

THE EFFECT OF BLUE ALGAE *SPIRULINA PLATENSIS* ON PIG GROWTH PERFORMANCE AND CARCASS AND MEAT QUALITY

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Abstract. In order to study the effect of fresh blue algae *Spirulina platensis* biomass on pigs fattening rate and meat quality an experiment was carried out with 85-days-old crossbreeds of Landrass and Yorkshire. Two groups – control and experimental – were formed, each containing 16 pigs. Both groups of the pigs were fed standard concentrate forage. 1 kg of forage dry matter contained 13.4 MJ AE and 16 % of crude protein. The pigs of the experimental group were given daily and individually 2 g of 75 % humidity fresh blue algae *Spirulina platensis* biomass with forage. The pigs were weighed at the beginning and the end of the experiment. Control fattening was considered to be finished when pig weight reached 95 kg. At the end of the experiment, control slaughtering was performed. It was determined that the average daily weight gain of the pigs given 2 g of 75 % humidity fresh biomass of blue algae *Spirulina platensis* was by 9.26 % higher, 100 kg of weight was reached by 7.37 days faster, and the amount of AE consumed for 1 kg of weight gain was by 1.28 MJ AE lower than in the control group. Carcass output of the experimental pigs was by 2.02 % higher and the amount of intramuscular fat– by 0.33 % lower than in the control group of pigs.

Keywords: blue algae *Spirulina platensis*, pigs, weight gain, carcass, meat quality.