

THE DEVELOPMENT DYNAMICS and MEAT PRODUCTIVITY of the SHEEP YOUNGSTERS of TAVRIAN TYPE of SHEEP ASKANIAN FINE-FLEECE BREED

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The intensity of growth of sheep youngsters from birth to weaning has been studied. The average live weight of singleton lambs at birth was 5.65 kg, twins - 4.48 kg. At the age of 20 days, this figure was respectively: 13.81 and 11.78 kg, at 2 months of age - 23.04 and 20.63 kg, at weaning (age 4 months) - 38.77 and 34.92 kg. The average live weight of singleton ewe lamb at birth was 4.87 kg, twins - 4.31 kg. At the age of 20 days the following results have been respectively recorded: 13.13 and 11.31 kg, at 2 months of age - 21.70 and 19.45 kg, at weaning 32.92 and 31.27 kg. A significant difference in the growth rate of lambs was found, depending on sex and type of birth. The advantage of the singletons over the twins was observed in all periods and amounted to: in the ram lambs 26.1; 17.2; 11.7 and 11.0%, in the ewe lambs 13.0; 16.1; 11.6 and 5.3%.

The rams of the Tavrian Type have rather high indicators of meat productivity. When grown in conditions of an increased level of feeding, by the age of 7 months, the rams of the experimental group have an advantage over peers from the control group. They outperform their peers: for live weight (41.13 against 39.20 kg), slaughter weight (18,05 against 15.97 kg), slaughter yield (43,67 against 40,95%), specific share of flesh (69, 58 and 67.68%) and the variety of carcasses (I and II sort 91.5 against 90.9%).

Keywords: sheep, live weight, sheep youngsters, intensity of growth, the slaughtering qualities, meat productivity.