

# **THE INTENSITY of GROWTH and the MEAT PRODUCTIVITY of LAMBS ASCANIAN KARAKUL BREED of SHEEP**

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*The main tasks of the lambskin sheep-breeding are the providing light industry of the fur raw materials and the population with food. To accomplish these tasks, the industry must be competitive and it should be based on the animals with the strong constitution and in good health which have the high performance that genetically determined. At the same time to increase the production of meat products need rational use of the existing potential of Ukrainian sheep breeds which are well acclimatized to the different climatic conditions. One of these breeds is Ascanian karakul breed, some productive and selection features of it require additional research. The development of productive traits of lambs, relatively young Ascanian karakul breed, in particular meat quality, insufficiently studied, that led to research in this direction. Today, the work on the development of the productive qualities of animals of this gene pool is carried out by the purebred breeding methods. The main of breeding signs are the lambskin qualities. However, these sheep are also characterized by relatively high parameters of meat and milk production. But now the economic situation of the sheep farming industry is such, that the main types of products: wool and lambskin, are not widely in demand in the domestic market. So, come to the fore milk and meat, especially lamb's meat. Taking this into account, the relevant characteristics of sheep should be improved and developed, especially meat qualities. In connection with the search for possible ways of intensification of the selection process in this direction, we carried out the studies of the meat productivity the lambs of Ascanian Karakul breed of sheep in order to establish the relationship between the intensity of growth and the parameters of live weight of young animals of this breed.*

**Keywords:** sheep, Ascanian Karakul breed, lambs, slaughter quality, meat productivity.