

RELATION OF SOME PRODUCTION TRAITS WITH TEMPERAMENT IN HUNGARIAN MERINO LAMBS

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SUMMARY

We evaluated temperament of sheep using temperament test (temperament score: assess behaviour of animals on a five-points scale, while spending 30 seconds on the weighing scale). Ten rams and twenty-two ewes of Hungarian Merino (HM) lambs aged 65 days were fed-lot- on a forage mix for 49 days. The relationships of the two sexes were not different in this breed ($P= 0.38$). Therefore we contracted the two sexes. The 32 Hungarian Merino lambs were assigned into four temperament categories (1. and 2. categories were combined because of the small numbers). The lambs with good temperament (1. and 2. categories) had higher average daily gains (409.7 g), compared to those having mixed (3- category) (357.1 g), 4- category (321.7 g) and poor (5-category) temperament (311.8 g). The live weight at the end of fattening showed a similar tendency: being good (39.5 kg), mixed (37.3 kg), (34.0 kg) and poor (34.6 kg). The correlation of the temperament scores were positive with the corresponding weight gains (HM: $r=-0.53$) and slaughter weights (HM: $r=-0.51$) as well.

Keywords: *temperament, fattening, Hungarian Merino, lambs.*