

MEAT PRODUCTIVITY of RAM LAMBS ASKANIAN KARAKUL BREED

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With the transition to a market economy and a drop in purchase prices for the products of sheep farming, an industry, which has been focused on the production of wool, turned up in deep crisis. Analysis of the world's sheep breeding, particularly European, indicates that the improved profitability and competitiveness of the industry is primarily determined by the production of mutton and especially lamb. Reserves of breeds and industry opportunities are not always used efficiently. In particular this applies to the breeds of sheep with combined direction of productivity. Such kind of sheep is Askanian Karakul breed so as they give at the same time: astrakhan, milk, meat, wool and sheepskin. However, the study of meat productivity of animals of this breed has been given insufficient attention.

The article presents the quantitative and qualitative indicators of meat productivity of young animals. It was found that live weight before slaughter was 46,3 kg, and the slaughter weight was 23,4 kg, and the slaughter yield – 50,6%. The output of the first grade meat in carcass of ram lambs has been defined at the level 74,1%. In the study of the morphological composition of meat it was found that the fleshy part of the carcass has the highest percentage – 72,6%, and bone and adipose tissue – 0,2 and 7.2%, respectively. Coefficient of meat reached 4,0 on average, and the calories of meat – 1399, 5 kJ.

Overall, the obtained indicators are characterized by a high level of meat efficiency of young animals Askanian karakul breed. Therefore, this breed of sheep can be used for meat production and thus increase the profitability of the industry.

Keywords: Karakul breed of sheep, ram lambs, meat productivity, high-quality, morphology and chemical composition of the carcasses.