

STUDY OF MORPHO-PRODUCTIVE TRAITS OF TELEORMAN BLACK HEAD SHEEP BREED COMPARED TO OTHER SPECIALIZED MEAT SHEEP BREEDS: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW

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Abstract

The Teleorman Black Head Sheep is a native breed originating from the southern region of Romania, officially recognized as a distinct breed in 2010. It exhibits a dual-purpose production for both meat and milk. A breeding program was developed to enhance milk production, leading to an increased population throughout the country. Despite the ongoing improvement program for milk production in the Teleorman Black Head breed, it is characterized by a rectangular body shape, higher body weights compared to other native breeds, and increased average daily gain in lambs. Given these characteristics, a comparative literature study of the main morpho-productive traits of the Teleorman Black Head Sheep breed in relation to values recorded in other specialized meat-producing breeds, which are used as improvement breeds for these traits, is necessary. The collected data indicated that certain growth and body development traits (birth weight, weaning weight, average daily gain, adult weight) had values close to those recorded in specialized breeds but higher than values observed in other native breeds. This suggests the need for improved growth management and the use of this breed in breeding programs to obtain offspring with higher slaughter weights and superior carcass quality.

Key words: Teleorman Black Head, morphometric traits, comparative study