

The influence of the Arabian stallion Elsing on the breeding of Małopolska horses at the Walewice Horse Stud

Summary

The Małopolska horse breed is characterized by good fertility, stamina, and health, as well as exceptional beauty. Horses of this breed are also highly valued for their versatility, as they perform well in nearly every equestrian discipline. The breed has been improved, in part, using Thoroughbred and purebred Arabian stallions. The aim of the work was to present the role of the purebred Arabian stallion Elsing from Janów Podlaski, used for mating at the Walewice Stud in 1987–1995, in the breeding of Małopolska horses. The results of biometric measurements (height at withers, chest circumference, and cannon bone circumference) and points assigned in the quality evaluation of 52 of Elsing's Walewice progeny were analysed. The number of individuals in the second generation used for breeding was also taken into account. The sporting achievements of selected daughters, sons and the next generation were presented as well. The biometric analysis of Elsing's progeny compared to horses of the Małopolska breed sired by Arabian stallions confirmed his value as a sire highly suited to improvement of the breed. His progeny performed well as sport horses and in breeding, passing on positive traits and providing excellent material for further breeding. The use of these horses by breeders yielded the intended results, in terms of both breeding and sport, and contributed to ongoing breeding progress and perpetuation of the correct type of Małopolska horse.

KEY WORDS: Arabian stallion, Elsing, Małopolska horses