

Influence of season and diet on pre- and post-slaughter and meat quality traits of Popielno White rabbits

Summary

The purpose of the study was to demonstrate the suitability of Popielno White rabbits in a year-round backyard farming system using different diets. The rabbits were divided into two groups. Group I (n=13) was fed commercial pellets in the summer-autumn period, and group II (n=23) was fed traditionally in the autumn-winter period. The animals were kept in outdoor cages with a slotted floor and had constant access to water. A nesting box with straw was placed in the cages for females 7 days before the end of the gestation period. Raising Popielno White rabbits in a backyard rearing system can be beneficial because the animals easily adapt to diverse environmental and dietary conditions.

KEY WORDS: rabbit, feeding, breeding, carcass traits, meat quality