

THE DEPENDENCE of the AGE the INDEX of INFERTILITY for the SHEEP of ASKANIAN SELECTION

**O. S. Zhulinska, S. L. Drozd,
S. V. Mohylnytska, H. P. Kalashchuk**
oksana.jul.@gmail.com

Askania Nova Institute of Animal Breeding in the Steppe Regions
named after M. F. Ivanov – National Scientific Selection-Genetics
Center for Sheep Breeding
1, Soborna Street, Askania Nova, Chaplynka district,
Kherson region, 75230, Ukraine

The dependence of the infertility index from age for ewes of breeds Askanian selection at the present stage of their breeding has been studied. The research lasted for five years, i.e. five reproductive cycles (1 cycle = insemination + lambing). A compulsory prerequisite for the breeding of these breeds was artificial insemination. The percentage of the number of animals that were designated for mating, but which have not had offspring, determined as an indicator of infertility. Separately it was determined share of infertile animals that showed signs of sexual arousal during one to four days in a row, in one or several (2-3) consecutive fixed sexual cycles of the mating campaign - the category of the ISA, and the proportion of infertile sheep, which have not showed any signs of sexual excitation – IWSA (anaphrodisia).

It was detected an increase of infertility index in the reproductive cycle of 2011-2012 in ewes Askanian fine-fleece and Askanian meat – wool breeds. In our opinion, this was due to climatic features of 2011. The increasing of reproductive longevity in sheep of all studied breeds in the specified time period was set. The ewes of Askanian fine-fleeced breed showed the lowest level of infertility in 3-7 years of age, ewes Askanian meat - wool breed - in the age of 2-9, sheep Askanian Karakul breed of black color – 2-7, Askanian Karakul breed of grey color - 2-6 years of age.

The highest rate of infertility, aged 2-3 years, was detected in sheep Askanian fine-fleeced breed, it reached 37.1%, the sheep of Askanian meat - wool breed in this age have had the lowest rate - 23.5%. These data point to a later date of sexual and physiological maturation of the sheep of wool productivity compared to the sheep of meat - wool productivity. The sheep of Karakul breed in the 2-3 years of age had the intermediate indicator of infertility.

Keywords: ewe, age, infertility, fertility, anaphrodisia, reproductive longevity.