CHANGES IN GENITAL ORGANS IN SOWS DURING ESTRUS CYCLE

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Summary. The purpose of the present investigation was to define the changes in genital organs of sows that we culled for the reasons of reproductive failure, as well as to assess the functional condition of their ovaries and the stage of reproductive cycle after slaughtering. In order to study these parameters 60 of 3-4th farrowing sows with disturbed reproductive cycle of purebred Danish Landrace (DL) and crossbred native Lithuanian White and Danish Landrace (LWxDL) were slaughtered.

Reproductive organs of all the slaughtered sows were evaluated and in 80% of the animals ovaries were active, though and anestrus stage was defined in 20% of sows. The ovaries of the anestrus sows were not active, small in size, hard, with no corpora lutea and with very small <4 mm in diameter follicles. In some cases follicles were very small, or even inseparable from the surface of the ovaries overgrown by the connective tissue. Multiple follicular cysts were found in 3.33% of all culled sows. The lowest weight of the uterus was found in anestrus sows and the highest - in the late diestrus – 609.27 g and 1457.48 g respectively.

Post-mortem examination revealed that 63% of sows that failed to develop visible estrus signs, and 93.9% of these sows that failed to conceive after repeated inseminations had cyclically active ovaries. We suggest that post-mortem examination of genital organs in sows and palpation of the uterus cervix are quite effective methods in order to define the stage of sexual cycle and important diagnostic tools for the evaluation of reproductive disturbances.

Keywords: reproductive disturbances, uterus, sexual cycle, anestrus, sow.