

**A COMPARISON OF THE CARCASS COMPOSITION OF STRAIGHTBRED
AND CROSSBRED LAMBS***

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ABSTRACT

Carcass composition of Naeemi (N), Chios (C), Texel (T), Naeemi x Texel (NxT) and Naeemi x Border Leicester Merino (NxBLM) lambs were studied at a mean slaughter weight of 45 kg. One half of each carcass was dissected into subcutaneous fat, muscle and bone, where dissected components were weighed separately to determine composition of individual carcasses. The aim of the study was to compare dressing percentage and carcass composition of lambs of the five genetic groups.

The overall means for dressing percentage, half-carcass weight, and weights of subcutaneous fat, muscle and bone in the half carcass were 44.9% and 10.1, 0.79, 7.4 and 1.69 kg, respectively. Dressing percentage was the lowest for N (39.4%) and the highest for NxT (47.5%), subcutaneous fat was the lowest for T (0.32 kg) and the highest for NxT (1.39 kg) and muscle was the lowest for N (6.6 kg) and the highest for NxT (8.1 kg). Breed differences were significant for dressing percentage, half-carcass weight and subcutaneous fat ($P < 0.01$), but were not significant for muscle and bone.