

MEAT QUALITY OF LITHUANIAN WHITE PIGS IN COMPARISON TO IMPORTED PIG BREEDS

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Summary. As demand of qualitative pork is growing in the market, there is need to select pigs not only according the growth speed, feed input and muscularity, but also according the meat quality. In our study the meat quality of Lithuanian White, Large White, Landrace and Yorkshire breed pigs was compared. The results from this study showed that meat quality indexes of these breeds were different. Breed had the highest significant influence on the meat lightness L^* ($P<0.05$), drip loss ($P<0.001$) and water-binding capacity ($P<0.05-0.01$). In addition, the significant differences between intramuscular fat were registered. The results also show that Lithuanian White pig meat had the highest and Large White pig meat had the lowest amount of intramuscular fat. The results from this study demonstrated that various meat quality indexes varied more inside the breed than among the breeds.

Keywords: pigs, breed, meat quality, selection.