

Growth and slaughter value of Belgian Landrace x Duroc crossbred pigs with different backfat thickness

Summary

The subject of research included 40 crossbred gilts (boar Belgian Landrace x sow Duroc) kept in standardised conditions and slaughtered on the 185th day of life. Detailed dissection of particular primary cuts and evaluation of some meat quality traits (pH₁, colour of meat and soluble protein content) were conducted according to SKURTC_H methodology. Depending on average backfat thickness from 5 measurements (over shoulder, on back, at I, II, III sacrum) the animals were divided into two groups, 20 heads each: i.e. of thin backfat (up to 2.82 cm) and thick backfat (above 2.83 cm). Significance of differences between the tested groups was verified by t-Student test. Differences in range of average backfat thickness from 5 measurements between animals, characterised by thick and thin layer of subcutaneous fat amounted to 0.48 cm and were statistically highly significant. Results of growth traits such as daily gain of body weight and fodder intake on growth of 1 kg of body weight were not statistically differentiated between group of thin (720 g and 2.91 kg) and thick backfat (725 g and 2.96 kg). Meat weight in particular primary cuts was not statistically diversified. Total meat weight in primary cuts of pigs, characterised by thin and thick backfat, amounted to 20.06 and 19.59 kg, respectively. Gilts with thick backfat had significantly higher fat weight in belly ($P \leq 0.05$), proper ham, loin and total primary cuts ($P \leq 0.01$) by 0.26; 0.23; 0.44 and 1.13 kg, respectively. Significant diversity in range of meat quality traits between the tested groups of pigs was not found.