

## INFLUENCE OF CATTLE SEX AND AGE ON CARCASS YIELD AND MUSCULARITY CLASS

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**Summary.** A study was conducted to determine the effects of cattle sex and age on carcass yield and muscularity class. 19,662 young and adult bulls, 3,800 heifers and 4,903 cows of Lithuanian Black & White and Lithuanian Red breeds were used. The animals were slaughtered and carcass muscularity estimated according to SEUROP standard analysis. All investigated animals were divided into 2 month intervals according to age: young bulls (16 to 36 months), adult bulls (> 36 months), heifers (16 to 24 months) and cows (24 to 48 months or > 48 months). It was established that an age increase of 2 months resulted in an average carcass yield of 0.35% (0.1–1.1%) for bulls, 0.64% (0.3–0.8%) for heifers, and 0.3% (0–0.7%) for cows. A positive correlation was found between carcass muscularity class and animal age. Carcass yield was highest in young and adult bulls, followed by heifers and cows. It is concluded that animal sex and age influence carcass yield and muscularity class.

**Key words:** cattle, young bull, heifer, cow, carcass yield, muscularity class.