

# **THE PECULIARITIES of the GROWTH of the YOUNGSTERS of the SHEEP of the ASKANIAN MEAT WOOL BREED in the SUCKLING PERIOD**

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*The data of indicators of live weight of ram lambs and ewe lambs of Askanian Meat Wool breed with crossbred wool in the suckling period are given. The absolute, average daily and relative gains of lambs at different time intervals from birth to weaning at the age of three months are established. The indices of the intensity of formation of the youngsters, the uniformity and the strain of its growth have been calculated. In all the investigated age periods, ram lambs outnumbered the live weight of the ewe lambs, with an unreliable difference. The variability of the indicators, which have been studying, was at the average level: slightly higher at birth, in the group of ewe lambs, and in ram lambs, on the contrary, at 2, 3 months of age.*

*A high level of daily average weight gain in lambs of both sexes has been noted. Taking into account the fact that during the suckling period the decisive importance for the accumulation of live weight by lambs, has the milkiness of ewes, in some months we observe a high variability of individual indices in young animals, which decreases with increasing period under study. Thus, the highest variability was in the third month of life and was 38-40%. The young sheep of different sexes had different relative intensity of growth, while the following regularity persisted: with age, the values of this indicator decrease in comparison with the initial data. The growth rate of the ram lambs was slightly higher than in the ewe lambs in the first month of life and lower in the next two.*

*The expediency of using indices of the intensity of formation, uniformity and strain of growth for complex analysis of rate the growth of live weight of lambs has been established.*

**Keywords:** sheep ram lamb, ewe lambs, live weight, gains of weight, intensity of formation.