

Production potential of Pomorska sheep in comparison to conserved breeds

Summary

The aim of the study was to assess the reproductive parameters and meat performance of Pomorska sheep in comparison to conserved breeds subject to performance control in 2019–2021. The average reproductive rates for 17 conservative breeds in this period were as follows (%): fertility 96.14, prolificacy 126.84, lamb rearing 88.79, and reproductive performance 107.6. The corresponding rates for the Pomorska breed were 93.47, 115.63, 88.40 and 95.47. The national average body weight of rams, ewes and litters at the age of 30/56 days was (kg) 16.4, 16.0 and 19.3, respectively, while the corresponding weights for the Pomorska breed were 19.2, 18.6 and 21.4. In conclusion, the reproductive efficiency of Pomorska sheep is lower than the national average for conserved breeds, while the meat performance characteristics of the breed are above average and comparable to other meat breeds. The analysis of reproduction results obtained in the best flocks of Pomorska sheep indicates that the prolificacy of this breed can be improved, and losses in lamb rearing can be reduced through preventive measures. Skilful handling in this regard may contribute to better exploitation of the production potential of these sheep.

KEY WORDS: sheep, reproductive rates, body weight of lambs