

The influence of the season on the semen quality of Duroc,  
Hampshire and Pietrain purebred boars and crossbreds  
of Duroc x Pietrain and Hampshire x Pietrain

S u m m a r y

The study was carried out on the material 10,895 ejaculates taken by manual method from 80 boars: Duroc, Hampshire, Pietrain and crossbreds Duroc x Pietrain and Hampshire x Pietrain used for insemination. All ejaculates collected from each boar over two years from the beginning of the animals' reproductive performance were included into the investigations. Each ejaculate was evaluated using standard methods and estimation of physical traits as follows: ejaculate volume, spermatozoa concentration, percentage of spermatozoa with progressive motility, total number of spermatozoa per ejaculate and number of insemination doses per ejaculate was performed. A correlation between the majority of semen characters and season of the year was established. In autumn-winter season the ejaculates had the highest volume and the highest total number of spermatozoa. The season of the year did not affect spermatozoa motility of purebred and crossbred boars. The declining tendency in spermatozoa concentration between January and July as well as the increasing tendency in spermatozoa concentration between July and December in two-breed crossbreds and boars of Hampshire and Pietrain breeds were observed. Boars of Duroc breed differed from the other breeds in regard to seasonal changes of spermatozoa concentration in ejaculates.

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