DETERMINING THE OPTIMAL PERIOD OF GROWTH PERFORMANCE IN YOUNG SHEEP OF THE NEW "ROKARN POPĂUȚI" BIOLOGICAL CREATION IN RELATION TO ECONOMIC PROFITABILITY

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Abstract

The new biological creation, "ROKARN Popăuți," currently undergoing official recognition as a specialized meat-producing breed, is based on genetic material derived from the Karakul of Botoșani breed and the Palas Meat Line. Both parental populations exhibit excellent adaptability to the pedoclimatic conditions of Romania, with the Karakul being native to the Moldavia region, while the Palas Meat Line originates from the arid steppe regions of southern Romania. The development of this new breed directly addresses the economic interests of farmers in the Moldavia region, particularly traditional Karakul of Botoșani breeders, who are currently facing a marked decline in the market for lamb pelts. Due to labor shortages, depletion of feed resources, and the need for rapid capital turnover to support farm development, the majority of domestic farmers are compelled to market their young sheep at an early age, between 3 and 6 months. Within this socioeconomic context, the "ROKARN Popăuți" line is distinguished by a higher average daily gain compared with the Karakul of Botoșani breed, while simultaneously preserving phenotypic characteristic traits from Karakul of Botoșani breed.

Key words: *(Botoșani Karakul, average daily gain, genetic improvement, body weight dynamics, young sheep)*