

COMPARATIVE MEASUREMENTS OF LEAN MEAT CONTENT ON LIVE PIGS WITH TWO ULTRASONIC EQUIPMENT

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Summary. The main objectives of pig breeding in Lithuania should be to increase the genetic potential for performance traits, to raise the probability that this potential could be realized in practice, to increase the accuracy of selection and to preserve national pig genetic resources. Pigs have been measured with two probable equipment Piglog 105 to estimate side backfat thickness and lean meat content. The differences for backfat thickness measured with different equipment were not significant but the differences for lean meat content accounted for 4.12% ($P < 0.001$). The correlation between backfat and muscle thickness, also lean meat content determined with two equipments was different. Similar backfat thickness of pigs of different breeds in individual herds indicated that there were no significant differences for the lean meat content determined with the same equipment and similar differences for the lean meat content determined with two different apparatus. Therefore, to determine backfat thickness by ultrasonic measurements is more important than to determine the lean meat content of live animals. It is considered that Lithuanian White pigs should not be left for herd replacement, if their backfat thickness is higher than 18 mm. Taking into account the fact that such backfat thickness correspond, to the lean meat content of 52-23% measured with one equipment or 55-56% measured with another ultrasonic equipment.

Keywords: ultrasonic equipment, backfat thickness, lean meat content, selection.