

## Efficiency of lamb production from prolific-dairy Kołuda sheep in relationship to mating time in the autumn or winter period

### Summary

The study was carried out in 2006-2007 with prolific-dairy Kołuda sheep. Each year, two groups with 100 sheep per group were established. In group I, sheep were mated in September and October and in group II, in January and February. Lambs were reared with mothers until 8 weeks of age and then fattened to 30-35 kg body weight. Compared to ewes from group II, ewes from group I were characterized by higher prolificacy (193.4 vs. 220.3%) and reproductive performance at the end of fattening (148.5 vs. 183.2%). Lambs from group I were born as heavier and had higher weaning weights than lambs from group II (4.14 vs. 3.86 kg and 18.03 vs. 16.60 kg). With a similar final body weight in both groups, lambs from group II were fattened for an average of 6.6 days longer and had 17.4% greater feed intake per kg weight gain compared to lambs from group I. As a consequence, ewes from group I generated better financial results than ewes from group II (by 36.8%) in terms of revenue from the sale of lambs and the cost of feeds used during fattening. The results obtained clearly show that production levels and economic results are more favourable in sheep mated in September and October compared to those mated in January and February.

**KEY WORDS:** sheep / tupping period / reproduction performance / economy of management