INFLUENCE OF ENGLISH LARGE WHITE BREED ON FATTENING, MEAT CHARACTERISTICS AND MEAT QUALITY OF LITHUANIAN WHITE PIGS

Česlovas Jukna1, Vigilijus Jukna1, Nijolė Pečulaitiienė1, Sigita Kerziene2
1Laboratory of Meat Characteristics and Quality Assessment
Animal wellness and animal of maw materials quality center
Veterinary Academy, Lithuanian University of Health Sciences
Tilžės 18, Kaunas LT-47181, Lithuania. Tel +370 37363414; e-mail vjukna@lva.lt
2Department of Social Sciences and Informatics
Tilžės 18, Kaunas LT-47181, Lithuania

Summary. The objective of this study was to investigate and to compare the meat characteristics and quality of Lithuanian White (LW) pigs and LW crosses of ¼, ½, and ¾ English Large White (ELW) pigs. Four hundred ninety three pigs were selected and divided to four groups: Group 1 pure breed LW (n=81); Group 2 – (¾ LW x ¼ ELW; n = 49); Group 3 – (½ LW x ½ ELW; n =188) and Group 4 – (¼ LW x ¾ ELW; n = 175). During the fattening crosses with ½ and ¾ of ELW pigs (Groups 3 and 4) have reached 100 kg live weight on 11 days earlier, increased daily weight gain on 5.6 % and consumed on 4.7 % (p < 0.05) lower amount of feed/feed unit compared to pure breed LW pigs (Group 1). The fat thickness of crosses (Groups 2-4) beside 10 rib was on 6.4-5.8 mm lower (p <0.05), and muscularity on 4.6- 5.8 % higher compared to LW pigs (Group 1). The highest negative correlation coefficients were estimated between fat thickness both (Fat1) and (Fat2) points and muscularity of purebred LW pigs (r = –0.95 ir r = –0.96) and LW crosses with ¼ (r = –0.93 and r = –0.95), with ½ (r = –0.86 and r = –0.87) and ¾ (r = –0.93 ir r = –0.95) (p < 0.001) of ELW pigs..The results from this study indicate that ¼, ½, ¾ of ELW pigs crosses improved fattening, meat characteristics and meat quality traits of LW pigs.

Keywords: pig breeds, crosses, muscularity, fat thickness, carcass, meat quality.