57th Annual Meeting of the EAAP, 17-20 September 2006, Antalya (Turkey)

Diversification of lamb production in Spanish dry mountain areas: Carcass characterization

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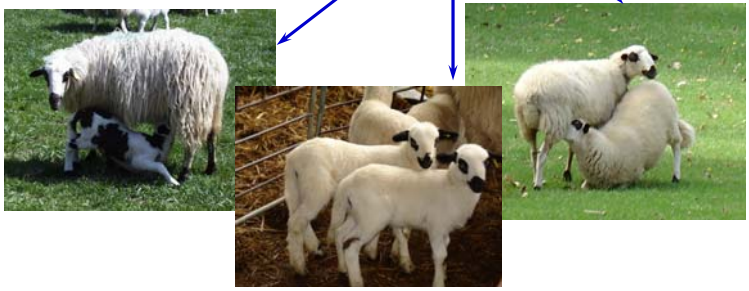
OBJECTIVE

- ✓ To prospect the diversification of lamb production
- ✓ To characterize carcasses of lambs slaughtered at three different live-weights (LW): 9-12, 20-24 and 28-35 kg



MATERIALS AND METHODS

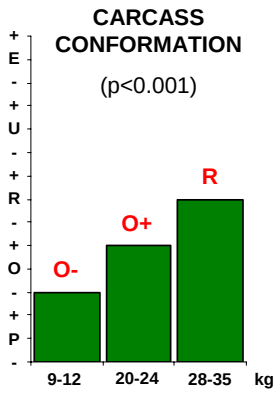
42 single male lambs of Churra Tensina breed (endangered local breed)

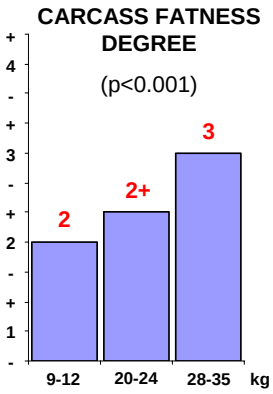
MEASUREMENTS: weight and carcass traits (at 24h post-mortem)

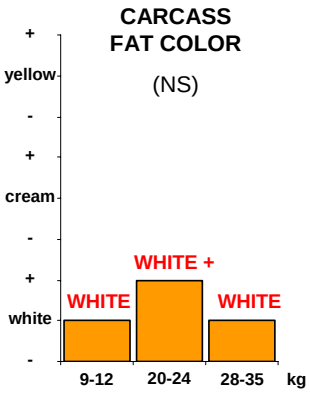
LW at SLAUGHTER	9-12 kg	20-24 kg	28-35 kg
n	15	12	15
Feed	milk + pasture	milk + pasture + concentrate	milk + pasture + concentrate (3 first months)
Management	-	-	Castrated at 35d
Slaughter age (d)	34	62	183
Average gain (g/d)	236	309	158
Carcass weight (kg)	6.1	11.7	16.2

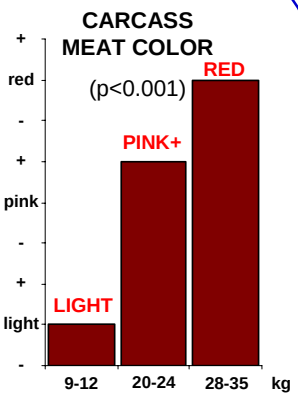
RESULTS

✓ Carcasses of heavier lambs showed better conformation, higher fatness degree and redder meat.









LW at SLAUGHTER	9-12 kg	20-24 kg	28-35 kg	Sign.	
Carcase shrink (%)	2.63	2.30	2.33	NS	
Carcass dressing percentage#	55.2	52.9	50.7	***	→ It decresed as slaugther LW increased.
Carcass mesenteric-omental fat (g)	193.0	508.5	1351.5		
Carcass mesenteric-omental fat (%)	56.4	65.3	67.9	***	The lighest animals reached the highest pelvic-renal and the lowest mesenteric-omental fat percentage.
Carcass pelvic-renal fat (g)	154.4	279.5	644.9		
Carcass pelvic-renal fat (%)	43.7	34.8	32.1	***	
Joints of first commercial category (%)	59.9	60.1	62.6	***	→ It increased with slaughter LW.
Carcass pH	5.49	5.49	5.48	NS	

Dressing percentage = Hot carcass weight / LW at slaughter.

CONCLUSIONS

- ✓ The range of carcass characteristics found in the current study would confirm the commercial viability of the three slaughter LW.
- ✓ It suggests a true possibility of opening new markets and recovering certain traditional products whose production had been abandoned.

9-12 kg 20-24 kg 28-35 kg

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: Study supported by INIA-ERDF (RTA 03-031, Spain MST).