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Milk production of impregnated female lambs at 7-8 months of age and impregnated female lambs at 1.5 years of age in winter period

I. Ration composition and energy nutrition

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SUMMARY

Winter period of sheep nutrition starts with the beginning of lactation when energy needs and nutrients are considerably higher. *The purpose* of this study is to compare milk production of two groups of ewes at first lactation with early weaned lambs: one of impregnated female lambs at 7-8 months of age and another – Impregnated female lambs at 1,5 years of age in winter fed on ration based on lucerne hay at one and the another- based on hay of temporary pasture. For this 40 ewes of Plevan Blackface breed (PBF) on first lactation were used divided into two groups of 20 sheep: 10 impregnated female lambs at 1,5 years of age (IFL-1.5y.) and 10 impregnated female lambs at 7-8 months of age (IFL-7/8m.). Lucerne hay in the first group and temporary pasture hay in a second group were given *ad libitum* (10% refusals) as a roughage used. The compound feed composition was the

1,01 1,027
0,978 0,975
9,4%
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1,4 1,2 kg)
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1,2 1,0 kg).
:
Darzhonov (2014)
1,0 122 g
21,0 % . Djorbineva et
al. (2007) 16%
17 %.
()

same for the both groups. It was found that the content of net energy in the ration of lucerne hay is 1,01 KEM and 1,027 KER and in this of temporary pasture hay is 0.978 KEM and 0,975 KER. DM intake of the two rations is 9.4% higher in IFL-1.5y. compared to that in IFL-7/8m. There is a higher consumption of lucerne hay in IFL-1.5y. and IFL-7/8m. (respectively 1.4 and 1.2 kg DM) compared with the consumption of temporary pasture hay (respectively 1.2 and 1.0 kg DM).

ey words: female lambs at 7-8 months of age, female lambs at 1,5 years of age, winter period, ration composition, energy nutrition, lucerne hay, temporary pasture hay

INTRODUCTION

The winter period coincides with the beginning of sheep lactation when energy needs and nutrients are considerably larger.

This requires increasing the quantity and quality of using feed. Sheep require high-quality feed to realize the possibilities of animals.

In sheep according Darzhonov (2014) is needed the rations to be a higher concentration of energy and protein, as in sheep per 1,0 KEM is needed 122 g digestible protein in the intestines and 21,0% CP in the ration. Djorbineva et al., (2007) found that with increasing 16% of total crude protein per day, the milk yield increased with 17%. Compound feed as sources of protein (meals, dry distiller's grain and expellers) are very valuable for highly productive sheep and in some cases involved with a high percentage in the winter ration. Except the protein in rations, high-quality roughage has major importance in the period after lambing.

In ruminants the specific structure of the digestive system allows efficient use of the roughage and nutrient absorption.

et al., 2007). (Kirilov

50-75%, (Sheep 201, A beginner's guide to raising sheep, 2012).

and Darzhonov, 1995). (Todorov

1,3 kg 0,7 (Todorov, 2013).

40% 50% (Donos , 2001). 1 kg - 0,56 M 165 g , (Todorov and Darzhonov, 1995).

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In winter period, the main feed of sheep are natural pasture hay and temporary pasture hay (Kirilov et al., 2007).

- Hay from natural and temporary pastures is significantly varied in quality, it depends on grass type and stage of plant development.

- Usually energy nutrition of hay depends on the proportion of legumes, when the proportion of legumes is 50-75%, the content of protein and calcium is increased (Sheep 201, A beginner's guide to raising sheep, 2012). Natural pasture hay is a moderate source of protein and energy for the sheep (Todorov and Darzhonov, 1995). When sheep fed in medium quality hay of natural pasture, they rarely intake more than 1,3 kg and no more than 0.7 KEM (Todorov, 2013).

- Alfalfa hay is an excellent food for sheep and best used during lactation when they need more protein to produce more milk. Winter feeding rations based on alfalfa hay and balanced amount of compound feed balanced allow a high milk yield.

- Lucerne hay covers up to 40% of energy needs and over 50% of requirements for protein feeding of ruminants as a good source of minerals and vitamins (Donos , 2001).

1 kg of alfalfa hay contained – 0.56 KEM and 165 g CP, which provide high productivity of animals (Todorov and Darzhonov, 1995).

The purpose of this study is to compare milk production of two groups of ewes at first lactation with early weaned lambs: one of female lambs at 7-8 months of age and another- female lambs at 1,5 years of age in winter fed on ration based on lucerne hay at one and the another- based on hay of temporary pasture.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

For this 40 ewes of Plevan Blackface breed (PBF) on first lactation were used divided into two groups of 20 sheep: 10 impregnated female lambs at 1,5 years of age (IFL-1.5y.) and 10 impregnated female lambs at 7-8 months of age (IFL-7/8m.). So each of the two groups consisted of two subgroups – subgroup of 10 IFL-1.5y. and subgroup of 10 IFL-7/8m. 35 days after lambing the animals entered in experiment. Sheep was divided into groups and subgroups, it based on daily milk yield and days of lambing. Throughout the experimental period the daily milk yield from each group was controlled and in two consecutive days of the week the individual daily milk yield was controlled.

As roughage lucerne hay was used in the first group and temporary pasture hay was used in second group, were used *ad libitum* (10% refusals). The concentrated/compound feed was the same for both groups. The compound feed was composed of: corn - 42%, barley - 10%, triticale - 13%, sunflower meal - 33% and a vitamin-mineral supplement - 2%.

Sheep rations in winter period are drawn for each test group and set to cover the needs of 1,0-1,5 l daily milk yield at the beginning of the test period (Todorov et al., 2007). During the experiment the rations are corrected according daily milk change. The daily feed was given twice per day – morning and evening. Every morning the refusals were collected and weighed before new daily rations and consumed feed was calculated. The animals had free access to drinking water and croup salt licks. Samples were taken weekly from the forages to determine the dry matter (DM) and chemical composition.

Digestibility experiments

Digestibility and content of net energy, KER and KEM in the rations of

40
 : 10
 10 7-8 1,5 20
 « » 10
 « » 10
 35
 (10%)
 /
 - 42%, - 10%,
 - 13%, - 33 %
 - 2%
 1,0-1,5 l (Todorov
 et al., 2007)
 in vivo

sheep in *in vivo* experiments were determined.

Digestibility and content of net energy – KEM and KEM used in experiments rations defined by balanced experiments with rams. Rams at 4 years of age were used divided into two groups of three animals. Rams were placed in individual cages for balanced experiments. Experimental period was divided into 10-day preparatory and 7-day reporting period.

Before the preparatory period rams were taken feed of the test ration and during the preparatory period – fed in the test rations. During the reporting period, each group of rams is intake ration under restricted feeding or consumption of dry matter – 50 g/kg $W^{0.75}$. The ration was given twice a day – morning and evening, in equal amounts. Refusals of the ration (if any) and faeces were collected and measured each morning and the ration received was reported.

Samples were taken daily from feed rations, refusals and faeces for DM determination and chemical analysis. On the basis of the differences in the quantity and chemical composition of fed feeds and the amount and composition of the faeces, the digestibility and the energy value of the feed were determined by Todorov et al. (2010).

Analysis of feed and faeces

Samples dried of the feed (roughage and compound feed) and faeces (of the balance trials) made chemical analysis in the laboratory of the IFC - Pleven of *Weende*-method.

Before analysis samples ground through a sieve with mesh size of 1 mm by mill *Retsch SM100*. The dried and ground samples determined the dry matter content (DM) at 105° C, to constant weight (BS-ISO 6498). Determined were: crude protein (CP) to

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Kjeldahl (BDS-ISO 5983);
 () (BDS-ISO 6492);
 () (, 2007);
 () (BDS-ISO 5984);
 () (, 2007).

- Kjeldahl (BDS-ISO 5983); fat (BDS-ISO 6492); crude fiber (CF) (AOAC, 2007); ash (BDS-ISO 5984); calcium (Ca) and phosphorus (P) (AOAC, 2007).

Statistical data processing

Data from the experiments were considered statistically by taking into account the average value (x) and its error with the application of the statistical program MS Office 2007. The credibility of the difference between the values is determined by applying the t-test (Student) and degree of credibility $P > 0.05$.

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 MS Office 2007.

t-test ($> 0,05$.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The chemical composition of forages given in Table 1., is taken into consideration when composing and balancing rations for the experimental groups according to the rules indicated by Todorov et al. (2007). Alfalfa hay contains 13.39% CP. These indicators determine medium quality hay between early phase of flowering and full flowering is retracted (Todorov et al., 2007).

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 ,
 Todorov et al.
 (2007).
 13,39% .
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 (Todorov et al., 2007).

**1. , %
 Table 1. Chemical composition of forages,% of DM**

/ Forages						Ca	P
	CP	CF	Fat	Ash	NFE		
/ Corn grain	9,92	2,10	4,57	1,89	81,52	0,053	0,250
/ Triticale	12,75	3,06	2,48	1,92	79,79	0,198	0,382
/ Barley	11,57	5,36	3,03	2,86	77,18	0,033	0,336
/ Sunflower meal	37,25	15,26	0,59	7,01	39,88	0,596	1,388
/ Lucerne hay	13,39	28,81	1,64	6,17	49,99	0,947	0,351
()	11,40	32,54	1,51	7,85	46,70	0,864	0,372
Temporary pasture hay							

García et al. (1995),
 ,
 Nadeau (2000).
 11,40%
 (Todorov et al.,
 2007; 2010).

The values obtained in this study for CP in the alfalfa hay correspond to that used in the experiments of García et al. (1995), but were lower than those reported by Nadeau (2000). Natural pasture hay is 11.40% of crude protein also be classified as a medium quality (Todorov et al., 2007; 2010).

2. , kg
Table 2. Intake feed – winter period, kg DM

/ week, Date – 2014	/ First group					
	Subgroup IFL - 1.5y.			Subgroup IFL - 7/8m.		
	CF	Lucerne hay	Total adopted feed	Lucerne hay	Total adopted feed	
1. 11.03-17.03.	0,994	1,027	2,021	1,090	0,950	2,040
2. 18.03-24.03.	0,930	1,524	2,454	0,955	1,113	2,068
3. 25.03-31.03	0,838	1,620	2,458	0,850	1,217	2,067
4. 01.04-07.04.	0,722	1,526	2,248	0,676	1,359	2,035
5. 08.04-14.04	0,722	1,490	2,212	0,676	1,342	2,018
/Average (35 / days)	0,841	1,437	2,278	0,849	1,196	2,045
/ Second group						
Subgroup IFL - 1.5y.			Subgroup IFL - 7/8m.			
CF	Temporary pasture hay	Total adopted feed	CF	Temporary pasture hay	Total adopted feed	
1. 11.03-17.03.	1,090	0,975	2,065	1,090	0,890	1,980
2. 18.03-24.03.	0,955	1,058	2,013	0,955	0,982	1,937
3. 25.03-31.03	0,850	1,446	2,296	0,850	1,210	2,060
4. 01.04-07.04.	0,721	1,324	2,045	0,721	1,191	1,912
5. 08.04-14.04	0,721	1,245	1,966	0,681	1,104	1,785
/Average (35 / days)	0,867	1,209	2,077	0,860	1,075	1,935

/ Note: CF - compound feed

2,27 2,07 kg ,
 , 2,04 1,93 kg ,
 (2).
 11,4% ,
 , 7,4%,
 - 9,4%
 ,
 -
 () ,

Intake feed in winter period is 2,27 and 2,07 kg CP per animal per day, respectively in the first and second subgroup of IFL-1.5y. and intake feed for the first and second subgroup of IFL-7/8m. is 2,04 and 1,93 kg CP per animal per day (Table 2). DM intake of ration in the first subgroup IFL-1.5y. was 11.4% more higher compared to that IFL-7/8m in the same group and in the second group that difference is 7.4%, again more for IFL-1.5y. DM intake from the rations is 9.4% higher in both subgroups of IFL-1.5y., compared these of IFL-7/8m..
 There is a higher intake of alfalfa hay in the first group (IFL-1.5y. and IFL-7/8m.), 1,4 and 1,2 kg of DM, compared

1,4 1,2 kg , () (2), 1,2 1,0 kg . - to intake of temporary pasture hay in the second group (IFL-1.5y. and IFL-7/8m.) (Table 2) that is respectively 1,2 and 1,0 kg of DM. The reason is probably the greater palatability and higher digestibility of the ration with the participation of lucerne hay. Alfalfa hay compared with the temporary pasture hay has a higher content of the CP and the lower of CF, which determines a high digestibility and intake (Table 1).

(Pavlov, 1996), The higher content of CF in temporary pasture hay is due not only to reductions in share of sainfoin, like a result of low competitiveness with grass (Pavlov, 1996), and a high proportion of generative stems in legumes and grasse component in the mixture. This phenomenon associated with the formation of more generative stems and rapid becoming rough of sainfoin and cocksfoot at first undergrowth has been observed by other authors (Damyanova, 1989; Naydenov and Damyanova, 1988).

(Damyanova, 1989; Naydenov and Damyanova, 1988).

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Table 3. Digestibility of rations from sheep experiments on the first lactation

Ration	Weight of rams, kg	Exchange weight of rams, mW ^{0,75}	Total adopted feed, DM, kg	g / W ^{0,75}	Coefficient of digestibility DM, %
I group – lucerne hay	57,60	20,90	1078,40	51,99	67,71
II group – temporary pasture hay	57,00	20,74	1078,40	51,23	65,03

- The highest consumption of DM of ration observed in the second-third week of winter period in both groups (IFL-1.5y. and IFL-7/8m.), and then observed the highest intake of roughage.

3
1,08 kg
(67,71 %),
(65,03%).
: I >> II (4,12%).

With the increasing intake of DM of roughage, the intake of DM of compound feed in both groups with subgroups reduced.

Table 3. presented the digestibility experiments of rations from experience by sheep.

Rams in balance experience fed limited, and received an average of 1,08 kg DM per animal / day. The digestibility of DM is higher in the first group fed in ration based on alfalfa hay (67.71%) compared to the second group fed in ration based on temporary pasture hay (65.03%). Differences between groups as a percentage are: I >> II (4,12%).

4.

Table 4. Energy of rations from sheep experiments on the first lactation

Indicators	MJ/kg Gross energy MJ/kg DM	MJ/kg Metabolizable energy MJ/kg DM	MJ/kg Quality, MJ/kg DM	KE kg DM	KE kg DM
I I group – lucerne hay	17,118	10,268	0,600	1,010	1,027
II II group – temporary pasture hay	17,669	10,059	0,569	0,978	0,975

(1,010 1,027)
(0,978 0,975) (4).
3,27% 5,3%

Net energy KEM and KER is higher in the ration based on alfalfa hay (1,010 and 1,027) compared to that based on temporary pasture hay (0.978 and 0.975) (Table 4). The differences between the groups in percentages are respectively 3.27% for KEM and 5.3% for KER.

CONCLUSIONS

The results obtained of IFL-1.5y. and IFL-7/8m. of Plevan Blackface breed in the winter period, allow the next conclusions:

❖ 1,01 1,027
0,978 0,975

❖ It was found that the content of net energy in the ration of lucerne hay is 1.01 KEM and 1.027 KER and in this of temporary pasture hay is 0.978 KEM and 0.975 KER.

❖	9,4%	❖	DM intake of the two rations is 9.4% higher in IFL-1.5y. compared to that in IFL-7/8m.
❖	-	❖	There is a higher consumption of lucerne hay in IFL-1.5y. and IFL-7/8m. (respectively 1.4 and 1.2 kg DM) compared with the consumption of temporary pasture hay (respectively 1.2 and 1.0 kg DM).
),	(1,4 1,2 kg	❖	The digestibility of DM is higher in the first group fed in ration based on alfalfa hay (67.71%) compared to the second group fed in ration based on temporary pasture hay (65.03%).
❖	(1,2 1,0 kg)		
(67,71%),	-		
	(65,03%).		

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Milk production of impregnated female lambs at 7-8 months of age and impregnated female lambs at 1.5 years of age in winter period

II. Milk production

Ina Stoycheva*, Atanas Kirilov

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SUMMARY

- Increasing milk production of sheep it need to optimize and use their full reproductive potential since birth to the end of their economic use. *The purpose* of this study is to compare milk production of two groups of ewes at first lactation with early weaned lambs: one of impregnated female lambs at 7-8 months of age (IFL-7/8m.) and another – Impregnated female lambs at 1,5 years of age (IFL-1.5y.) in winter fed on ration based on lucerne hay at one and the another – based on temporary pasture hay. For this 40 ewes of Pleven Blackface breed on first lactation were used, divided into 2 groups of 20. As roughage lucerne hay used in the first group and temporary pasture hay used in second group, they were used *ad libitum* (10% refusals). The compound feed composition was the same for the both groups.

- The milk production in the winter period is

7-8
1,5
40
20
(10%)

10,73% 8,13%
 1,5
 32,2% -
 7-8
 30
 1,5
 30,2 %
 7-8

respectively 10.73% and 8.13% higher in the first group fed on ration based on lucerne hay, compared with the second group fed on ration based on temporary pasture hay. Milk production of IFL-1.5y. is 32.2% higher than that of IFL-7/8M., independent of the test ration.

Additional milk production for a 30-day period of IFL-1.5y. is 30,2% higher compared with that of IFL-7/8m. independent of the ration.

Key words: impregnated female lambs at 7-8 months of age, impregnated female lambs at 1,5 years of age, milk production, winter period, lucerne hay, temporary pasture hay

INTRODUCTION

Increasing sheep milk yield needs to optimize and use all their reproductive potential since birth to scrapping them.

By the early sheep insemination, the early weaning lambs and the applying adequate systems for feeding and breeding, the milk yield increase in the short term, it is associated with extending the period of lactation.

The sheep insemination at early age means that sheep can be inseminated in the same year of their birth. According to new scientific concepts that is economically efficient and harmless to the animal organism (Todorov and Alexandrov, 2013). In this way on the one hand can reduce the cost of feeding and breeding for one year, the other can be obtained additional products - milk and lambs during the using time of sheep.

On the other hand by early weaning of lambs, there are an opportunity to extend the period of milking of sheep and getting more milk (Simeonov, 2012).

Sheep milking with early weaned lambs

(Todorov and Alexandrov, 2013).

(Simeonov, 2012).

60-70

starts earlier, unlike traditional 60-70 days of lambs milking by increasing the share of milk in the winter period when the milk yield is highest – the second month after lambing (Siqueira, 2000).

(Siqueira, 2000).

The preserved forages quality and protein sources in rations is particularly important during the sheep feeding in winter period when milk yield is highest (Kirilov et al., 2011). Milk yield could be optimized by applying adequate feeding systems during this period (Stoycheva, 2015). Attention should be directed to the conserved feed and increasing the proportion of energy and protein in the rations used.

al., 2011).

(Stoycheva, 2015).

The need of such studies is reinforced by the fact that in this period the sheep have high productivity and high requirements of energy and necessary protein to cover their needs (Todorov et al., 2007).

(Todorov et al., 2007).

The purpose of this study is to compare milk production of two groups of ewes at first lactation with early weaned lambs: one of impregnated female lambs at 7-8 months of age and another – Impregnated female lambs at 1,5 years of age in winter fed on ration based on lucerne hay at one and the another-based on temporary pasture hay.

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MATERIAL AND METHODS

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For this 40 dairy ewes on the first lactation from the Pleven Blackface breed were used, divided into two groups of 20 sheep. Each group was composed of two groups: subgroup of 10 impregnated sheep at 1.5 years of age (IFL-1.5y.) and subgroup of 10 impregnated sheep at 7-8 months of age (IFL-7/8m.).

20

10

1,5 (

7-8

(Stoycheva and Kirilov, 2014).

To prepare the test groups was conducted event for the induction of oestrus synchronized by hormones and applied artificial insemination (Stoycheva and Kirilov, 2014).

35

35 days after lambing the animals

12 kg

30-35

entered in experience. Weaning of lambs has been made in reaching 12 kg of body weight or 30-35 days after their birth.

35

Sheep was divided into groups and subgroups, it based on daily milk yield and days of lambing. Throughout the experimental period the daily milk yield from each group was controlled and in two consecutive days of the week the individual daily milk yield was controlled. Weight and body condition were recorded at the beginning and end of the trial. The duration of the experiment was 35 days.

(10%)

As roughage lucerne hay was used in the first group and temporary pasture hay was used in second group, were used *ad libitum* (10% refusals). The concentrated/compound feed was the same for both groups. The compound feed was composed of: corn – 42%, barley – 10%, triticale – 13%, sunflower meal – 33% and a vitamin-mineral supplement – 2%.

33 %
2%.

: - 13%, - 42%, - 10%,

Sheep rations in winter period are drawn for each test group and set to cover the needs of 1,0-1,5 l daily milk yield at the beginning of the test period (Todorov et al., 2007; Todorov and Darzhonov, 1995). During the experiment rations are corrected according daily milk change.

(Todorov et al., 2007; Todorov and Darzhonov, 1995)

1,0-1,5 l

The daily feed was given twice per day - morning and evening.

Every morning the refusals were collected and weighed before new daily rations and consumed feed was calculated.

The animals had free access to drinking water and croup salt licks.

Samples were taken weekly from the forages to determine the dry matter (DM) and chemical composition.

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Samples dried of the feed (roughage and compound feed) made chemical analysis in the laboratory of the IFC - Pleven of *Weende*-method. Samples ground

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Weende-
 1mm
Retsch SM100.
 105 °, (BDS-
 ISO 6498).
 () Kjeldahl (BDS-ISO 5983);
 () (BDS-ISO 6492);
 () (, 2007);
 () (BDS-ISO 5984);
 () (, 2007).
 ()
 (x ± Sx)
MS Office 2007.
 ()
 (> 0,05).

through a sieve with mesh size of 1 mm by mill *Retsch SM100* before analysis.

The dried and ground samples determined the dry matter content (DM) at 105° C, to constant weight (BDS-ISO 6498). Determined were: crude protein (CP) to Kjeldahl (BDS-ISO 5983); fat (BDS-ISO 6492); crude fiber (CF) (AOAC, 2007); ash (BDS-ISO 5984); calcium (Ca) and phosphorus (P) (AOAC, 2007).

Data from the experiments were considered statistically by taking into account the average value (x) and its error with the application of the statistical program MS Office 2007. The credibility of the difference between the values is determined by applying the t-test (Student) and degree of credibility P > 0.05.

t-test

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The live weight changes of sheep are presented in Table 1. There is an increase in the average live weight and body condition in both groups of animals (IFL-1.5y. and IFL-7/8m.) from beginning to last of winter period. The average daily growth for 35-day winter period was higher in the first group of sheep, respectively 65g in IFL-1.5y. and 80g in IFL-7/8m. fed in ration based on lucerne hay compared to those in the second group of sheep, which is 30g in IFL-1.5y. and 44g in IFL-7/8m., fed in ration based on temporary pasture hay.

The differences between the groups probably due to the dry matter and the CP intake of ration, which are higher in the first group and subgroup compared with that in the second group and subgroup. There are a higher growth in IFL-7/8m. compared with IFL-1.5y., regardless of the test ration in the winter period.

1.
 e ()
 35-
 80g , 65g
 30g
 44g ,
 e

1.

Table 1. Sheep indicators changes of body condition

	Beginning of winter period			End of winter period		
	Weight kg	% % of average weight at 60 kg of ewe	60 kg OTC Body condition	Weight kg	% % of average weight at 60 kg of ewe	60 kg Body condition
	/ First group					
Subgroup IFL-1.5y.	56,30	93,83	2,9	58,60	97,66	3
Subgroup IFL-7/8m.	46,20	77,00	2,8	49,03	81,71	3
	/ Second group					
Subgroup IFL-1.5y	56,42	94,03	2,9	57,50	95,83	3
Subgroup IFL-7/8m.	46,10	76,83	2,8	47,65	79,41	3

- , -
 , -
 a 2.
 35
 . ,
 1,287 l / 0,960 l /
 12% 9% - ,
 ,
 1,149 l / 0,882 l /
 ,
 >0,05.
 10,73%
 (45,045 l),
 (40,215 l).
 ,
 8,13% -
 (33,60 l),
 (30,87 l).

The higher growth is probably due to the fact that IFL-7/8m. compared to IFL-1.5y. are in more active phase of growth and development and have not reached the average live weight of adult animals.

Table 2. presented weekly milk in winter period of 35 days in both groups of sheep. The average daily milk yield in the first group of IFL-1.5y. and IFL-7/8m. fed in ration based on lucerne hay is 1,287 l/day and 0,960 l/day and is respectively 12% and 9% higher, compared to that in the second group of IFL-1.5y. and IFL-7/8m. fed in ration based on temporary pasture hay which is respectively 1,149 l/day and 0,882 l/day.

The differences obtained between the groups were statistically significant at P <0.05. The quantity of the total milk during this period is 10.73% more in IFL-1.5y. in first group (45,045 l), in comparison with those of the second group (40,215 l). The same trend was also observed in IFL-7/8m. which milk yield is 8.13% higher in first group (33,60 l), as compared with those in second group (30,87 l). The milk production in

34% ,
1,5
7-8 30,2% ,

- winter period is 34% more higher in the
- first group of impregnated ewes at 1.5
- years of age compared to that in the
- same group impregnated ewes at 7-8
- months of age and with 30.2% in the
- second group of IFL-1.5y. compared to
- IFL-7/8m. in the same group.

2.
Table 2. Milk production in winter period (I)

(I)

Week /date	Average milk production $\bar{x} \pm Sx$	Sheep milk		Average milk production $\bar{x} \pm Sx$	Sheep milk
		/ Subgroup IFL-1.5y			
		- / First group – lucerne hay			
		- / Subgroup IFL-1.5y		- / Subgroup IFL-7/8m.	
1. 11 - 17.03.2014	1,224±0,108	8,568±0,465	0,902±0,107	6,314±0,378	
2. 18.03 - 24.03.	1,305±0,098	9,135±0,521	0,980±0,121	6,860±0,421	
3. 25.03 - 31.03	1,369±0,089	9,583±0,504	0,991±0,132	6,937±0,425	
4. 1.04 - 07.04.	1,409±0,128	9,863±0,562	1,040±0,108	7,280±0,542	
28 (30) Average for 28 days (30 days)	1,326^a±0,102	37,449^a±0,512 (40,099)	0,978^b±0,114	27,391^b±0,419 (29,341)	
5. 08-14.04	1,130±0,102	7,910±0,428	0,890±0,096	6,230±0,503	
(35) Total milk for winter period (35 days)	1,287 ±0,105	45,045^a±0,443	0,960^b±0,112	33,600^b±0,447	
		- / Second group – temporary pasture hay			
		- / Subgroup IFL-1.5y		- / Subgroup IFL-7/8m.	
1. 11-17.03.	1,278±0,121	8,946±0,369	0,890±0,089	6,230±0,980	
2. 18.03-24.03.	1,169±0,105	8,183±0,358	0,865±0,079	6,055±0,875	
3. 25.03-31.03	1,120±0,116	7,840±0,305	0,878±0,084	6,146±0,874	
4. 1.04-07.04.	1,233±0,119	8,631±0,388	0,956±0,085	6,692±0,789	
28 (30) Average for 28 days (30 days)	1,200^c±0,112	33,599^c±0,342 (35,999)	0,897^d±0,083	25,123^d±0,862 (26,913)	
5. 08-14.04	0,948±0,086	6,636±0,352	0,822±0,076	5,754±0,756	
(35) Total milk for winter period (35 days)	1,149^c±0,109	40,215^c±0,486	0,882^d±0,082	30,870^d±0,431	

*
:
>0,05

*Note: The values indicated with different letters in a row and column are significantly different at P> 0.05

32,2% - ,
(>0,05).

30

Milk production of IFL-1.5y. is average 32.2% higher in comparison with that in IFL-7/8m. (P> 0.05).

Total milk during the test period provide an opportunity to determine the quantity of milk for the first 30 days of lactation period, or that milk may be considered as an additional obtained

	30		30	
	35,99 l.		40,09 l	11,39%
30-				
	29,34 l	26,91 l.		9%
		36,6%	33,74%	
			35,2 %	
	Todorov and Simeonov (2013),			
		25	40 l	
	Simeonov (2012),			
	47,3 l			
7-8				
		1,5		
7-8				

- from sheep. Because early weaning lambs allows the period of sheep milking to extend about 30 days.

- During these first 30 days milk production of sheep in the first and second group of IFL-1.5y. is respectively 40,09 l and 35,99 l. This milk is 11.39% higher in the group IFL-1.5y. fed in ration based on lucerne hay, compared with this in second group of IFL-1.5y. fed in ration based on temporary pasture hay. Milk for 30-day subperiod at first and second subgroups of IFL-7/8m. is respectively – 29,34 l and 26,91 l. The milk yield was 9% higher in the first subgroups of IFL-7/8m. in ration based on lucerne hay, compared to the second subgroup of IFL-7/8m. in ration based on temporary pasture hay. Additional milk in the first and second subgroups of IFL-1.5y. is respectively 36,6% and 33,74% more compared with that at IFL-7/8m., in the same subgroups. Milk obtained from IFL-1.5y. is average 35.2% more higher compared to that of IFL-7/8m., regardless of the test ration.

- Data on milk correspond to the data of Todorov and Simeonov (2013), which found that during this period the sheep with early weaning lambs can give between 25 and 40 l more milk from sheep. Such are the results of Simeonov (2012), who found that sheep with early weaning lambs can give additional 47,3 l milk from sheep.

- There are not literature data for additional milk obtained from IFL-7/8m., of Plevan Blackface breed with early weaned lambs, the subject of this study.

CONCLUSIONS

- The results obtained of IFL-1.5y. and IFL-7/8m. of Plevan Blackface breed in the winter period, allow the next conclusions:

❖	12%	9%	-
❖			10,73% 8,13%
❖			32,2% -
❖	40,09 l	35,99 l	
❖		29,34 l	26,91 l
	30	30,2 %	

❖ The average milk yield of IFL-1.5y and IFL-7/8m., with early weaned lambs and fed in ration based on lucerne hay is respectively 12% and 9% higher in comparison with that in IFL-1.5y. and IFL-7/8m., fed in ration based on temporary pasture hay.

❖ Total milk in winter period is respectively 10.73% and 8.13% higher in the first group of IFL-1.5y. and IFL-7/8m., fed in ration based on lucerne hay, compared with the second group of IFL-1.5y. and IFL-7/8m., fed in ration based on temporary pasture hay.

❖ Milk production of IFL-1.5y. is 32.2% higher in comparison with that IFL-7/8m., in winter period, regardless of ration type.

❖ Additional milk during the first 30 days of milking period of sheep with early weaning lambs is – 40.09 l and 35.99 l for IFL-1.5y., fed respectively in ration based on lucerne hay and temporary pasture hay, and for IFL-7/8m., is respectively 29.34 l and 26.91 l.

❖ Additional milk obtained for the 30-day period of IFL-1.5y., is average 30,2% more higher compared with that of IFL-7/8m., regardless the test ration.

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Dermatoglyphic characteristics of nasolabial plate of Srednostaroplaninska and Koprivshtitsa sheep breeds

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SUMMARY

The present paper presents morphological and dermatoglyphic features of the nasolabial plate of Srednostaroplaninska and Koprivshtitsa autochthonous sheep breeds. Some anatomic, morphological, morphometric and photographic methods were used. Samples were studied from 20 animals of both breeds. The main elements and type of dermatoglyph of the nasolabial plate of the studied animals were determined and analyzed, such as folds, shafts, granules, grooves, fenocomplexes. The colour of the nasolabial plate was studied as an additional phenotype. Three types of dermatoglyph occur for both species – groove, cross and grainy. The number of skin folds and shafts, which are forming phenocomplexes, and the location of skin grooves are not related to the age of the animals.

Key words: sheep, nasolabial plate, grooves, folds, shafts, type

INTRODUCTION

The nasolabial plate of ruminants is an indicator for a lot of the physiological processes taking place in the body. It is a modified section of the skin. Grooves,

folds, shafts and granules that lie on its surface form fragments and configurations, which that are strictly unique to each individual and remain unchanged during their ontogenesis.

There is relatively a little literature on the structure of the skin relief of nasolabial plate. Research on the determination of the dermatoglyph type and its relation to identification, passportization and selection in ruminants were conducted by: Baranov et al. (1993), Mishra et al. (1997), rjankova (2002), Sirotina and Baranov (2009), Lozovaia and rjanokova (2010) in cattle, Sokolov (1959) and Sirotina et al. (2012) in elks, alofeev and Lipovik (2011a) in sheep and lambs, Lipovik et al. (2010) in deer, Caspian red deer and lambs, Singh and Patel (2006) in buffaloes.

In Bulgaria, Markov (2014a, b; 2016) makes a comparative study on various dermatoglyphic patterns of cattle of 'Bulgarian Black and White', 'Montbeliarde' and 'Bulgarian Rhodope' cattle breeds. Markova (2016) makes a dermatoglyphic characteristic of the nasolabial plate of 'Pleven Blackhead Sheep'.

Baranov and Sirotina (2011) consider that differences among various breeds in the occurrence of the elements of the dermatoglyphic structure in most cases are statistically reliable (p 0,001).

The monitoring of the dermatoglyphic structure of the nasolabial plate allows these data to be used in models for preservation of gene pool of farm animal breeds.

According to Malofeev and Lipovik (2011b), who studied the dermatoglyphic types of nasolabial plate in Altay sheep, a principle underlying the basis of dermatoglyphics as a science is the individuality of the object in the material world. All objects are identical only to themselves – individual.

Lipovik (2013) found three types of dermatological types in the study on

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dermatoglyph of nasolabial plate of Altay sheep – 'Groove', 'Cross' and 'Grain'. The dermatological type of 'Groove' had the greatest occurrence of 52%.

The aim of present study is to investigate the colour, texture, type, structure and surface of dermatoglyph of the nasolabial plate of Srednostaroplaninska and Koprivshitsa sheep.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Twenty ewe lambs and 40 mature sheep were studied at three and four years of age from two breeds in 2017. 10 ewe lambs and 20 sheep of Srednostaroplaninska sheep breed and 10 ewe lambs and 20 sheep of Koprivshitsa sheep breed. Sheep and ewe lambs of Srednostaroplaninska sheep breed are owned by farmers from the regions of Gabrovo and Apriltsi, and those of Koprivshitsa sheep breed of farmers from the town of Koprivshitsa. The age of the animals was determined by the tribal books kept at the ABTSMB (Association for Breeding of Tsigai and Sheep Meat Breeds) and the changes in the dental formula.

The photos of dermatoglyph of the nasolabial plate were taken with Practica DCZ-7,2 digital camera at a distance of 25-30 cm from the object, after which the collected database was processed by a computer using Microsoft Excel, Paint and Microsoft Word 2010.

In order to measure the surface of nasolabial plate was used dactyloscopic ink. The imprint was taken on a sheet of paper, after that the different parts were cut and glued until a rectangle was constructed. The surface of nasolabial plate was calculated by the formula: $S = A \times B$.

The dermatoglyphs were visually investigated by Trofimenko's methodology (1991), based on the distribution of skin folds and shafts and skin grooves on the surface of the nasolabial plate by the deductive method of image analysis. The

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Anatomica Veterinaria.

– Nomina

colour (colouration) of the nasolabial plate, skin grooves, the shape and position of the folds, shafts and grains were studied. Anatomical, morphometric, morphological and photographic methods were applied.

Terms are in accordance with the International Committee on Veterinary Gross Anatomical Nomenclature – Nomina Anatomica Veterinaria

Data are processed by variation statistics method and presented in tables.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The skin colour (colouration) of the nasolabial plate of Srednoplanska sheep shows different colouring combinations: from white, greyish-white, cream-coloured, from grey to many-coloured – three-component colour, including pink, grey and brown spots. There are also individuals with black colouring of the nasolabial plate. Depigmented areas could be observed even though they are less often, mostly at the periphery of the nasolabial plate in 9.64% of the animals. A circle of white covering hairs are situated around the nasolabial plate.

9,64%

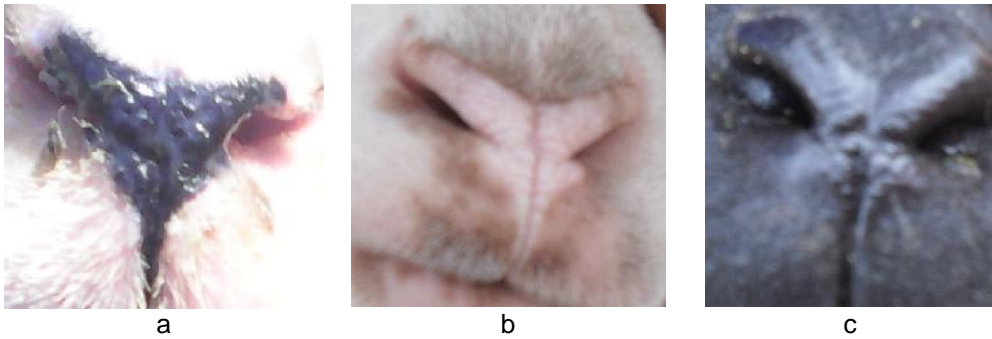


Fig. 1. Types of dermatoglyph in Staroplaninska sheep

a – “ ”; b – “ ”; c – “ ”

a – 'Grain' type of dermatoglyph; b – 'Grove' type of dermatoglyph; c – 'Cross' type of dermatoglyph

The shape of nasolabial plate is an elongated heart-shaped triangle. Its

position is symmetrical. The shape of nostrils is usually elongated, slit-shaped or moon-shaped. The epidermis of the skin of the nasolabial plate has a pronounced folded surface. Folds are small, shaft-shaped and roller shaped and form ridges.

The visual evaluation of the material classifies three types of dermatoglyphs:

'Grain' dermatoglyphic pattern – there are no separating grooves. The surface of the skin relief of the nasolabial plate is homogeneous. The type of structure is consistent. It was found in 23.8% of the studied sheep (Figure 1 a).

'Groove' dermatoglyphic pattern – the nasolabial plate is divided in two parts by a deep central groove, with dimensions from 6 to 8 mm. Grooves come out of it, as they enfold single folds (shafts) with a depth of 0.05-0.1 mm. These grooves are straight, curved, arched or wavy. The shape of the skin folds is on irregular polygons in the dorsal part. In the central part of the nasolabial plate, the folds acquire ellipsoid form, as in the ventral part their shape is oval-elliptical. The structure of the dermatoglyphic pattern in the central part is loose and in the peripheral part is dense. It was found in 56.6% of the studied sheep (Figure 1 b).

'Cross' dermatoglyphic pattern – the nasolabial plate is divided in two parts by the central groove and in more two parts by a groove that starts from the right and ends up to the left nostril. There are straight, curved and wavy grooves in the four parts. The shape of the skin folds forming the phenotypic complex in the dorsal part is irregular, 5-7 wall polygons, in the central part 4-5 wall polygons, and in the ventral part they are oval-like fragments. The structure of the dermatological type is loose. It was found in 19.6% of the studied sheep (Figure 1 c).

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31,4 mm²,
42,4 mm² (1).
25 %
114
117
-
- c
3,6 mm.
1.

The surface area of the nasolabial plate of ewe lambs of Staroplaninska sheep breed is 31.4 mm², and for the mature sheep it is 42.4 mm² or a 25% difference (Table 1). The number of skin folds increases from 114 in ewe lambs to 117 in sheep. The length of skin folds (shafts) has the highest values in the central part of the nasolabial plate of 2.2 mm in ewe lambs and the highest values of 3.6 mm in sheep in their ventral part of the nasolabial plate.

Table 1. Morphometric indicators of nasolabial plate of Staroplaninska sheep breed

Animal age	Surface of nasolabial plate mm ²	Number of skin folds/shafts	Length of skin folds/shafts, mm		
			Dorsal part	Central part	Ventral part
18 /months	31,4±0,47	114±10	2,1±1,0	2,2±1,2	2,1±1,1
3-4 /years	42,4±0,64	117±25	2,6±1,8	3,2±1,3	3,6±1,9

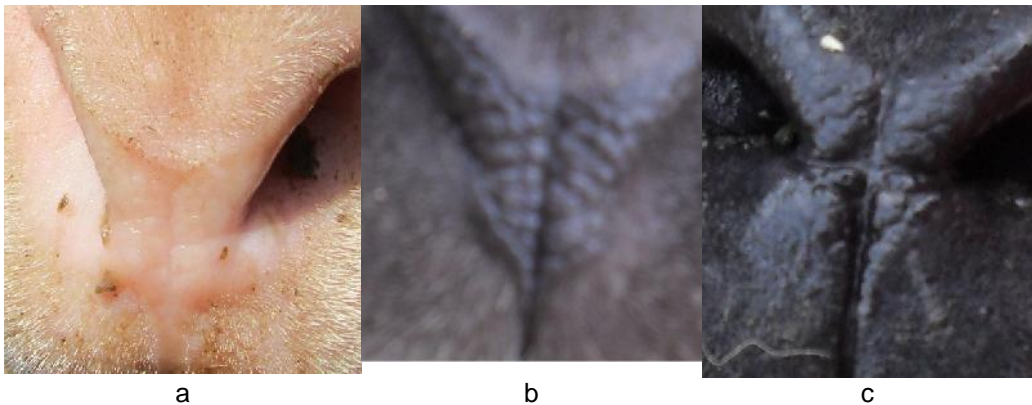
0.05

35-40 %
12,25%
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
25 % (2a).

The black saturated colour with various nuances is characteristic for the nasolabial plate of a great part of Koprivshtitsa sheep breed, but in about 35-40% of the individuals there is a grey, white or variegated colour of the nasolabial plate. Depigmented sections are also observed in 12.25% of the animals studied. The nasolabial plate is separated from the muzzle by a ring of lighter covering hairs.

The shape of nasolabial plate is an elongated pike-shaped triangle. The shape of nostrils is various: slit-shaped, oval. The visual classification of Koprivshtitsa sheep shows three types of dermatoglyphs:

'Grain' dermatoglyphic pattern – there are no separating grooves. The surface of nasolabial plate is smooth and homogeneous. The structure is dense. It occurs in 25% of the sheep studied (Figure 2a).



2.
Fig. 2. Types of dermatoglyph in Koprivshitsa sheep

a – “ ” “; b – “ ” “; c – “ ” “
 a – ‘Grain’ type of dermatoglyph; b – ‘Groove’ type of dermatoglyph; c – ‘Cross’ type of dermatoglyph

“ –
 , -
 7-8 mm. ,
 ()
 0,1 mm. -
 , -
 , -
 () -
 , -
 . -
 -
 , 58,75 %
 (2b).
 “ “ –
 . -
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‘Groove’ dermatoglyphic pattern – the nasolabial plate is divided in two parts by a deep central groove, with dimensions from 7 to 8 mm. It is connected with grooves, which limit various folds (shafts) with depth of 0.1 mm. These grooves are straight, curved and arched. The shape of the skin folds is on irregular polygons in the dorsal part, in the central part of the nasolabial plate the folds (shafts) take an oval shape, as in the ventral part their shape is ellipsoid or circle. The structure of the dermatoglyphic pattern in the central part is loose and in the peripheral part is dense. It occurs in 58.75% of the sheep studied (Figure 2b).

‘Cross’ dermatoglyphic pattern – the nasolabial plate is divided in two parts by the central groove and in more two parts by a groove that starts from the right and ends up to the left nostril. There are straight and wavy grooves in the four parts. The shape of the skin folds (shafts) forming the phenotypic complex in the dorsal part is irregular, 6-7 wall polygons, in the central part 4-6 wall polygons, and in the ventral part they are oval-like fragments. The structure of the dermatological type is loose. It occurs in

16,25
2c).
29,7 mm²
41,4 mm²,
28 % (2).
113 109
mm, () 2,2
() 1,9 mm.
() 3,4 mm, a
() 2,7 mm.

16.25% of the sheep studied (Figure 2c).
The surface of the nasolabial plate in ewe lambs is 29.7 mm² and in the adult sheep 41.4 mm², an increase of 28% (Table 2). The amount of skin folds (shafts) composing the phenotypic complex marked a slight decrease from 113 to 109 in number that is in normal limits. The greatest increase in ewe lambs is observed at the length of the dorsal folds (shafts) of 2.2 mm, as the ventral folds (shafts) show the lowest values of 1.9 mm.
The highest values in adult sheep are observed in ventral folds (shafts) of 3.4 mm, and the lowest values for dorsal folds (shafts) of 2.7 mm.

2.
(M±m)

Table 2. Morphometric characteristics of nasolabial plate in Koprivshitsa sheep breed (M±m)

Animal age	Surface of nasolabial plate, mm ²	Number of skin folds/shafts	Length of skin folds/shafts, mm		
			Dorsal part	Central part	Ventral part
18 /months	29,7±0,42	113±9	2,2±1,1	2,0±1,4	1,9±1,0
3-4 /years	41,3±0,64	109±25	2,7±1,3	3,2±1,3	3,4±1,1

0,05

, , , ,
() ,
30-35 %
, ,
-
-
-
-
-
-
" " 56,6 %
58,75%
-
" " 23,8%
-

The colour of the nasolabial plate in Srednostaroplaninska sheep breed is black, white, grey, creamy and sometimes colourful (three colours) with pink spots, while the colour of the nasolabial plate in Koprivshitsa sheep is predominantly black with different shades, as in 30-35% of the individuals also is also observed white, grey, brown or many-coloured pigmentation. Depigmented areas of the nasolabial plate occur in both cases.
The most widespread dermatoglyphic pattern is 'Groove' with 56.6% in Srednostaroplaninska sheep and 58.75% in Koprivshitsa sheep breed, followed by 'Grain' with 23.8% in Srednostaroplaninska sheep breed and

25%
 " " 19,6 %
 16,25 %
 31,4 mm²,
 mm², 1,7 mm².
 41,3mm²,
 1,1mm².
 117
 109
 Malofeev and Lipovik
 (2011) Lipovik (2013)
 A

25% in Koprivshitsa sheep breed. The dermatoglyphic pattern of 'Cross' has a slight occurunc in Srednostaroplaninska sheep and 16.25% in Koprivshitsa sheep breed.

The comparison between morphometric indicators show close similarities and minimal differences in both breeds: in ewe lambs of Srednostaroplaninska sheep the surface of nasolabial plate is 31.4 mm², and in ewe lambs of Koprivshitsa sheep breed it is 29.7 mm², a difference of 1.7 mm². The area is respectively 42.4 mm² in mature sheep of Srednostraoplaninska sheep breed, and 41.3 mm² in Koprivshitsa sheep breed, a difference of 1.1 mm². The number of skin folds (shafts) in ewe lambs of Srednostaroplaninska breed is 114, and it is 113 in Koprivshitsa breed. The number of skin folds in mature sheep of 3-4 years age is 117, and it is 109 in Koprivshitsa sheep. The differenced in length of skin folds (shafts) are also minimal.

Our results correspond and are close in value to the results obtained by Malofeev and Lipovik (2011) and Lipovik (2013) in the study of dermatoglyphic pattern of Altay sheep.

CONCLUSIONS

In both autochthonous sheep breeds that were studied, three types of dermatoglyph occurred in approximately equal proportions - grain, groove and cross. The most common type of dermatoglyph is groove with 56.6% in Srednostaroplaninska sheep breed and 58.75% in Koprivshitsa sheep breed. The morphometric parameters of both breeds are similar. The direction of grooves and the amount of skin fragments are inherited and have no relation to the age development of the animals.

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Methodical approaches to comparative assessment of milking installations for goats

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SUMMARY

- A methodical approach is applied to
- the comparative complex evaluation of
fixation systems of the linear milking
installations for goats of 'side-by-side'
- type. This approach assesses the impact
of the fixation system type on the working
- process quality of the milking installation.

The complex evaluation is done on
quantitative (objectively measurable) and
qualitative (objectively non-measurable)
assessment indicators. ANOVA-method
- was used in the assessment of the impact
- on the quantitative indicators. It was found
- that the fixation system type had the most
- impact on the 'Relative share of
preparatory technological operations' in
- relation to these indicators.

- The indicator for 'Labour productivity per
hour of operational working time" was in
- the second place.

- The least pronounced is the impact of the
fixation system type on the indicator

the process of their establishment is based: 'Random fixing principle' and 'Arranged fixing principle'. To assess the impact of the fixation principle on the quality of the working process of the milking installation, the authors use "qualitative" (objectively non-measurable) assessment indicators.

The present study is a kind of continuation of the research work on that issue. The aim of the study is to propose a methodical approach for complex comparative assessment of fixation systems in relation to the expert assessments of 'side-by-side' type, linear milking installations for goats.

"Side-by-side".

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MATERIAL AND METHODS

In order to perform a complex comparative assessment of the fixation systems in the linear milking installations for goats, the evaluation indicators presented in Table 1 are selected. These indicators are selected by the expert evaluation method (Bozhanov and Vuchkov, 1983) and represent the main criteria for assessing the impact of the fixation system on the quality of the working process of the milking installation.

Vuchkov, 1983)

1.

Table 1. Evaluative indicators for complex assessment of the fixation systems of linear milking installations for goats

	/ Indicator	/Measure
1.	Duration of one milking cycle, T_c	s
2.	Relative share of the preparatory technological operations, p	%
3.	Relative share of the finishing technological operations, t	%
4.	Labour productivity per hour of operational working time, W_{02}	/ goats/man hour
5.	/ Productivity level of goats	-
6.	Working conditions of the operators-milkmen	-
7.	/ Welfare of goats	-

(Mitkov and Minkov, 1989; Pavlova and Chipeva, 2012):

1÷4

5÷7

1.
1.1.
1.1.1.

(c)

2

“Side-by-side”.

2.

“Side-by-side”

Table 2. Technological operations during the milking of goats with a “Side-by-side” type linear single-row milking installation

	/ Name of the technological operation	Symbol
I.	<i>/ Technological operations during the actual milking</i>	T₁
1.	/ Machine milking of first goat	T _{1,1}
2.	/ Machine stripping of first goat	T _{1,2}
3.	/ Waiting for the end of milking the group	T _{1,3}
II.	<i>/ Preparatory technological operations</i>	T₂
1.	/ Loading the feeder with concentrate feed	T _{2,1}
2.	Arranging the goats onto the milking platform	T _{2,2}
3.	/ Attaching the 1 st teat cap	T _{2,3}
III.	<i>/ Finishing technological operations</i>	T₃
1.	/ Detaching the last teat cap	T _{3,1}
2.	/ Releasing the group	T _{3,2}
3.	/ Getting the group off the milking parlour	T _{3,3}

The time to complete one milking cycle is defined by the expression:

$$c = \sum_{i=1}^3 t_i, s \quad (1)$$

In this equation, T_1 indicates the actual milking time, s;

- T_2 - the time to perform preparatory technological operations, s;

- T_3 - the time to complete the finishing technological operations, s.

The actual milking is the process where the milking installation performs its primary purpose of extracting milk from fixed animals on the milking platform.

The number of animals in the group fixed on the milking platform (Q) is limited by the milking installation construction and the milking places on the platform.

In the present study, a milking platform was used with $Q = 24$.

1.1.2. Relative share of preparatory technological operations

The group of preparatory technological operations includes all those operations that precede the actual milking process and are necessary for its initiation. The time of these operations is limited by the moment marking the start of 'Loading the feeding-trough with concentrated fodder' process until the end of the process of 'Attaching the 1-st teat cup'.

The relative share of preparatory technological operations is determined by the formula:

$$p = \frac{T_2}{T_c} \cdot 100, \% \quad (2)$$

1.1.4. Relative share of the finishing technological operations

In the group of finishing technological operations are included the technological operations, following the actual milking process and performed after its completion. The duration of the finishing technological operations is limited by the moment marking the start of the process 'Detaching the last teat cup' until the moment marking the end of the process 'Getting the group out of the milking platform'.

The relative share of the finishing technological operations is calculated by the formula:

$$t = \frac{T_a}{T_c} \cdot 100, \% \quad (3)$$

1.5.

1.5. Productivity of labour per hour of operational working time

The 'Labour productivity per hour of operational working time, W_{02} ' (RS 3527-72) is determined by the number of goats milked per hour of operational working time of the milking platform:

3527-72)

$$W_{02} = \frac{3600 Q}{T_{02} \cdot N}, \quad / \quad (\text{goats/man-hour}) \quad (4)$$

Q

where Q is the number of goats milked per a milking cycle (coinciding with the number of animals fixed on the milking platform);

- T_{02} - operational time of working of the installation, s;

- N - number of operator-milkmen working with the milking installation.

The operational time, T_{02} , is the time spent for milking the goat group on the platform and preparing the milking installation for the next group of animals. It is calculated by the formula:

$$T_{02} = \sum_{i=1}^3 t_i \quad (5)$$

(1) (5) , | By comparing (1) and (5) it is

evident that the operating time of the installation is equal to the time of one milking cycle, i.e. $t_{op} = t_c$.

$t_{op} = t_c$

1.2.

1.2.1.

“ ”
()

1.2. Qualitative evaluation indicators

1.2.1. Level of production

- Because of "technological limitations", this experimental study was conducted in two different lactation periods (in two different calendar years).
- This predetermines some differences in the conditions of the experiment in its two stages and excludes the possibility of objective quantitative comparability of the results obtained with respect to the level of productivity. Because of that the indicator of 'Level of Productivity' is included in the quantitative evaluation indicators.

1.2.2.

“ ”

1.2.2. Working conditions for maintenance personnel

- This indicator is complex and provides an expert assessment of the physical and mental energy consumption by the operators-milkmen in carrying out the process of 'Milking'.

1.2.3.

1.2.3. Welfare of goats

- This is also a comprehensive indicator that measures the welfare and stress levels of animals in the milking process. This factor is conditioned by conflicts among animals and by the forced interventions of the operators-milkmen.

2.

24-

“Side-by-side”.

2. Methodology of the experimental study

The experimental study was conducted in a milking parlour for goats equipped with 'Side-by-side' type, 24-placed single-row milking installation. The milking installation is operated by two operators-milkmen. Milking technology provides for feeding animals with concentrated fodder in the milking process.

A comparative assessment of two types of fixation systems was performed during the study:

2.1.

(Bojanov and Vuchkov, 1983; Mitkov and Minkov, 1993).

- a fixation system based on random fixing principle;
- a fixation system based on arranged fixing principle.

The quality of the fixation system is assessed by its degree of impact on the quality of the working process of the milking installation. This impact is accounted using the above-mentioned evaluation indicators.

For the comparability of fixation systems, in the experimental study, it was accepted that the fixation system established on the random fixing principle would be considered as a *basic variant* and the fixation system established on the arranged fixing principle as an *experimental variant*.

The study was conducted in two consecutive calendar years. In 1st year, the milking installation was equipped with a fixation system based on the random fixing principle, and in 2nd year with a fixation system based on the arranged fixing principle.

2.1. *Comparative assessment of fixation systems in relation to quantitative evaluation indicators*

To evaluate the quality of the fixation system by the selected quantitative indicators, one-factor experiments were carried out. The influence of the fixation system type on each of the selected quantitative indicators was studied. As the desired assessment is of a qualitative nature (presence or absence of influence) the ANOVA-method is applied (Bojanov and Vuchkov, 1983; Mitkov and Minkov, 1993). The influence of the qualitative factor of 'Fixation System Type' (A) on the parameters of the experiment (Y_i) was studied.

The qualitative factor of the experiment 'Fixation System Type' (A) varies in two levels:

- level A₁ - 'Fixation system based on random fixing principle';

- 2 -
 -
 (i=1÷4)
 1
 - Y₁
 - Y₂ -
 - Y₃ -
 - Y₄ -
 , T_c
 , W₀₂
 , Y_i

- level A₂ - 'Fixation system based on arranged fixing principle'.
 The characteristics of the experiment Y_i (i=1÷4) are presented in Table 1 as quantitative indicators, where:
 - Y₁ is the duration of one milking cycle, T_c;
 - Y₂ - relative share of preparatory technological operations, p_i;
 - Y₃ - relative share of the finishing technological operations, t_i;
 - Y₄ - labour productivity per hour of operational working time, W₀₂.
 The validity of the zero hypotheses is verified for the equation of the conditional averages of the experiment parameters, Y_i:

$$: [Y_{i|1}] = [Y_{i|2}] \quad (6)$$

i
 - [Y_{i|1}]
 (Y_i) I
 - [Y_{i|2}]
 (Y_i) II
 A.
 m=2,
 i
 n_i=12.

In this equation E [Y_i] represents the total mean value of i parameter of the experiment, Y_i;
 - E [Y_i|A₁] - the conditional average of i parameter of the experiment (Y_i) at 1st level of factor A;
 - E [Y_i|A₂] - the conditional average of i parameter of the experiment (Y_i) at 2nd level of factor A;
 In this study, the number of levels of factor A is m = 2, and the number of parallel experiments for i-th parameter is n_i = 12.

2, 3, c
 (RS 3527-72).
 2.2.

To determine the times T₁, T₂, T₃, and T_c, the technological operations carried out within one milking cycle are examined. Control shift methods and chronometric observations (RS 3527-72) are used.
 2.2. Comparative assessment of fixation systems in relation to qualitative evaluation indicators

(Mitkov and Minkov, 1993).

The methods of the expert evaluation and the statistical hypothesis for equality of the average value of a normally distributed population (Mitkov and Minkov, 1993) were used to evaluate the influence of the fixation system on the selected qualitative evaluation indicators.

Expert judgment has examined the opinion of experts responding to the

question: "Compared to 'Fixation system based on random fixation principle' what is the impact of 'Fixation system based on arranged fixing principle' on qualitative evaluation indicators?".

The survey used a questionnaire that is presented in Table 3. In order to formalize the processing of the information, the corresponding numerical values are assigned to answers of the experts, given in the legend to the table.

3.

Table 3. Qualitative indicators for evaluation of the type of fixation system

	Evaluative indicators	/ Answers ^{*)}				
		- 2	-1	0	1	2
1.	Productivity level of goats					
2.	Working conditions of the operators-milkmen					
3.	/ Welfare of goats					
*) / Legend of answers:						
	Negative	Rather negative	No change	Rather positive	Positive	
	-2	-1	0	1	2	

The assessment of the influence of the fixation system type on the qualitative indicators was done by the hypothesis of the equation of the average value of a normally distributed population.

At 'Fixation principle based on random fixing principle' as a basis of comparison was raised the zero hypothesis: 'Fixation system based on the arranged fixation principle' does not change the quality of the working process of the milking installation, i.e.

$$H : E[Y] = \mu \tag{7}$$

where $E[Y]$ is the evaluation of the average value of the general totality;
 μ is the set value with which we compare the mean value (in this case $\mu=0$, according to the legend of the answers in Table 3).

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where $E[Y]$ is the evaluation of the average value of the general totality;
 μ is the set value with which we compare the mean value (in this case $\mu=0$, according to the legend of the answers in Table 3).

() $\Gamma = 0,05$.

The validity of the zero hypothesis is checked at a level of significance (risk of error) $\Gamma = 0.05$.
To verify the hypothesis, the criterion was used:

$$t = \frac{|\bar{Y} - \mu|}{S} \sqrt{n} \quad (8)$$

$$Y = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n y_i \quad S = \sqrt{\frac{1}{n-1} \sum (y_i - \bar{Y})^2}$$

where $Y = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n y_i$ and $S = \sqrt{\frac{1}{n-1} \sum (y_i - \bar{Y})^2}$ are respectively

- n -

;

the assessments of the average value and the mean quadratic deviation;
- n - number of random value measurements.

$$k = n - 1.$$

In case of a true zero hypothesis, this criterion has a distribution of Student with degrees of freedom $k = n - 1$.

(H)

The critical area of the hypothesis (the area of H_0 rejection) is determined by the alternative hypothesis

$$H_1: E[Y] \neq \mu \quad 0.$$

$$H_1: E[Y] \neq \mu \quad 0.$$

This critical area is two-sided and has boundaries

$$|t| \geq t_{\frac{\Gamma}{2}; k}$$

A o

$$t < t_{\frac{\Gamma}{2}; k}$$

$$P(t, k) > \Gamma \Rightarrow H_0 : E[Y] = \mu = 0,$$

If the calculated value of the criterion $t < t_{\frac{\Gamma}{2}; k}$ or the guarantee

probability $P(t, k) > \Gamma \Rightarrow H_0 : E[Y] = \mu = 0$, i.e. the zero hypothesis does not contradict the experimental data and is considered to be valid. This means that, compared to the fixation system based on the *random fixing* principle, the fixation system based on *arranged fixing principle* does not have an influence on the selected qualitative evaluation indicators, i.e. fixation system type does not have an influence on the quality if the working process of the milking installation.

$t \geq t_{\frac{\alpha}{2};k}$ -
 $P(t, k) < \alpha \Rightarrow H_1: E[Y] \neq \mu_0$,
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 ,
 ,
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 .

If $t \geq t_{\frac{\alpha}{2};k}$ or the guarantee probability
 $P(t, k) < \alpha \Rightarrow H_1: E[Y] \neq \mu_0$, i.e. the
 zero hypothesis is rejected. This means
 that, compared to the fixation system
 based on the random fixing principle, the
 fixation system based on the arranged
 fixing principle *has an influence* on the
 selected qualitative evaluation indicators,
 i.e. fixation system type *has an influence*
 on the quality of the working process of
 the milking installation.

1.1.

4 5

4.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1.2. *Comparative assessment of fixation systems in relation to quantitative evaluation indicators*

Tables 4 and 5 represent the results of single-factor experiments and the variance analysis of the results obtained.

Table 4. Point estimates of the numerical characteristics of evaluated parameters

Statistics ^a	Y ₁		Y ₂		Y ₃		Y ₄	
	Factor A levels:		Factor A levels:		Factor A levels:		Factor A levels:	
	A ₁	A ₂	A ₁	A ₂	A ₁	A ₂	A ₁	A ₂
Average, qX	847.85	716.66	21.55	10.39	6.43	5.84	47.79	57.22
Average quadratic deviation, SD	54.46	26.81	1.25	0.36	0.49	0.16	2.64	1.79
Coeff. of variation, %	6.42	3.75	5.81	3.44	7.69	2.77	5.52	3.13
Minimum value	769.48	675.21	19.27	9.82	5.89	5.54	45.05	54.67
Maximum value	923.14	763.85	23.05	10.86	7.42	6.08	52.21	59.84

5.

Table 5. ANOVA analysis of the experimental results

Source of dispersion	Sum of squares	Degrees of freedom	Mean square	F-Ratio values:	
				Calculated	Critical
Between groups	$SS_{A_iTc} = 103274,08$	1	$S_{A_iTc}^2 = 103274,08$	$F_{A_iTc} = 56,05$	= 4,30
	$SS_{A_i\Delta p} = 747,39$		$S_{A_i\Delta p}^2 = 747,39$	$F_{A_i\Delta p} = 880,97$	
	$SS_{A_i\Delta t} = 2,15$		$S_{A_i\Delta t}^2 = 2,15$	$F_{A_i\Delta t} = 15,87$	
	$SS_{A_iW_{O_2}} = 532,89$		$S_{A_iW_{O_2}}^2 = 532,89$	$F_{A_iW_{O_2}} = 104,88$	
Random and unread factors Within group	$SS_{R_iTc} = 40532,38$	22	$S_{R_iTc}^2 = 1828,38$		
	$SS_{R_i\Delta p} = 18,66$		$S_{R_i\Delta p}^2 = 0,85$		
	$SS_{R_i\Delta t} = 2,98$		$S_{R_i\Delta t}^2 = 0,14$		
	$SS_{R_iW_{O_2}} = 111,78$		$S_{R_iW_{O_2}}^2 = 5,08$		
Total impact	$SS_{Tc} = 143806,46$	23	$S_{Tc}^2 = 6252,46$		
	$SS_{\Delta p} = 766,05$		$S_{\Delta p}^2 = 33,31$		
	$SS_{\Delta t} = 5,13$		$S_{\Delta t}^2 = 0,22$		
	$SS_{W_{O_2}} = 644,67$		$S_{W_{O_2}}^2 = 28,03$		

$\alpha = 0,05$
 $k_1 = 1$ $k_2 = 22$.
 5 -
 (F_A) -
 (=4,30).
 („
 Y_i
 $S_{A_i}^2$ $S_{R_i}^2$
 Y_i

The critical value of Fisher criterion was obtained at a level of significance = 0.05 and degrees of freedom: $k_1 = 1$ and $k_2 = 22$.

The results in Table 5 show that for all experiments the calculated values of the Fisher criterion (F_A) are greater than the critical value of the same (= 4.30).

This gives grounds for claiming that Factor A ('Fixation system type') has a significant effect on all Y_i parameters.

It is evident from the comparison of $S_{A_i}^2$ variances and $S_{R_i}^2$ residual variances that the values of dispersions determined by the influence of factor A repeatedly exceed the values of the dispersions determined by the influence of all random and unrelated factors. This is an indicator of the degree of influence of factor A on the parameters Y_i .

Y_i , -
 Y_2 („
 $S_{A;\Delta p}^2 = 747,39$
 $F_{A;\Delta p} = 880,97$.
 2 („
 ”)
 51,79 % (.
 5).
 Y_2 ,
 Y_4 - „
 W_{02} ” ,
 $S_{A;W_{02}}^2 = 532,89$
 $F_{A;W_{02}} = 104,88$.
 2
 19,73 %.
 Y_4
 T_{02} .
 (. 4) T_{02}
 Y_4
 W_{02} ” ,
 Y_1 „ , W_{02} ” ,
 T_c ” .
 Y_3
 “ (
 $S_{A;\Delta t}^2 = 2,15$

Regarding the influence of factor A on the individual parameters of experiment, Y_i , the influence of factor A on parameter Y_2 ('Relative share of preparatory technological operations, ρ ') is most expressed – with the variance estimation $S_{A;\Delta p}^2 = 747.39$ and the calculated value of the criterion of $F_{A;\Delta p} Fisher = 880.97$. At A_2 level ('Fixation system based on the arranged fixing principle') of factor A, the arithmetic mean value of the relative share of the preparatory technological operations decreased by 51.79 % (see Table 5). These results are explained by the fact that Y_2 is the indicator involving the largest volume of technological operations on which the effect of the change of the fixation system type is reflected.

At second place, according to the degree of influence of factor A, is the parameter Y_4 - 'Labour productivity per hour of operational working time, W_{02} ', with variance estimate $S_{A;W_{02}}^2 = 532.89$ and calculated value of the Fisher criterion $F_{A;W_{02}} = 104.88$. At level A_2 of factor A, the average arithmetic value of labour productivity per hour of operational working time increased by 19.73%. The influence of the fixation system type on the parameter Y_4 is reflected by the operating time T_{02} . In the formula for W_{02} (see equation 4), T_{02} participates in the equation denominator.

This explains the stronger impact of the fixation principle on Y_4 indicator 'Labour productivity per hour of operational working time, W_{02} ', compared to Y_1 indicator for 'Duration of one milking cycle, T_c '.

The influence of factor A on parameter Y_3 'Relative share of finishing technological operations' (with a variance estimate $S_{A;\Delta t}^2 = 2.15$ and a calculated variance value $F_{A;\Delta t} = 15.36$) is the

$F_{A:\Delta T} = 15,36$).
 2
 9,18 %
 ,
 ,
 1
 Y_i
 ,
 Y_j
 (, ”).
 Y_b . .

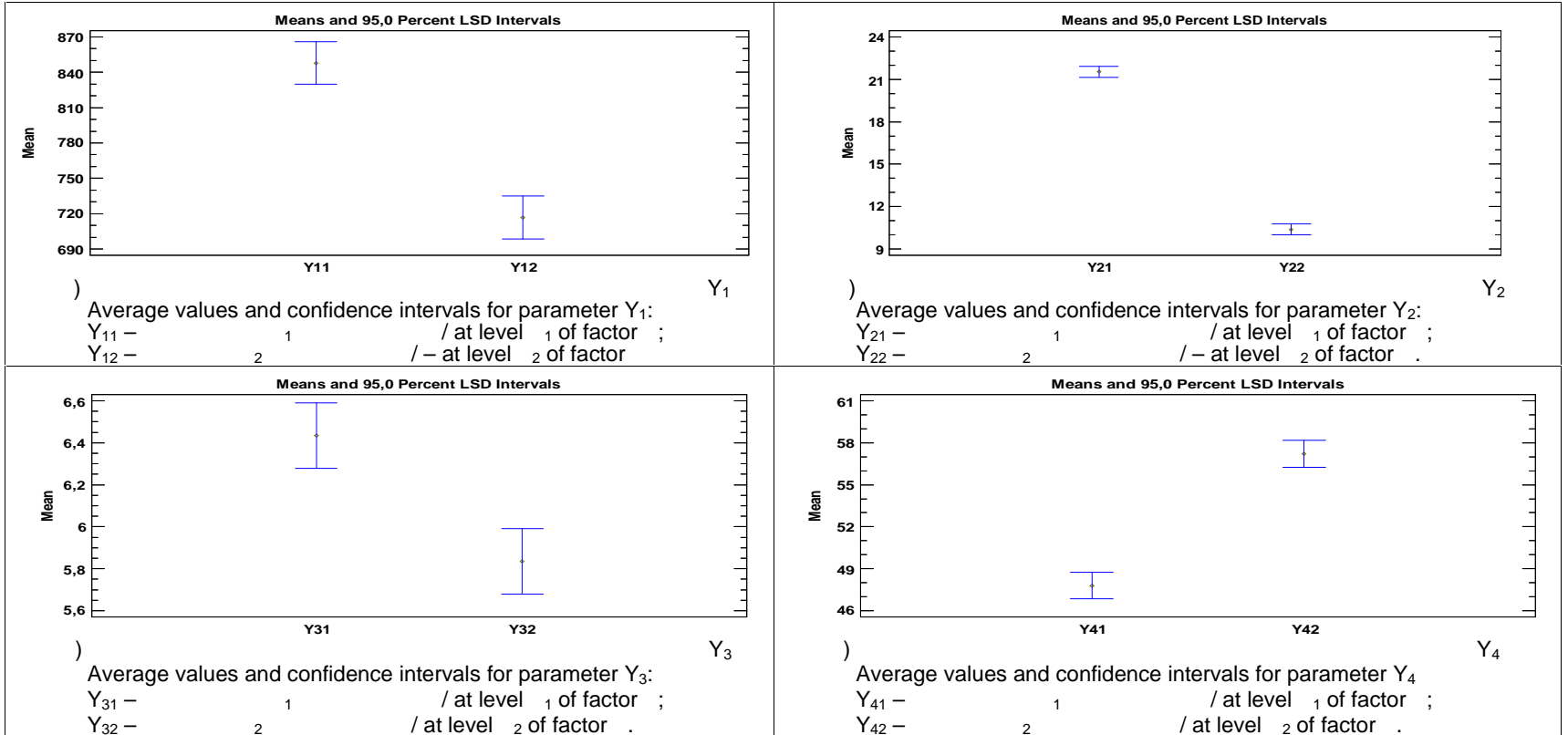
lowest. At level A_2 of factor A, the arithmetic mean of this parameter increases by 9.18%.

The reason for these results is the fact that the change of the fixation system type has the least impact on the duration of the finishing technological operations as it only reflects the time for leaving the milking platform from the group of animals that have been milked.

Figure 1 shows the confidence intervals of the mean values of Y_i parameters being evaluated.

The figure shows that for all Y_i parameters to be evaluated, the confidence intervals of the mean values are significantly different at the various levels of Factor A ('Fixation System Type'). This confirms the results of the variance analysis for a significant influence of the fixation system type on all parameters of Y_i experiment, i.e. on all evaluation indicators.

. 1.
Fig. 1. Means and LSD intervals for the evaluated parameters



1.3.

6

1.4. *Comparative assessment of fixation systems in relation to qualitative evaluation indicators*

Table 6 presents the results of the processed questionnaires and the zero hypothesis check for the selected evaluation indicators.

6.

Table 6. Results of the hypothesis test for mean

Evaluative indicators	Sample mean, \bar{qY}	Standard quadratic deviation, S	t Calculated value of t	Guaranteed probability, P	Evaluation of null hypothesis, $H_0 : E[Y]=\mu=0$
Productivity level of goats	1,182	0,750	5,221	3,90E-4	Rejected
Working conditions of the operators-milkmen	1,818	0,404	14,907	3,71E-8	Rejected
Welfare of goats	1,727	0,467	12,264	2,38E-7	Rejected

$H_0 : E[Y] = \mu = 0$

The results show that for all evaluation indicators the zero hypothesis $H_0: E [Y] = \mu = 0$ is rejected, i.e. with respect to these indicators, the fixation system type has a significant impact on the quality of the working process of the milking installation, as measured by the indicators 'Productivity Level', 'Labour conditions of operators-milkmen' and 'Goat Welfare'.

For the three evaluation indicators, t -criterion has positive values. Therefore, with a risk of error of 5%, it can be assumed that, compared to the fixation system based on the principle of *random fixation*, the fixation system based on the principle of *arranged fixation* has a significant positive influence and helps to

improve the quality of the working process of the milking installation.

The results obtained for the guarantee probability P and the mean quadratic deviation S show that according to experts, the type of fixation system has the most positive impact (and with the highest degree of consistency in expert assessments) on the indicator 'Labour conditions of operators-milkmen': $P = 3.71E-8$ and $S = 0.404$.

The results are similar in terms of 'Animal Welfare' indicator.

The least pronounced (and with the lowest degree of consistency in expert assessments) is the impact of the fixation system type on 'Productivity Level' indicator: $P = 3.90E-4$ and $S = 0.750$.

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The results are similar in terms of 'Animal Welfare' indicator.

The least pronounced (and with the lowest degree of consistency in expert assessments) is the impact of the fixation system type on 'Productivity Level' indicator: $P = 3.90E-4$ and $S = 0.750$.

CONCLUSIONS

The study proposes a methodological approach to the complex assessment (by quantitative and qualitative indicators) of the impact of the fixation system type on the quality of the working process in the linear milking installations for goats.

In terms of quantitative evaluation indicators, the type of fixation system has the most impact on the 'Relative share of preparatory technological operations'.

The indicator 'Labour productivity per hour of operational working time' was in the second place. The fixation system type had the slightest impact on the indicator of 'Relative share of the finishing technological operations'.

Regarding the qualitative evaluation indicators, the fixation system type has the greatest impact on the indicator for 'Working conditions of the operator-milkmen'. The results are similar in terms of 'Goat Welfare' indicator. The least

pronounced is the impact of the fixation system on the indicator for 'Productivity level of goats'.

Compared to the fixation system based on the random fixing principle, the fixation system based on the arranged fixing principle has a significant positive influence and helps to improve the quality of the working process of the milking installation.

The proposed methodological approach is applicable in making comparative expert assessments of 'side-by-side' type linear milking installations for goats.

"Side-by-side".

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Comparison of motherly behaviour between goats of BWD and their crossbreeds with Anglo-Nubian and Toggenburg goat breeds

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SUMMARY

1 - 32
(), 13
(x) 25
(x)
, (3±0,83 min) (2,98±1,28 min).
11,42±3,43 min.
- (32,7±2,1 min),
x (30.3±2,9 min),
-
(15,9±4,1 min).

The births and behavior of the mothers were observed within 1 hour after birth of 32 animals of Bulgarian White Dairy goat (BWD), 13 crossbreeds with Toggenburg (BWDxT) and 25 crossbreeds with Anglo-Nubian goat breeds (BWDxAN) placed in one and the same conditions and raised in a single herd. Goats of BWD and Anglo-Nubian crossbreeds sniff and lick their kids after birth almost for the same period of time (3 ± 0.83 min) and (2.98 ± 1.28 min). Toggenburg crossbreeds sniff and lick their newborn kid at 11.42 ± 3.43 min. Mothers from BWD spent the longest total time in care for their kids (32.7 ± 2.1 min), followed by BWDxAN (30.3 ± 2.9 min), while Toggenburg crossbreeds spent the shortest time in care for their kids during the first hour after giving birth (15.9 ± 4.1 min). It was found that mother goats, crossbreeds of BWD with Toggenburg, showed less pronounced maternal

qualities than BWD goats and their crossbreeds with Anglo-Nubian goat breed on the basis of the surveyed indicators.

Key words: mother goat, newborn kid, sniffing, licking, BWD, Toggenburg, Anglo-Nubian

INTRODUCTION

The kid survival during the early neonatal period is an indicator that is directly related and influenced by building the relationship between the newborn and the mother goat. Maternal behavior is of utmost importance for the formation of this relationship. Maternal behavior is characterized by a wide variety of behavioural patterns (Hernandez et al., 2012), which depend on a number of integrated neuroendocrine mechanisms (Nephew and Murgatroyd, 2013).

Survival and endurance of kids till the period of weaning is directly related to the breed and age of the mother, birth environmental conditions, type of birth, gender and live weight at birth (Awemu et al., 1999; Marai et al., 2002; Hailu et al., 2006).

Differences in the maternal behavior were found among breeds. According to Dwyer and Lawrence (2005) and König von Borstel et al. (2011), mountain and other primitive breeds where human intervention was more limited demonstrate a better maternal instinct, whereas breeds that are under intensive selection and are raised in intensive conditions show greater variations in maternal behavior and manifest worse maternal care.

A number of authors have studied the interbreed differences in behavioural reactions in young animals: Dwyer et al. (1999, 2004) in sheep, Markov (2013) in female calves, etc., but there is insufficient information on the interbreed differences in

(Hernandez et al., 2012),
(Nephew
and Murgatroyd, 2013).

(Awemu et al., 1999; Marai et
al., 2002; Hailu et al., 2006).

Dwyer and Lawrence
(2005) König von Borstel et al. (2011)

Dwyer et al. (1999, 2004)
Markov (2013)

- maternal behavior of goats in the available literature.

The purpose of this study is to find out whether there is a difference in the manifestation of maternal behavior in the three studied groups and to what extent it is expressed.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Data are obtained from the herd of the Experimental Base at the Research Institute on Mountain Stockbreeding and Agriculture in the town of Troyan. The births and behavior of mother goats were observed within 1 hour after the birth of 32 animals of Bulgarian White Dairy goat (BWD), 13 crossbreeds with Toggenburg (BWD x TG) and 25 crossbreeds with Anglo-Nubian breeds (BWD x AN) placed in the same conditions and kept in a single herd. Kidding was in February and March.

During the winter period animals were kept in a barn and fed with a ration containing 1.5 kg hay, 1 kg silage and 0.6 kg concentrated fodder per head. There was a free access to water and salt. In spring months (May-November), goats were grazing.

The assessment of maternal qualities was based on the following indicators, registered during the first hour after birth, by direct observation and chronometry. Duration of the period between birth and first sniffing of the newborn, length of time between birth and first licking of the kid and time devoted to offspring care – the total time devoted to sniffing and licking during the first hour after birth.

Data are presented as mean value and error of the mean. The results of all tasks are processed with Windows statistical program toolkit.

Windows.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The building of connection between the observed goats and their kids begins with sniffing and licking in the area of the head, thus cleaning the respiratory tract of the kid and removing the placental remains. The mother then goes to the rest of the body of the kid as it stimulates by licking the respiratory activity and peripheral circulation.

Mother goats of BWD breed and the Anglo-Nubian crossbreeds sniff and lick their kids after birth almost for the same duration of time (3 ± 0.83 min) and (2.98 ± 1.28 min) (Figure 1). It takes the longest time for Toggenburg crossbreeds to sniff and lick their newborn kid (11.42 ± 3.43 min).

(2.98 ± 1.28 min) (3 ± 0.83 min) (11.42 ± 3.43 min).

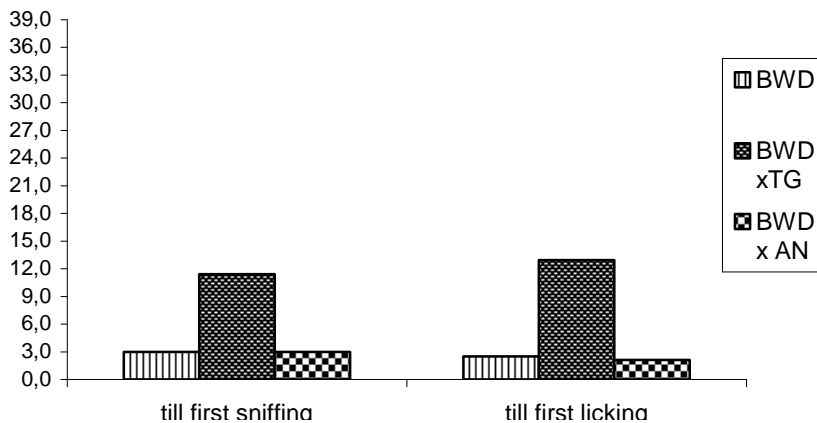
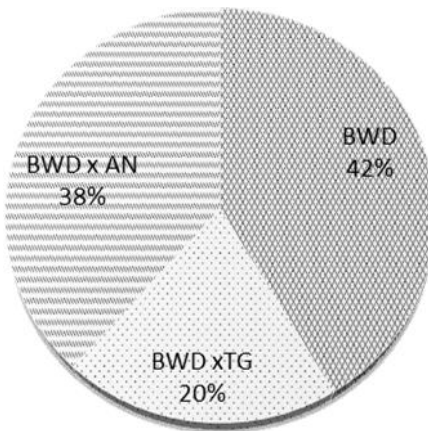


Fig. 1. Time span till the mother sniffs and licks the kids after birth (for different breeds)

(32.7 ± 2.1 min),
 x (30.3 ± 2.9 min)
 (15.9 ± 4.1 min).

The total time the mother spends in care for the kids is the longest for BWD (32.7 ± 2.1 min), followed by BWD x AN (30.3 ± 2.9 min) (Figure 2). Toggenburg crossbreeds spend the shortest time in care for the kid during the first hour after giving birth (15.9 ± 4.1 min).



. 2.

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Fig. 2. Total time spent taking care of the kid during the first hour after birth (for different breeds)

(
Dwyer et al. (1999; 2004)

2004).

(Dwyer et al., 1999;

x 68%
61%

In the study of the steroid hormone concentration in two breeds of pregnant sheep before birth (Scottish Blackface and Suffolk), Dwyer et al. (1999; 2004) found that mothers of Scottish Blackface breed had higher estradiol concentrations and estradiol-progesterone ratios than Suffolk. The high estradiol level in the blood, and in particular the estradiol-progesterone ratio, is associated with maternal behavior and in particular with maternal care and low bleating (Dwyer et al., 1999; 2004). According to the authors, the results obtained may explain the breed variations in the maternal behavior in both studied sheep breeds.

In the three groups observed in this study, there were no deaths in newborn kids during the early neonatal period.

It was found that kids of 68% of BWD and BWD x AN goats and 61% of

x

- BWD x TG goats made an attempt for sucking during the first hour after birth.

- In view of the findings of this study, we can assume that, on the basis of our indicators, the goat mothers, crossbreeds of BWD with Toggenburg show less pronounced maternal behavior than BWD goats and their crossbreeds with the Anglo-Nubian breed goats.

- Despite the differences in maternal behavior, further studies are necessary to determine the extent to which the native group influences the manifestation of maternal behavior in the early neonatal period.

CONCLUSIONS

(3±0,83 min), (2,98±1,28 min) (11,42±3,43 min).

- Mother goats of BWD, BWD x AN and BWD x TG breeds sniff and lick their kids after birth respectively on (3±0.83 min), (2.98±1.28 min) and (11.42±3.43 min).

- Mother goats of BWD x TG show less pronounced maternal behavior compared to mother goats of BWD and BWD x AN.

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Biological efficiency and chemical composition of milk of Monbeliarde and Simental cow breeds

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SUMMARY

Milk production is studied and analyzed of Montbeliarde and Simmental Cattle that are being raised in the Experimental Base of the Research Institute of Mountain Stockbreeding and Agriculture, in the town of Troyan. Milk production and chemical composition, dry matter, non-fat solid (NFS) and the energy value of milk were studied. Dry matter percentage is constant generalizing indication determining the concentration of cow's milk. Live weight of animals was determined. Biological efficiency and coefficient of biological full-cream milk were calculated by formulas.

Key words: cows, biological efficiency, milk productivity, dry matter, non-fat solid

INTRODUCTION

Obtaining organic production is one of the important prerequisites for the development of dairy cattle breeding. In the foothill and mountain regions of the Republic of Bulgaria different breeds and crossbreeds of dairy cattle are being bred. The assessments for biological efficiency of cows are insufficient and incomplete

and the biological full-cream value of milk from different cattle breeds, both in our and foreign literary sources.

At present, in many countries, the nutritional value of milk is determined by the content of dry non-fat solid and protein, as the current assessment of protein productivity and milk fat are not excluded since these are the most valuable components of milk in energy and biological terms (Karnauhov and Andrianova, 2010).

There are some milk ingredients such as proteins, K, CLA, butyrate, saturated fatty acids, pesticides, estrogens, and others, which may be responsible or potentially harmful and predisposing for diseases that develop in the human body (Cwak et al., 1982, Bruthgen et al., 1984, Davodi et al., 2013; Gerchev et al., 2013).

Tagirov and Adrianova (2008) found that increasing the blood quality of the Holstein Friesians dairy breed increases the level of milk productivity in preserving its environmental safety when are swallowed in breeding by local black-headed cattle.

Khodyreva (2013) agrees that the cattle breed has an impact on milk production and the milk quality. In the nature and climate conditions of the South Urals, it has been possible to use animals both from Holstein Friesians and Simmental breeds, a product of foreign selection. Holstein Friesian cattle breed showed extremely high milk production.

According to Nemzarov et al. (2015) milk biological value is determined not only by the content of the main components but also by all the substances it contains. Dry matter is one of the main indicators. Biological efficiency coefficient (BEC) shows the dry matter yield from one kilogram of live

and the biological full-cream value of milk from different cattle breeds, both in our and foreign literary sources.

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In their studies, Tagirov and Adrianova (2008) found that increasing the blood quality of the Holstein Friesians dairy breed increases the level of milk productivity in preserving its environmental safety when are swallowed in breeding by local black-headed cattle.

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2015-2016

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„Milco-Scan 120 B”.

()

Lazarenko (1990):

= /

305

, kg

–

, %;

–

, kg

weight and makes it possible to assess more accurately the milk production of animals in terms of the nutritional value of the production obtained.

The aim of present study is the comparative assessment of the biological efficiency and the chemical composition of milk obtained from Montbeliarde and Simmental cattle breeds in the foothill regions of the Republic of Bulgaria.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The scientific and economic experiment was carried out at the Experimental Base of the Research Institute of Mountain Stockbreeding and Agriculture in Troyan in 2015-2016. The object of study was clinically healthy, mature cows after a second lactation. The groups were formed on the principle of analogues of 10 cows of Montbeliarde and Simmental breeds. The first group was with Montbeliarde, and the second one with Simmental. The animals under study were put in identical feeding and breeding conditions.

Milk production was determined by the controlled milking once a month. The assessment of physico-chemical parameters of milk has been carried out on a monthly basis: fat content according to Gerber method, protein by formal titration methods, dry matter by estimation method, NFS in „Milco-Scan 120 B” milk analyzer.

Live weight of cows was determined by a combined weight and height measuring tape, type ‘Kerbel’.

Biological efficiency of cows (BEC) for both groups was determined by Lazarenko’s formula (1990):

$$BEC = MP \times DM / LW$$

where MP – is milk productivity of 305 day lactation, kg

DM – is content of dry matter in milk, %;

LW – e live weight of cows, kg

()
Lazarenko,
Gorelik and Lykasova (2002):

= /
- , kg
- , %
- , kg
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:
=(-) x 100 /
- 100
, kg
- 305
, kg
EC(kkal)
:

$$(kcal) = (+) 4 + (9)$$

- ;
- ;
-

MS Excel

100
-
4,08%
3,98%
3,53 %
3,22 %
100
1699,26 kg,
1466,29 kg (1).

The coefficient of biological full-cream milk (CBF) was calculated according to the formulae of Lazarenko, Gorelik and Lykasova (2002):

$$CBF = MP \times NFS / LW$$

where MP - is milk productivity for the usual lactation, kg
NFS – is non-fat solid, %
LW – is live weight of cows, kg

Constant lactation coefficient (CLC) was determined by the formulae:

$$CLC = (B - A) \times 100 / B$$

where A – is a productivity of 100 day lactation
B – is productivity of 305 day lactation, kg

Energy value EV (kcal) was calculated by the formulae:

$$EV (kcal) = (P + L) \times 4 + (F \times 9)$$

where P – are proteins;
L – is lactose;
F – is fat

The results were processed
- biometrically by the variation statistics
- method using MS Excel program and
- presented in tables.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The 100-day lactation data showed higher values of milk fats in Simmental breed, respectively 4.08% versus 3.98% and higher values for milk proteins in Montbeliarde breed, respectively 3.53% versus 3.22% for the first 100 days of lactation. Milk production of Montbeliarde breed is 1699.26 kg, and for Simmental is 1466.29 kg (Table 1).

1. ,

100 305

Table 1. Milk yield, fats and protein amount in milk of Montbeliarde and Simmental Cattle for 100 and 305 day lactation

/ Indicator	/ Breed	
	e (I / I group)	/ Simmental (II /II group)
100	/ For the first 100 days of lactation	
/ Milk yield, kg	1699,96 ± 212,95	1466,29 ± 121,21
/ Milk fat, %	3,98 ± 0,25	4,08 ± 0,14
/ Milk protein, %	3,53 ± 0,12	3,22 ± 0,05
305	/ For a 305 day lactation	
/ Milk yield, kg	3913,12 ± 237,45	3790 ± 161,86
/ Milk fat, %	3,73 ± 0,14	3,98 ± 0,11
/ Milk protein, %	3,41 ± 0,09	3,48 ± 0,10

0,05

305

0,20 %, 0,14%.

0,8 %
0,26 %

3913,12 kg,
3790 kg,
123,12 kg (2).

- In the following days of lactation, there was an increase in the amount of milk fat and protein in the first breed and a slight decrease in fat in the second breed, as well as an increase in protein: for a 305 day lactation. For Montbeliarde breed, fat increases by 0.20% and proteins by 0.14%.

- For Simmental breed, the decrease is 0.8% in fat and there is an increase of 0.26% in protein. Milk production of lactation in Montbeliarde breed is 3913.12 kg, and for Simmental is 3790 kg, a difference of 123.12 kg (Table 2).

2. ,

Table 2. Biological efficiency, coefficient of biological full-cream milk, constant lactation coefficient and energy value of milk

/ Indicators	/ Breed	
	e (I / I group)	/ Simmental (II /II group)
/ Milk yield, kg	3913,12±237,45	3790,78±161,86
/ Dry matter, %	12,35±0,10	12,61±0,19
/ NFS, %	8,82±0,10	9,08±0,10
/ Lactose, %	4,66±0,10	4,59±0,11
/ Live weight, kg	664,3±13,89	18,3±30,54
/ BEC	72,75	77,25
/ CBF	51,96	55,66
/ CLC	56,56	61,32
/ Energy value, kkal/100ml	65,85	68,40

0,05

5,83
-
-
-
6,55

7,76 %

100 ml 65,85 kcal,

68,40 kcal, 1 kcal, 3,73%.

1:0,66,
1:0,70

1:0,75-1:0,80,
(3).

Simmental breed is superior to Montbeliarde breed according to the coefficient of biological efficiency with 5.83%. The results determined average values for milk productivity in both breeds.

According to the coefficient of biological full-cream milk, Simmental breed is superior to Montbeliarde breed with 6.55%.

According to the constant lactation coefficient, the difference is 7.76%, again in favor of Simmental breed.

There are no major differences in the energy value: the energy value for Montbeliarde breed in 100 ml of milk is 65.85 kcal and in Simmental breed is 68.40 kcal, a difference of 1 kcal and 3.73%.

The ratio of calcium to phosphorus for Montbeliard breed is 1: 0.66, and for Simmental breed is 1:0.70 at the desired 1:0.75-1: 0.80, within the allowable range (Table 3).

3. Table 3. Ratio of Calcium and Phosphorus mg%

/ Breed	mg%		
	C	P	/ Ratio
/ Simmental	145	101	1:0,70
/ Montbeliarde	155	103	1:0,66

arnauhov and
ndrianova (2010), Khodyreva (2013)
Nemzarov et al. (2015).

- Our results correspond to the
- results obtained from the study of milk
from Black-headed and Simmental cows
of Karnakov and Andrianova (2010),
Khodyreva (2013) and Nemzarov et al.
(2015).

CONCLUSIONS

The foothill climate conditions of Bulgaria are suitable for breeding of Simmental and Montbeliarde cattle breed.

- The breed has an impact on milk
- production and the quality of milk. Milk
- productivity is higher in Montbeliarde
- breed with 123.12 kg compared to
- Simmental breed. Milk physico-chemical

123,12 kg

, . 46 kg. - , , 1 kg	parameters of studied cows of both breeds are different, but they are relatively close in value. Live weight of Montbeliarde cows is higher than Simmental with 46 kg. The values of coefficient for biological efficiency and biological full-cream milk show that more of production is obtained by Simmental cows, calculated on 1 kg of live weight.
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Cytobrush Metricheck

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Cytobrush vs Metricheck endometritis diagnostics in industrial dairy farms

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SUMMARY

In the last decades, related to increased milk yield, the reproductive performance has rapidly decreased in dairy cows, especially in the Holstein breed. Although milk yield is negatively associated with reproductive performance, there are other additional factors which affect the fertility in dairy cattle, such as animal health condition, management and balanced rations. Additionally, physiologic dysfunctions, such as uterine infections, are elements which are responsible for decreased reproductive performance and fertility in dairy cattle.

The objective of this study was to obtain a clear view over normal cell clusters in cow's vagina and uterus, so this information will be useful for comparison in future examination related to rapid cytology diagnosis using two different methods.

Neutrophils are the first and most significant inflammatory cell involved in endometritis, but are also foremost during normal uterine involution. The inflammatory cell response in cases of subclinical endometritis is widely believed

2017
1,29%

89,1%

97,3%

- 97.3%.

to bequantifiably more severe than that associated with normalinvolution yet milder than clinical endometritis.

Such cytological diagnostic approach is useful for both – normal and infected vagina/uterus with or without presence of discharge.

Metricheck is a rapid and simple technique for the diagnosis of purulent vaginal discharge. Clear mucus is normal, whereas purulent and foul-smelling discharge are indicative of disease. Other ways of detecting uterine dischargehave been studied, including the gloved hand and CytoBrush.

The results show clear relation between cytological positive diagnosis and affected condition of the reproductive function.

The aim of this study was to compare the endometritis (EM) diagnostics results between CytoBrush and Metericheck methods, as well as to calculate the economic savings related to early EM diagnostics.

The examination was carried out in three industrial type dairies in South West of Scotland in January 2017. Total prevalence of 1.29% EM has been diagnosed using the described methods.

Accuracy of 89.1% in positive diagnoses was calculated for Metricheck and 97.3% for CytoBrush, respectively.

The results shown that both methods are economically effective depending on the size of herd and management practice. A clearly visible better accuracy result (mean average $97.3\pm 3.72\%$) is specified for the cytobrush in all the examined cases.

Key words: subclincal endometritis, cytological diagnosis, dairy cattle

INTRODUCTION

In the last decades, related to increased milk yield, the reproductive performance has rapidly decreased in dairy cows, especially in the Holstein breed.

Although milk yield is negatively associated with reproductive

(Chebel et al., 2007).

(Chapwanaya et al., 2008).

400
Barlund et al.
8%

150-

2017.
1720
44 346
2,5-3,5 (Mean 2,78±1,41).
3-8

-
-

performance, there are other additional factors which affect the fertility in dairy cattle, such as animal health condition, management and balanced rations. Additionally, physiologic dysfunctions, such as uterine infections, are elements which are responsible for decreased reproductive performance and fertility in dairy cattle (Chebel et al., 2007).

The objective of this study was to obtain a clear view over normal cell clusters in cow's vagina, so this information will be used for comparison in future examination related to rapid cytology diagnosis.

The cytological criteria for the diagnosis of subclinical endometritis continue to be refined, with the postpartum interval for sampling being a key variable (Chapwanaya et al., 2008).

To obtain reliable sample two recognized methods are in use - Metricheck and CytoBrush. Assessment of the severity of inflammation by these methods is made determining the percentage of polymorphonuclear (PMN) cells per 100 cells (PMNs plus endometrial cells) at 400x magnification by method of Barlund et al. They reported that a threshold of more than 8 % PMNs was the lowest proportion of PMNs significantly affecting pregnancy status at 150 days postpartum.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The examination was carried out in three industrial type dairies in South West of Scotland in January 2017. Three herds of 1720 animals in total, have been checked. Days in milk from 44 to 346. The BCS was 2,5-3,5 (Mean 2,78±1,41). Age 3-8 years. Data for breeding and calving history was taken from the database.

The examination protocol included the following:

- Fixing in metal chute
- Wipe up the vulva

-

2007 (Simcrotech, Hamilton, New Zealand)

-
-
-
-

Diff Quick

-

40x 400x

McDougall

- Metricheck sampling and vaginal discharge scoring described by McDougall 2007 (Simcrotech, Hamilton, New Zealand)

- CytoBrush sampling
- Smear preparation on a microscope slide
- SMEAR Dry off on room temperature
- Staining a Diff Quick dye
- Microscope examination under magnification 40x and 400x with immersion.

One clinician took all the specimens. Moreover, two different pathologist checked all the smears without knowing history of the animals.

RESULTS

Firstly a microscopic findings are presented. The results show the cells of different type in the smears. The different clusters are clearly distinct with specific features. The cells found were same in both Metricheck and CytoBrush smears. Cell characteristics are summarized in the List 1 – based on the microscopic appearance (Barlund et al., 2008).

LIST 1:

Vaginal cells characteristics in dairy cattle

Parabasal cells

Parabasal cells are one of the smallest epithelial cells seen in routine vaginal cytologic samples. These cells have a high nuclear-to-cytoplasmic ratio. They have round nuclei and basophilic cytoplasm. These cells are typical for diestrus and anestrus. Large numbers of parabasal cells may be seen normally in vaginal smears of prepubertal animals.

Intermediate cells

The Intermediate cells have variety in size, but in general they have to be twice larger than parabasal cells. Their nuclear-to-cytoplasmic ratio is decreased. These cells have abundant amounts of blue to bluegreen (keratinized) cytoplasm. Depending on the amount of cytoplasm,

1 –
Barlund et al. (2008).
1:

ú –

there are two types of intermediate cells – small intermediate cells and large intermediate cells. Large intermediate cells are sometimes called superficial intermediate cells or transitional intermediate cells.

Superficial Cells

The superficial cells are one of the largest epithelial cells seen in vaginal smears. These are dead cells, whose nuclei become pyknotic and then faded, often progressing to anucleate forms. The superficial cells have abundant amounts of light blue to bluegreen (keratinized) cytoplasm, and angular to folded cell borders. Superficial cells with pyknotic nuclei and anucleated superficial cells have the same physiologic significance. Superficial epithelial cells are commonly called cornified cells.

Mucin

The Mucin is a neutral polysaccharide comprising glikoproteid. Mucin is a major part of the mucus, which is produced by the mucous glands and the epithelial cells of the mucosa. Mucus with mucin is normally found in routine vaginal cytologic samples from healthy animals.

Polymorphonuclear cells (PMN)

The neutrophil nucleus is elongate and separated into multiple lobules by invaginations of the nuclear border. Cytoplasm is clear, pale eosinophilic to faintly basophilic with a fine grainy texture and, rarely, contains a few small vacuoles.

Secondly the relationship between PMN%, VDS for both methods, and pregnancy rate was calculated. The results are presented in Table 1.

(PMN)

(PMN%),
(VDS) –

1.

Table 1. Relation between clinical condition, PMN percentage and pregnancy rate

Uterine condition	PMN % CytoBrush	PMN % Metricheck	VDS	PR
Subclinical endometritis	7,81**	7,74	2	not affected
<i>Subclinical endometritis</i>	8*	8*	2	<i>affected</i>
<i>Clinical endometritis/metritis</i>	28	20	3	<i>affected</i>
Normal	1	1	1	not affected

*p 0,01, ** p 0,05

PMN – ; VDS –

PMN – polymorphonuclear cells; VDS – Vaginal Discharge score; PR – pregnancy rate

DISCUSSION

- Neutrophils are the first and most significant inflammatory cell involved in endometritis, but are also foremost during normal uterine involution.

- The inflammatory cell response in cases of subclinical endometritis is widely believed to be quantifiably more severe than that associated with normal involution yet milder than clinical endometritis.

- The CytoBrush as a cytological diagnostic approach is useful for both – normal and infected vagina/uterus with or without presence of discharge (LeBlanc, 2008).

LeBlanc (2008).

- Vaginoscopy/Metricheck is a rapid and simple technique for the diagnosis of purulent vaginal discharge (PVD). The use of Metricheck for the diagnosis of clinical endometritis is based on the premise that purulent exudate present in the cranial vagina is probably the result of drainage from the uterus (McDougall, 2007).

McDougall (2007).

- The nature of the discharge is important. Clear mucus is normal, whereas purulent (>50 % pus) and mucopurulent (approximately 50 % pus)

and 50 % mucus) and foul-smelling discharge are indicative of disease.

By delaying the examination until approximately 1 month after calving, false positives (i.e., cows undergoing normal involution) will be less likely. Metricheck is at least as efficacious as vaginoscopy and may offer the advantage of detecting exudate that would otherwise go unnoticed, especially in cases where the cranial vagina slopes ventrally. Another practical advantage is that it is much easier for the examiner to avoid being soiled. Those with larger hands and arms may find the gloved hand technique difficult to employ, whereas the Metricheck device is easy to insert and easy to clean between cows.

Subclinical endometritis cannot be diagnosed by inspection of vaginal exudate; however, if no other screening tests are being used, routine vaginal examination to detect mucopurulent or purulent exudate is a simple, reliable, and cost-effective way to identify cows at risk of impaired reproductive performance. Endometrial cytology, based on the presence of cellular evidence of inflammation, is currently considered to be the most accurate way to diagnose endometritis in cattle, both clinical and subclinical. Inflammatory cells may be recovered by either of two techniques: uterine lavage or cytobrush (LeBlanc 2002).

The microscopic examination supplied an easy and clear approach to the examined organs (vagina, uterus). All the cells discussed were clearly identified by two pathologists with 100 % agreement. Such success could be accepted as a proof for the value of this simple and cheap diagnostic method (McDougall et al., 2011). The clinical significance of this diagnostic approach was visualized by the results of for the pregnancy rate, VDS and PMN % (Table 1). Affected pregnancy rate is associated with both types of endometritis no matter which diagnostic technique will be used.

LeBlanc (2002),

(2011). McDougall et al.

(1).

e 8% PMN
(p 0,01).

The clinical cases are easy to be identified with or without additional examination of the discharge. Opposite to the latter most of the subclinical cases persist unidentified. The threshold of 8% PMN in the smear is highly correlated (p 0,01) low pregnancy rates in the examined animals in all the samples with both Metricheck and CytoBrush(p 0,01).

Summary of the results

1. A distinct clusters of cell types are produced by cattle's vagina and uterus.
2. Successful sampling and staining is possible to recognize the cell clusters in cattle's vagina with Metricheck and Cytobrush.
3. Cytology is valuable and inexpensive tool to diagnose the presence of inflammatory cells in cattle's uterus/vagina.
4. Future examinations are need to develop successful confidential intervals for PMN in the endometritis cases.

CONCLUSIONS

The represented results are good basement for development of modified cytological methods for subclinical endometritis diagnostics based on the clear distinction in cell clusters and high correlation between PMN%/endometritis and pregnancy rate.

The Metricheck device is easy and cheap technique for group examination. But in cases of score on the border line VDS 1, but 2, CytoBrush is the method of choice for successful diagnosis in selected animals. Currently Cytobrush is not cost effective for large scale herd examinations.

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