific case, *goats with 1.6 l milk yield per control milking took the first place* ($qX = 11.50$) and at the last place took goats with milk yield for control milking 0.5 l ($qX = 37.00$).

4. "Breed" factor also affects (though not so strongly) the order of fixation of goats for milking. Bulgarian White Dairy breed takes the first place in the process of fixing, and the final place is for crossbreeds of Bulgarian White Dairy with Toggenburg.

5. The present study shows that the order of fixation of goats for milking with the linear milking installation DIK-24PF depends in 22.04% on the change in "Productivity" and "Breed" factors.

6. The significance of the "interaction effect" between the assessed factors in the obtained regression model gives reason to conclude that for a more objective assessment of the influence of the factors and their interaction it is expedient to jointly examine the influence of all genetic and non-genetic factors on the order of entry into the milking installation and fixation of milking goats.

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Influence of horns and lactation order on the arrangement for fixing in the milking installation in goats of three breed groups

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SUMMARY

The present study is devoted to the influence of the order of lactation and the presence of the horns on the goats on the order of their entry into the milking installation and their fixing for milking. The behaviour of an experimental tripartite group, consisting of 50 Bulgarian White Dairy goats and crosses with the Anglo-Nubian and Toggenburg breeds, has been studied.

The animals included in the study are aged 1 to 6 years (I ÷ V lactation) and live weight in the range 50 ÷ 70 kg. The experimental study was conducted in a milking parlour equipped with a 24-place, single row, linear, side-by-side milking installation. The influence of the factors "Lactation sequence" and "Horn

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$F_A=7,95>F_B=3,22$).

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($qX=16,60$), – ($qX=31,97$).

16,53

% “ ” “ ”

(Wasilewski, 1999).

Margetinova et al. (2003)

presence" was evaluated on the order of entry and fixation of the animals on the milking platform. The results of the two-factor dispersion experiment show that these factors have a significant impact on the order of animal fixation.

Compared to the "Horn presence" factor (B), the "Lactation Order" factor (A) significantly affects the "Fixing order" parameter (Fisher criteria are: $F_A=7.95>F_B=3.22$).

Regarding the influence of the order of lactation, the first place in milking fixation is occupied by the goats of the second lactation ($qX = 16.60$), and at the rear the goats of the Vth lactation ($\bar{X}=31.97$). The presence of horns in the goats is a factor for taking a more prominent place in their milking order in the milking parlour. For the conditions of the experiment it was found that the order of entry and fixation for goat milking depended only on 16.53% of the variation of the factors "Lactation order" and "Horn presence".

Key words: goats, order of milking, milking installation, horn presence, lactation order

INTRODUCTION

Studying behavioural responses in farm animals provides a good opportunity to develop breeding technologies that better meet the needs of animals. This would allow the realization of the full genetic potential of the animals, increase the productivity of the labour and the efficiency of the production process (Wasilewski, 1999).

The behaviour of the animal in the group is determined by its place in the hierarchy of the herd. Typically, the most aggressive animals occupy the highest positions in this hierarchy. According to Margetinova et al. (2003), the social order can manifest itself significantly with the reduction of space in the course of waiting for milking.

Hopster et al. (1998)

(Margetinova et al., 2003).

Cote (2000) Fournier and Festa-Bianchet (1995)

Cote (2000)

Fournier and Festa-Bianchet (1995)

(Hopster et al., 1998; Stefanowska et al., 1999; Berry and McCarthy, 2012).

(Polikarpus et al., 2014) (Gräser-Hermann and Sambras, 2001; Villagra et al., 2007)

The order in which the goat voluntarily chooses to enter the milking parlour may affect the time the entire process is doing. Hopster et al. (1998) prove that cows forced to occupy certain places on the platform are more stressed than those who are allowed to choose themselves. In the first case, this is also related to an increase in the time of entry of the animal into the milking parlour. The unusual late entry into the parlour may often be provoked by health problems and should be used as a signal for veterinary and medical intervention (Margetinova et al., 2003).

Cote (2000) and Fournier and Festa-Bianchet (1995) investigate the behaviour and hierarchical order of wild goats. According to Cote (2000), age is a factor that best determines the hierarchical rank of animals in the group, while Fournier and Festa-Bianchet (1995) find that the length of the horns and the live weight of the goats are the determining factor for the dominant rank in the herd. In their view, age is a weaker factor for domination.

Studies on the behaviour of milking animals are mainly directed at dairy cows (Hopster et al., 1998, Stefanowska et al., 1999, Berry and McCarthy, 2012). There are some studies in buffaloes (Polikarpus et al., 2014) and sheep (Gräser-Hermann and Sambras, 2001; Villagra et al., 2007) and very few in goats.

The purpose of this study is to evaluate the effect of the lactation sequence and the presence of horns in goats from three breed groups on the order of entry into the milking installation and their milking fixation.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The experiment was conducted between April and September during control milking of goats. It covers 50 goats at the age from 1 to 6 years with live weight from 50 ÷ 70 kg of Bulgarian White

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Dairy breed (BWD) and its crossbreeds with Anglo-Nubian (BWD x AN) and Toggenburg breed (BWD x T).

The study was conducted in a milking parlour, where is installed a 24-place, single row, linear milking installation for goats DIK-24PF, "side-by-side" type. The fixing system of the milking installation has been developed on the principle of arranged fixation, which ensures the order of animal fixation in the milking group, which corresponds to the order of their entry onto the milking platform.

Observations on the order of entry of the goats in the milking parlour are made during three control milkings, at the beginning of milking (as soon as the first goat gets on to the platform). Milking technology provides feed for goats with concentrated fodder during the milking process. Animals enter voluntarily in the milking parlour, as 300 g of concentrated fodder per animal is put in the feeders. Two observers recorded the order of entry of goats. All goats are identified by their ear label. In accordance with the order of entry on the milking platform, the animals are marked with the numbers from 1 to 50, the first goat is No1 and the last one is No50. The milk yield control measuring was carried out according to the Milk Control Instruction of the Breeding Association of Goats in Bulgaria.

The subject of the study is the influence of the order of lactation and the horn presence in the animals on the order of their entry into the milking installation and their fixing for milking.

For the purpose of the present study, the order of lactation and the presence of the horns are considered as factors of the experiment, and the order of animals' fixation on the milking platform as a parameter of the experiment. (author's note: for the sake of brevity below instead of "Lactation order", "Presence of horns" and "Order of fixation of animals on the milking platform" are used the shorter forms, i.e. "Lactation", "Horns" and "Fixing

„ ...“).
 „ ...“ „ ...“
 „ ...“ () „ ...“ (B)
 „ (Y).
 (Bozhanov and Vuchkov, 1983; Mitkov and Minkov, 1993).

„ ...“ ()
 :
 - 1 – I^r ;
 - 2 – II^p ;
 - 3 – III^r ;
 - 4 – IV^r ;
 - 5 – V^r ;
 „ ...“ (B) –
 :
 - $B_1 = 0$ –
 ();
 - $B_2 = 1$ –
 ().
 „ ...“ (Y)
 ,
 ,
 ,
 $Y_{min}=1$, a $Y_{max}=50$.

1 2
 ,
 .
 =0,05
 : 1=4 (A) 2=1 (B).

order“).
 In the experimental study, the factors "Horns" and "Lactation" are considered qualitative parameters. In this case, the study is limited to assessing the influence of the qualitative factors "Lactation" (A) and "Horns" (B) on the quantitative parameter "Fixing order" (Y). Such an assessment is subject to the dispersion analysis (Bozhanov and Vuchkov, 1983; Mitkov and Minkov, 1993).

"Lactation" (A) factor varies in five levels:
 - level A_1 - Ist lactation;
 - level A_2 - IInd lactation;
 - level A_3 - IIIrd lactation;
 - level A_4 - IVth lactation;
 - level A_5 - Vth lactation;
 Factor "Horns"(B) on two levels:
 - level $B_1 = 0$ – absence of horns (hornless animals);
 - level $B_2 = 1$ – presence of horns (horned animals).

The parameter of the experiment "Fixing order" (Y) is measured by the number corresponding to the serial number of the animal entering the milking platform, such as $Y_{min}=1$, and $Y_{max}=50$.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In Tables 1 and 2 are presented, respectively, the results of the two-factor dispersion experiment and the ANOVA-analysis of the results obtained.

The values of the Fisher criteria are obtained at a level of significance $\alpha = 0.05$ and degrees of freedom: $k_1 = 13$ (for factor A) and $k_2 = 2$ (for factor B).

1. ””(Y)

Table1. Point estimates of the numerical characteristics of the “Order of fixation” (Y) parameter

/ Levels of the experimental factors	/ Point estimates:				
	Average, \bar{qX}	Stand. dev., SD	Coeff. of variation, %	Minimum X_{min}	Maximum X_{max}
1. Levels of factor A:					
1- 1-	29.15	14.10	48.39	25.63	32.66
2- 2-	16.60	14.58	87.90	12.56	20.63
3- 3-	19.79	14.33	72.42	12.48	27.11
4- 4-	31.05	13.68	44.07	24.06	38.03
5- 5-	31.97	13.72	42.92	20.90	43.05
2. Levels of factor B:					
B ₁ - B ₁ -	28.19	19.12	67.82	24.63	31.74
B ₂ - B ₂ -	23.24	14.55	62.61	18.51	27.96

2.

Table 2. ANOVA analysis of the results of the experimental study

Source of dispersion	Sum of squares	Degrees of freedom	Dispersion assessment	F-Ratio	P-Value
/Factor A Between groups	$SS_A = 5\ 628.09$	4	$S_A^2 = 1\ 407.02$	$F_A = 7.95$	0.00
B/Factor B Between groups	$SS_B = 570.60$	1	$S_B^2 = 570.60$	$F_B = 3.22$	0.07
Random and unrecorded factors within groups	$SS_R = 25482.40$	144	$S_R^2 = 176.96$		
Total impact	$SS = 31\ 237.50$	149	211.06		

Results in Table 2 show that factors A ("Lactation") and B ("Horns") have an impact on Y parameter ("Fixing order"), as the impact of factor A is significantly more pronounced in comparison with the impact of B factor ($F_A = 7.95$; $P\text{-value}_A = 0.00$; $F_B = 3.22$; $P\text{-value}_B = 0.07$).

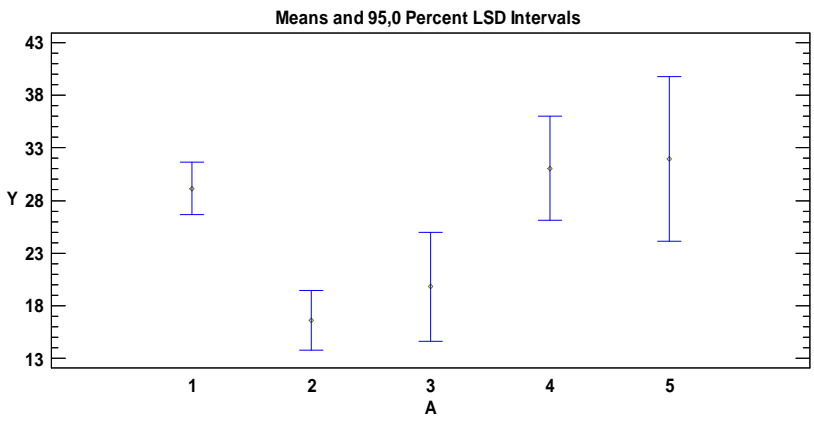
Figures 1 and 2 graphically represent the mean values of Y and their variation intervals (obtained at 95% confidence probability).

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Figures 1 and 2 graphically represent the mean values of Y and their variation intervals (obtained at 95% confidence probability).

1
A ("")
Y ("")
II- (qX=16,60)
Y
V- (qX = 31,97) V-

Figure 1 shows the influence of Factor A ("Lactation") on Y parameter ("Fixing order"). The lowest value of Y parameter was obtained in IInd lactation (qX=16.60). This means that the goats of IInd lactation occupy the foremost position in the milking fixation line. Then the values of Y parameter gradually increase. The highest value was obtained on the Vth lactation (qX = 31.97), i. e. in the Vth lactation, the goats occupy the most rear position in the fix line.



1. Y (,, A (,, ")
Fig. 1. Mean values and confidence intervals of Y parameter ("Fixing order") as a function of Factor A ("Lactation")

2
B ("")
Y ("")
B = 0 ()
qY=28,19,
() - qY = 23,24.
B = 1
: " " (A), " " (B)
" " (Y)

Figure 2 shows the influence of Factor B ("Horns") on Y parameter ("Fixing order"). At a level of factor B = 0 (hornless goats) - $\bar{Y} = 28.19$, while at a level of factor B = 1 (goats with horns) - $\bar{Y} = 23.24$. This means that the presence of horns in goats is a factor for taking a more prominent place in the process of arranging them on the milking platform.
 To evaluate the functional dependence among random variables: "Lactation" (A), "Horns" (B) and "Fixing order" (Y), the regression analysis method is used.

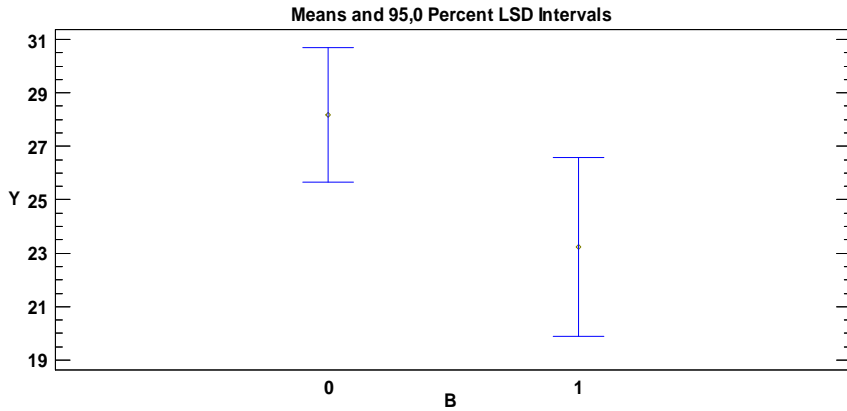


Fig. 2. 1. Mean values and confidence intervals of Y parameter ("Fixing order") as a function of Factor B ("Horns").

The aim is to determine to what extent factors (A) and (B) affect the change of the fixing order Y. A regression model is being searched for describing the following dependence:

$$Y = f(A;B) \tag{1}$$

To reveal this dependence, a second degree polynomial is used:

$$Y = b_0 + b_1x_1 + b_2x_2 + b_{1,2}x_1x_2 + b_{1,1}x_1^2 + b_{2,2}x_2^2 \tag{2}$$

Table 3 presents the estimates of the significant coefficients of the model.

Table 3. Estimation of regression coefficients of function $Y = f(A,B)$

Coefficient	stimate	T-statistic	P-Value
b_0	51.08	9.8362	0.0000
b_1	- 25.44	- 5.2639	0.0000
$b_{1,2}$	- 3.90	- 3.1369	0.0021
$b_{1,1}$	5.19	5.3616	0.0000

R-squared = 0.1693

The data show that the influence of factor A "Lactation" (with coefficient of regression $a = - 25.44$) is dominated by the influence of factor B "Horns", for

” “,
 (a.b= -3,90).

A which the coefficient is only relevant together with factor A (a.b = -3.90).

(2) After excluding the insignificant coefficients, the regression model (2) looks in this way:

$$Y = 51,08 - 25,44.A - 3,90.A.B + 5,19.A \quad (3)$$

%.
 R-squared=16,93
 16,53 %
 Y („

The calculated value of the coefficient of determination is $R\text{-squared} = 0.1693$. This value means that only 16.53% of Y parameter change ("Fixing order") is due to the change in "Lactation" and "Horns" factors for the present experimental conditions.

Meanwhile, this result also means that there are other significant factors that significantly affect the value of Y parameter "Fixing order".

(Gräser-hermann and Sambraus, 2001),

According to some authors, age does not have a valid influence on the arrangement of milking animals (Gräser-hermann and Sambraus, 2001 in the East Friesian sheep), although they observe some connection between social rank and age.

Gorecki and Wojtowski (2004)

The finding in our study shows that younger goats (goats of the second lactation) occupy a more prominent position on the dairy platform. These results coincide with that found by Gorecki and Wojtowski (2004) for one study period of local goats and their crosses with Boer. Margetínová et al. (2001) reported that in only one of the studied periods the older goats were first milking. The same authors in another study, Margetínová et al. (2003), confirm that older goats come first to eat while the younger goats come later, which is contrary to what we have established. Littoojand and Butterworth (2018) at Holstein Friesian cows also find age-related dependence when entering the milking parlour – older cows enter the first position, explaining it with the greater animal experience.

al. (2001) . Margetínová et

Margetínová et al, (2003)

and Butterworth (2018) . Littoojand

We must not forget that in the milking technology we describe, feeding with concentrated fodder in the feeders is

Margetínová et al. (2003)
 Barroso et al. (2000)
 Margetínová et al. (2001)
 Gorecki and Wojtowski (2004)
 -24
 16,53 %
 (SAMBRAUS and KEIL, 1997).

included. One of the strongest and perhaps most basic motivations is the food and the animals that first enter the milking parlour receive first access to the feed. The results of the study by Margetínová et al. (2003) support this assertion. Here the main role is the social rank that determines the position of the animal in the herd. According to Barroso et al. (2000), the age and large size of horns are the physically measurable factors that dominate most when building the hierarchical structure of the herd. The results in our study show that the presence of the horns in goats is a factor for taking a more prominent place in their milking order in the milking parlour. When goats fight for supremacy, position or access to food, the horned animals are more aggressive and usually dominate. Margetínová et al. (2001), reported that the horned goats had earlier entered the milking, while Gorecki and Wojtowski (2004) did not determine the influence of the horn factor on the entry into the milking parlour.

The results described are varied and inconsistencies with some of the literature data can be explained by the different farming and milking conditions as well as the different methods of observation and testing. Regardless of what has been said so far, we have established that the order fixation of goats for dairy milking installation DIK-24PF depends only on 16.53% of the variation in "Lactation Order" and "Horn Presence". Perhaps the order of milking is influenced by some habits and traits that were not measurable in this study (SAMBRAUS and KEIL, 1997). This result leads to the conclusion that there are other factors that have a significantly greater impact on the values of the "Fixing order" parameter and which are to be determined in our next studies.

CONCLUSIONS

1. The dispersion experiment carried out shows that the factors "Lactation Order" and "Horn Presence" for the goats have an influence on the fixing order for milking with 24-place, single row, linear milking installation DIK-24PF.
2. Compared to B factor ("Horn Presence"), factor A ("Lactation Order") has a significantly greater impact on Y parameter ("Fixing order"). For the conditions of the experiment, the values obtained for the Fisher criterion are, respectively: $F_A = 7.95 > F_B = 3.22$.
3. Regarding the influence of the order of lactation, the first place in milking fixation is occupied by the goats of IInd lactation ($qX = 16.60$) and at the rear the goats of the Vth lactation ($qX = 31.97$).
4. The presence of horns in the goats is a factor for taking a more prominent place in their milking order in the milking parlour.
5. For the conditions of the experiment it is found that the order of fixation of goats for milking with the milking installation DIK-24PF depended only in 16.53% on the variation of the factors "Lactation order" and "Horn presence". This result leads to the conclusion that there are other factors that significantly affect the values of "Fixing order" parameter.

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Age dynamics of some semen parameters from terminal boars

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SUMMARY

The aim of the study was to establish the age influence of hybrid imported boars (Large White x Pietrain) on the volume and concentration of the ejaculate, as well as sperm motility. The analysed sample consists of 343 ejaculates obtained within the period between January 2011 - May 2014. The boars were divided in groups of three according to the age of obtaining the sperm (by the age of 12 months, from 12 to 24 months, and over 36 months). The volume of the ejaculate was (LS) 307,6±5,56 m³ on average, the concentration – 426,9±4,91 10⁶ sperm/ m³, and the sperm motility – 72,64±0,38% on average. Statistical significance was established for the effect of the brood animal (<0,001) on the reproductive capacity. The age of the boar at the time of ejaculate collection had a significant effect on the volume, concentration and the total concentration of the sperm (<0,001), as well as on the mobility of spermatozoids (<0,05). The boars below 12 months of age had the lowest sperm volume and the highest mobility of spermatozoids. The boars from

White x Pietrain)	(Large
2011-	2014
12	24, 36
307,6±5,56 m ³ ,	
426,9±4,91 10 ⁶ sperm/ m ³ ,	
72,64±0,38%.	
(<0,001)	
(<0,001),	(<0,05).
12	

the third group had the lowest spermatozoid motility.

Key words: boars, sperm, age, volume, motility

INTRODUCTION

Under the conditions of modern pig-breeding, the place of natural reproduction has been rather reasonably replaced by that of artificial insemination. According to Smital (2010), the control on quantitative and qualitative indications of sperm play essential economical role in pig-breeding. The ability to use the reproductive potential of brood animals defines their efficiency to a great extent (Pokrywka et al., 2014). The success of artificial insemination application depends on the selection of boars and on their reproduction ability, including on their libido and the quality of sperm (Okere et al. 2005).

During the past few years, mass import has been observed of highly reproductive parental forms from world popular pig-breeding farms from France, England, the Netherlands, Denmark, etc. According to Stoykov and Katsarov (2010), they currently represent 40 % of the population of our country. The countries with developed pig-breeding generate serious income from the export of breeding samples, technology, equipment, etc. Meanwhile, the import of brood boars is the basic means of increasing the benefits of production by improving the reproduction ability and the quality of the meat in countries where this branch is not well-developed (Milovanovi et al. 2012). According to the same authors, commercial farms do not have clear conception of the importance and necessity of sperm quality control and they use the brood animals without preliminary assessment of their reproductive ability. In connection to this, Stoykov (2011) recommends conduction of studies regarding the adaptivity, the reproductive ability, and the other features

Smital (2010)

et al., 2014).

2005).

Stoykov and Katsarov (2010)
40 %

(Milovanovi et al. 2012).

, Stoykov (2011)

(Andreev et al., 2008).

White x Pietrain) (Large

343

2011- 2014 .. 11

Pietrain), (Large White x

24, 36 (12, 12

($\times 10^6$ sperm/ m^3),

(10^9),

(%),

(Nikolov et al.,

2012).

of the imported genotypes under the Bulgarian conditions. According to him, scientific researches on the behaviour and adaptation would help for the improvement of the technologies in pig-breeding and for the regular planning of the reproductive process in stock-breeding farms. However, due to the closed system of breeding the imported animals in the farms, the data for their production and reproduction abilities is missing (Andreev et al., 2008).

All this gave us a reason to conduct analysis of the age influence in obtaining sperm from hybrid imported boars (Large White x Pietrain) on the volume and concentration of the ejaculate and the sperm motility.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The study includes a total of 343 ejaculates, obtained in the period from January 2011 to May 2014, from 11 breeding boars (Large White x Pietrain), bred in a pig farm located in the region around the town of Plovdiv. The animals were divided in three groups according to the age the semen was obtained at (up to 12 months, from 12 to 24 months, and above 36 months).

The ejaculates were obtained by the manual method, collected in a graduated semen-collection cup, covered with sterile gauze. Immediately after the collecting and filtering, the ejaculate was assessed for quantitative and qualitative traits, including:

- ejaculate volume (m^3);
- sperm concentration ($\times 10^6$ sperm/ m^3), measured in a sperm densitometer;
- total concentration ($\times 10^9$ sperm/ m^3), calculated by multiplying the concentration of spermatozoa and the volume of ejaculate;
- motility (%), determined by a routine method, under microscope with standard magnification (Nikolov et al., 2012).

Variational statistical data

-
SPSS, v.19, IBM.

- processing were performed with SPSS
version 19 software, IBM.

1
(LS)

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION
- Table 1 shows the average values
, (LS) of the indicators characterizing the
- sperm quality obtained from hybrid boars.

1.
Table 1. Seminal characteristics of terminal boars

/ Traits	LS	±SE	Cv, %
/ Volume, (m ³)	307,6	5,56	32,8
/ Concentration, (x10 ⁶ sperm/ m ³),	426,9	4,91	22,7
/ Total concentration, (10 ⁹)	128,2	2,34	33,6
/ Motility, (%)	72,64	0,38	9,5

(Ciereszko et al., 2000; Huang et al., 2010).

(307,6±5,56 m³)

et al. (2011) Nacu and Ivancia (2007)

421,22±24,4 10⁶sperm/ m³,

426,9±4,91 10⁶sperm/ m³.

72,64±0,38%,

18% -
Savi et al (2013),

Frangez et al (2005) – 70,17 78,04%.

128,2±2,3 10⁹,

- 40-90x10⁹ (Vaissaire et al., 1977).

1

5,

8,
67,3%.

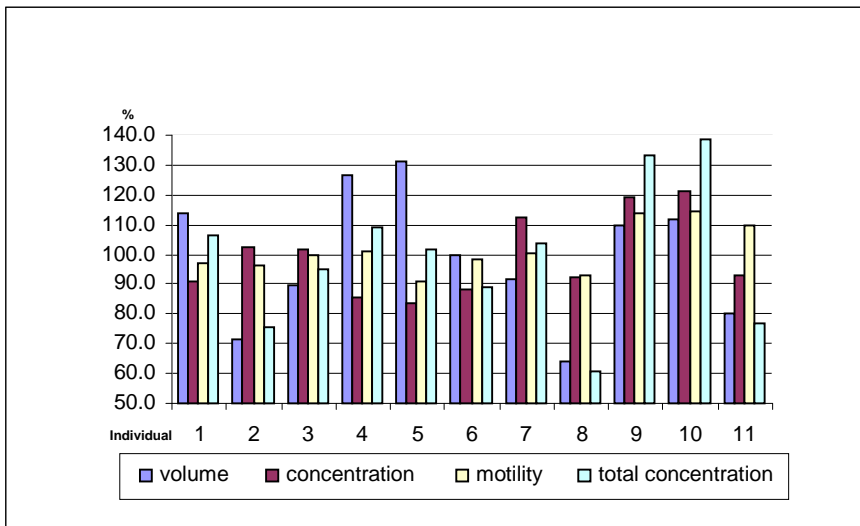
(10 5) 23,3%.

Sperm production of boars depends on multiple factors like season, breed, feeding, and breeding (Ciereszko et al., 2000; Huang et al., 2010). The average ejaculate volume (307,6±5,56 m³) in our study is within the range described by Semkov et al. (2011) and Nacu and Ivancia (2007) during their experiments with terminal boars. The same authors report of sperm concentration of 421,22±24,4 10⁶sperm/ m³, which is similar to our experiment – 426,9±4,91 10⁶sperm/ m³. Sperm motility is 72,64±0,38%, which is 18% lower than the one established by Savi et al (2013), but matches the data of Frangez et al (2005) – from 70,17 to 78,04%. The total sperm concentration in this study is 128,2±2,3 10⁹, which is higher than the one specified in some sources – 40-90x10⁹ (Vaissaire et al., 1977). The coefficient of variation is highest with the indicators of volume and total concentration, and lowest – with sperm motility.

Figure 1 shows the individual deviations of the four sperm indicators with all the brood animals. The highest ejaculate volume belongs to boar No. 5, and the lowest one – to No. 8, as the difference between them is 67,3%. The distance between the individuals with the highest and the lowest motility (boars 10 and 5) is 23,3%. The highest total

8. -
9 10, -
72,6% 77,7%.

concentration is that of brood animals numbered 9 and 10, and the lowest one – that of No. 8. The difference between them is within 72,6% and 77,7%.



1. (, %) Fig. 1. Individual dynamic of sperm indices of boars (like deviation of mean, %)

(2).
(<0,05).
(<0,001).
(<0,001).

The factors we studied have reliable influence on the analysed sperm indicators (Table 2). The age influence of boars is significant in connection to the volume, the concentration, and the total sperm concentration (<0,001), as well as with sperm motility (<0,05).

The specimen is a reliable source of variation in all four indicators (<0,001). Age has a significant effect on all the studied sperm indicators (<0,001).

The changes in sperm production of boars are a result of multiple factors, like age, for example. A number of authors specify that the maximum sperm production quality which boars reach is between the age of 24 to 29 months (Huang et al., 2010).

29 (Huang et al., 2010).

2.

Table 2. The effect of the year, the age class and the individual on the quality of sperm

Model	/ Factor	F-criterion and degree of reliability			
		/ Traits			
		Volume	Concentration	Total concentration	Motility
1	/ Year	19,43***	38,31***	25,14***	21,56***
2	/ Age class	17,81***	13,51***	3,76*	5,44**
3	/ Individual	19,29***	13,62***	14,17***	21,21***
4	/ Season	3,12*	25,01***	6,61***	2,53*
5	Age class in the season	11,13***	14,08***	6,43***	3,34***
6	- / Season	7,27***	23,33***	8,31***	1,69
-	- / Age class	41,09***	15,35***	22,41***	2,33*
-	- / Individual	24,51***	14,13***	20,58***	19,31***

***P<0,001, **P<0,01, *P<0,05

2. Figure 2 presents the changes in the quantity and quality parameters of sperm which depend on the age of the brood animals.

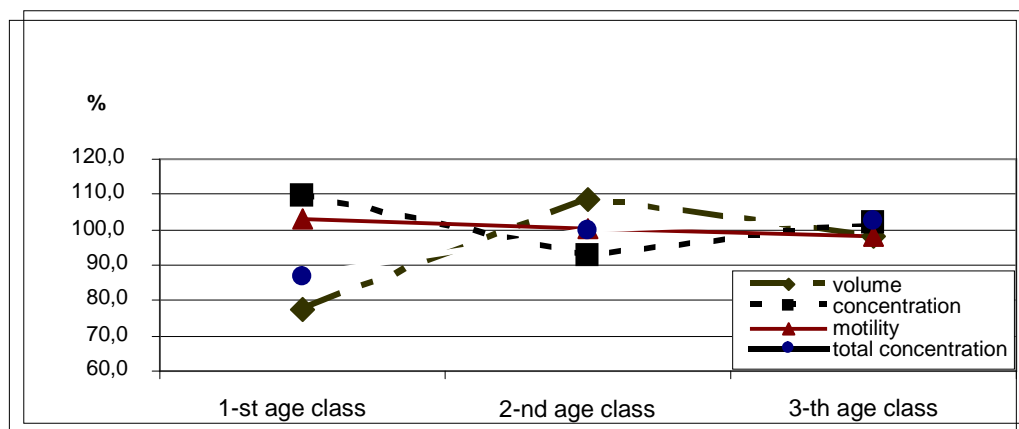


Fig. 2. Variability of sperm indices depending on the age (like deviation of mean, %)

(237,7±14,7 m³),
36 (301,8±8,4 m³).
12-24 (333,9±7,4 m³),

The lowest ejaculate volume is found in the youngest boars – by the age of 12 months (237,7±14,7 m³), followed by the group of the ones aged more than 36 months (301,8±8,4 m³). The highest sperm quantity is found in brood animals aged 12-24 months – (333,9±7,4 m³), as

-
-
(P<0,01).

(Savi et al., 2013).

(P<0,001).

(468,8±14,3 10⁶ sperm/ m³),

12- 24
395,9±7,2 10⁶ sperm/ m³.

(P<0,001).

12 - 131,6±3,7 10⁹,
20,5 10⁹.

(P<0,05).

74,88±1,04%,
12-24

4%

12
Jankevi iute and
Zilinskas (2002)

30

Gerzilov (2004), Hoflack et al. (2007)

the studied factor has a reliable influence on the volume of semen (P<0,01). The sperm volume increasing with the age of the brood animals can be explained with the increased mass and size of the testicles (Savi et al., 2013).

Age has a reliable influence on sperm concentration (P<0,001). The experiment conducted under our conditions, shows the highest concentration characteristics of the youngest brood animals (468,8±14,3 10⁶ sperm/ m³), and the lowest is within the age of 12 to 24 months – 395,9±7,2 10⁶ sperm/ m³. The oldest boars are characterized with medium values of the studied indicator.

The total number of sperm in an ejaculate is reliably influenced by the age group (P<0,001). The indicator with the highest value is found in the oldest boars – 131,6±3,7 10⁹, and in the animals aged up to 12 months, the total concentration is 20,5 10⁹ lower.

The age of male brood animals has a reliable influence on sperm motility (P<0,05). The brood animals of the first age group are with highest motility – 74,88±1,04%, followed by the boars aged 12 to 24 months. The lowest sperm motility is characteristic for the oldest animals. The indicators observed in them is nearly 4% lower compared to the animals which are less than 12 months old. In their studies, Jankevi iute and Zilinskas (2002) also establish that the lowest sperm motility is found in boars which are more than 30 months old, despite the unreliables difference between the groups. Gerzilov, (2004), Hoflack et al. (2007), etc., also report of sperm motility decreasing with age from experiments with other types of animals.

CONCLUSIONS

1.
(P<0,001).

1. The volume of the ejaculate is reliably influenced by the year, age and individual (P <0,001).

2.	(P<0,001)	-	2. The age class and the individual had a significant effect (P <0,001) on the concentration of the spermatozoa.
3.	(P<0,001),	-	3. The total concentration of the sperm is reliably influenced by the year (P <0,001), the individual and the age group (P<0,001).
(P<0,001) 4.	(P<0,05 P<0,001	-	4. The age of male brood animals and the individual has a reliable influence on sperm motility (P <0,05 and P <0,001 respectively).
)			

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Exterior and constitution of yaks bred in Bulgaria

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SUMMARY

A classification was made of the skin colour and the hair cover of yaks, bred in the Republic of Bulgaria.

The exterior dimensions, the indices obtained and the linear profile of the populations of yaks in the Republic of Bulgaria are examined. The necessity of studying the exterior is conditioned by the fact that it is an external expression of the constitution. At the age of 6 months, male animals surpassed females with 3.6%, at 12 months the prevalence was 5.6%, and at 36 months the difference was significantly greater 11.6%. The growth capacity and the relation to the animal constitution were analyzed. At the age of 12 months, live weight ranged from 147.66 kg for females up to 167.53 kg for male animals. At the age of 36 months, the live weight was 328.87 kg for males and 265.47 kg for females. It was 331.60 kg for male animals at the age of 60 months and 278.04 kg for females.

Key words: colour, exterior, indexes, live weight

INTRODUCTION

(*Bos grunniens*)
 (Mammalia),
 (Artiodactyla),
 (Bovidae)
 (*Poephagus grunniens*).
 Mutus)

15

13

12

(Abdikerimov, 2001, Chysyma et al., 2005, Sabargishev et al., 2005, Shtabel, 2005, Oorzhak et al., 2009, Chysyma and Kann-ool, 2016).
 Chyshyma (2003)

Kuzmina (2009)

Habiryanova and Nasutaev (2014)

3, 6, 12 18

- (Mammalia), order Even-toed ungulates (*Artiodactyla*), family of cattle (*Bovidae*) and appear to be of genus *Bos* (*Poephagus grunniens*). The wild yak (*Bos Mutus*) is found in small herds in China and is a protected species. They are also called Tibetan yaks, although in Tibet only the male one is called yak, while the female is called bri. They live and breed freely in the harsh conditions of high mountain pastures all year round. There are around 15 million yaks in the world, 13 million of which in China. Yaks are bred in Tibet, Mongolia, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Buryatia, India, Pakistan, Bhutan, Western Siberia, Yakutia and the North Caucasus. They are acclimatized in North America, Germany and the Swiss Alps. They are adapted to a low oxygen regime, especially in the high-mountain areas. They can find food at a snow depth of 10 to 12 centimeters. Meat, fat content milk, wool and fur, leather are obtained. They are also used to carry loads. The yaks are highly excitable and aggressive animals and react quickly to environmental changes. For these reasons, the breeding of yaks is still not well researched (Abdikerimov, 2001, Chysyma et al., 2005, Sabargishev et al., 2005, Shtabel, 2005, Oorzhak et al., 2009, Chysyma and Kann-ool, 2016)

- According to Chyshyma (2003), the meat productivity is the main industrial sphere, and it can be determined by live weight and the exterior.

- Kuzmina (2009) considers that yak meat is an organic product. During the conduction of the main ecological assessment in the breeding areas of yaks, the author determines the dynamics of the distribution of heavy metals in the soil, pastures, water and fodder.

- Habiryanova and Nasutaev (2014) studied the growth dynamics in male and female yaks acclimatized in Primorsky Krai of Russia, the Golden Valley countryside at the age of 3, 6, 12 and 18

18
453 g, 404 g.

8-12 1

450-850 l 4,8-7,5 %
0,9-1,1 kg 0,5 kg

(Jialin bo et al., 1998).

Trumanovski (1979),

months. The average daily growth for the period from birth to 18 months was 453 g for male, and 404 g for female animals.

Sexual maturation in yaks is observed after the second year. Insemination in our country is natural, as 1 male animal is provided for up to 8-12 females. In Russia and China artificial insemination with deep-frozen semen occurs. In the world practice, hybrids with good meat productivity and milk yields have been obtained in the cross-breeding of yaks with Simmental, Aleutian, Jersey, Aberdeen-Angus and Holstein Friesians cattle breeds. Male hybrids in the first generation are almost always infertile. The hybrids of the first generation are called a *haynik*, and the second generation is an *orthom*.

Milk productivity is low, 450-850 l with 4.8-7.5% fat content. Wool cuts range from 0.5 kg for females up to 0.9-1.1 kg for males. The yaks are fed with herbaceous vegetation and twigs, but feeding is necessary during the winter months with concentrated fodder. It is of vital necessity for their development and metabolism to provide cooking salt (Jialin bo et al., 1998).

The aim of our study was to examine and summarize the accumulated factual material in this field, to make a classification of the hair cover and to elaborate the exterior profiles of yaks, that were bred and adapted in the Republic of Bulgaria, to calculate the indices of animal constitution and to get their weight according to formula of Trumanovski (1979), and to determine the type of their constitution.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The experimental part of the work took place at Vitinya Hunting Farm and the zoo parks in Pleven and Lovech.

Basic linear measurements were taken for the characteristics of the yak population, such as: withers height, croup height, body length, chest depth, chest width, chest girth, cannon bone girth. The

Kuleshov.
 Truhanovski (1979):

$$x / 100 x$$

$$: -$$

$$-$$

$$-$$

$$12$$

$$1,5$$

$$1,25$$

$$1,5$$

stick of Lidtin, Wilkens' compasses and a measuring tape were used.

The external evaluation of calves and females up to the age of two years was done by linear measures, as male and older females by photographing and visual observation and design. Photographic methods were used. Exterior indexes were calculated in females and compared with the calculated indices of Bulgarian Black and White Cattle breed in the region of Pleven.

The constitution was determined by Kuleshov's method. The live weight was calculated according to Truhanovski's formula (1979):

$$x / 100 x$$

where: A is withers height
 B- chest girth
 K – a coefficient of 1.25 at the age of 12 months and 1.5 at the age over 1.5 months

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Some attempts for mass introduction of Tibetan yaks were made in Bulgaria in the 1970s and 1980s. About 200 animals from Mongolia were imported at that period into several cooperative farms, hunting farms and scientific institutes, including RIMSA - Troyan. A program was even developed for the advancement of yak breeding in the Republic of Bulgaria until 1995. After the changes in the government, their number decreased to several animals. In 2005, the population numbers 17, and in 2014 – 30, and it continues to grow. They are all being bred in the State Hunting Farm – Vitinya, where they have recently been subjected to team hunting shooting. Small groups inhabit the Zoo in Sofia, Varna, Stara Zagora, Lovech and Pleven. Single specimens are found in private amateur collectors' farms.

70- 80-
 200
 1995
 2005
 17
 2014
 30

Internacional Yak Association, copyright, USA, 2012,

1. - ,
2. - ,
3. - ,
4. - .
5. - .

The main notable characteristics that help to distinguish one animal from another are the colour of the skin and the hair cover, the presence or absence of horns and other characteristic features. According to the classification of International Yak Association, copyright, USA, 2012, the yaks are subdivided according to the colour of their skin and their hair cover as follows:

1. Black yak – black skin, black hair cover with different shades and grey nasolabial plate.
2. Imperial yak – black skin, black hair cover and black nasolabial plate.
3. Elegant yak – black skin, black hair cover and small white marks on the forehead, legs and tip of the tail.
4. Royal yak – a combination of white and black on the skin and the hair cover.
5. Golden yak – has a golden or copper red color on the skin and the hair cover. It is due to a rare recessive gene.

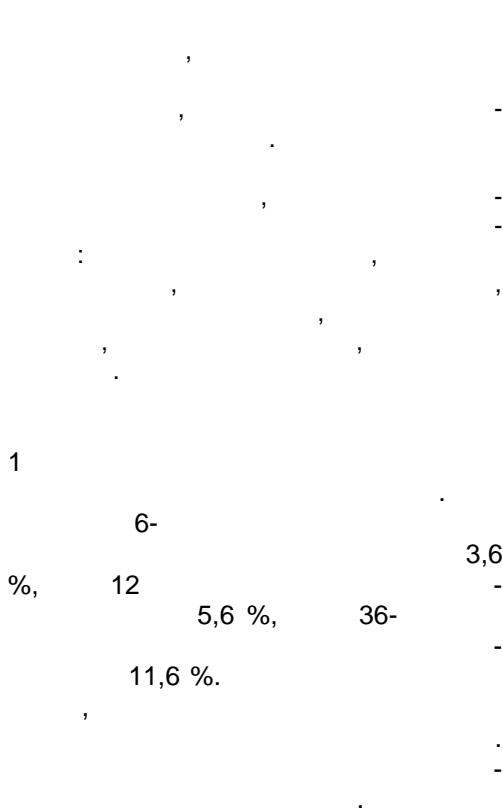
The yaks we have examined have a black colour on the hair cover and a gray or black nasolabial plate and can be referred to the Black and Imperial yacks breeds. Most of them are hornless, as the animals in the zoos are sometimes horned. The predominance of the black skin colour and hair cover of the examined yaks shows pure blood and minimal impurities of cattle blood

Their skin is thick and forms a thick hair cover, uneven in different parts of the body. Their sweat glands are poorly developed, and subcutaneous fat is significantly more than similar animals (Figure 1).

(1).



. 1.
Fig. 1. Bulgarian jaks bred in Lovech



The study of the exterior has both scientific and practical significance as an indicator of animal development, health and adaptive abilities.

For the characteristics of the yaks, a study was carried out, which involved taking basic exterior measurements: withers height, croup height, body length from the pelvis to the front leg, chest depth, chest width, chest girth, cannon bone girth.

The results of the performed measurements are presented in Table 1 and show the dynamics and the increase in the size of the body.

At the age of 6 months, male animals surpassed females by 3.6%, at 12 months age the prevalence was 5.6%, and at the age of 36 months the difference was significantly higher by 11.6%. There is a pronounced sexual dimorphism in the examined yaks. Male animals surpass in all measurements outnumber females.

1.

Table 1. Linear measurements of male and female yaks at different ages

Indicators	/ Average linear measurements of yaks									
	3 months		6 months		12 months		36 months		60 months	
Sex and number of animals, n	n=3	n=3	n=3	n=3	n=3	n=3	n=2	n=2	n=2	n=2
Withers height, m	51,4	48,9	77,4	74,7	99,5	94,2	122,4	109,7	124,1	112,0
Croup height, m	49,9	47,7	75,8	72,8	98,3	91,2	119,1	112,1	120,5	109,6
Body length from the pelvis to the front leg, m	61,4	59,2	75,1	71,3	101,1	90,1	136,4	127,5	137,1	125,2
Chest depth, m	32,4	29,9	41,7	38,5	50,2	48,4	67,2	63,4	71,4	66,2
Chest width, m	18,9	16,8	24,8	21,9	32,3	29,2	35,8	30,5	38,6	34,2
Chest girth, m	88,4	82,6	110,1	106,3	134,7	125,4	176,4	161,3	178,9	165,2
Cannon bone girth, m	10,2	9,8	13,8	13,1	17,1	16,2	17,9	16,7	19,1	17,1

-

(2).

(1931)

Kuleshov

Chysyma (2003)

Chysyma et al. (2005), Kuzmina (2009),

The constitution indices were calculated for a more complete characterization of the body proportion. The comparison between the characteristics of the type and constitution of the yaks, which have finished their growth, and cows of Bulgarian Black and White Cattle measured in the region of Pleven are shown in the indices of body constitution (Table 2). The yaks are relatively short-legged according to the indices. Their body is stretched well, they have a well-developed chest, the front of the body is better developed than the back in relation to their high-mountain breeding, and the bone development index is relatively high.

It is easier to establish the proportionality in development and the constitutional differences in the compared animals with the help of the indices. According to Kuleshov (1931) classification, the yaks that are being bred in the Republic of Bulgaria have thick constitution type.

Our results are close to the results of Chysyma (2003) and Chysyma et al. (2005), Kuzmina (2009), Oorzhak et al.

Oorzhak et al. (2009) Chysyma and Kan-ool (2016) | (2009) and Chysyma and Kan-ool (2016).
 Kan-ool (2016) -

2.

Table 2. Constitution indices of female yaks and cows of Bulgarian Black and White Cattle breed

/ Index	36 Female yaks bred in Bulgaria at the age of 36 months	36 Cows of Bulgarian Black and White Cattle breed at the age of 36 months
Of body mass	102,2	109,9
Of body extension	116,2	120,8
/ Chest	48,1	61,8
/ of compactness	126,5	118,2
/ of massiveness	147,0	156,4
Of bone development	15,2	15,6

(1979).

± 15-20 kg.

We determined the live weight of the yaks according to Truhanovski's formula (1979). The possible deviations in the calculation of the live weight of this formula are ± 15-20 kg.

3.

Table 3. Live weight of male and female yaks at different age

/ Live weight, kg									
3 at 3 months		6 at 6 months		12 at 12 months		36 at 36 months		60 at 60 months	
males	females	males	females	males	females	males	females	males	females
56,80	50,49	106,52	99,16	167,53	147,66	328,87	265,47	331,60	278,04

(3).
 12
 147,66
 kg 167,53 kg
 36
 328,87 kg
 60 265,47 kg
 – 331,60 kg
 278,04 kg

The live weight dynamics of the post-embryonic stage of yaks is shown in (Table 3). The live weight at the age of 12 months varies from 147.66 in females to 167.53 kg in male animals. At 36 months, the live weight is 328.87 kg for males and 265.47 kg for females. At 60 months – 331.60 kg in male animals and 278.04 kg in females.

Habiryanova and Nasutaev | Our results are similar in value to the results obtained from Habiryanova and Nasutaev (2014) in the

(2014)

and Kann-ool (2016).

Chysyma

acclimatization of yaks in Primorsky Krai of Russia and Chysyma and Kann-ool (2016).

CONCLUSIONS

The live weight dynamics and its relation with the linear measurements of yaks bred in the Republic of Bulgaria during different periods of ontogenesis are relative. Sexual dimorphism is visibly pronounced.

By type of constitution, adapted yaks can be referred to a type of thick constitution. It is connected with the high adaptation capacity to the extreme environment of living in high mountain pastures.

According to the skin colour and hair cover the observed yaks are classified into the following categories: black yak, imperial yak and single specimens of royal yaks.

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