

A NEW METHOD FOR THE ESTIMATION OF PIGS CARCASS QUALITY IN LITHUANIA

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Summary. In the world meat market, pork makes up about 35 to 38 %, while beef and poultry – over 24 %. Today pig industry is able to offer consumers not fat, but tender lean pork of high nutritive value. Pork is in very high demand in European countries as well as in Lithuania. However, in our country at the slaughterhouses pigs have been estimated not according to carcass quality, but according to live weight per kg. Such pigs estimation system did not encourage the farmers to implement update technologies for feeding, breeding and keeping pigs, aiming at improvement of carcass quality and efficient processing of pork. Since 2000 in Lithuania a new method of pigs; carcass evaluation at the three slaughterhouses has been established. This work has been coordinated by scientists from Danish Meat Research Institute. Research of 975 pigs slaughtered at 17 farms and fixed with the special apparatus Fat-O-Meat'er-70 company SFK-Technology, revealed the average base meat percent in the Lithuanian pig breeds to be 51 %, at the carcass 100 kg weight.

Keywords: pork, production, pig carcass, estimation of carcass quality, lean meat percent in carcass.