

CONSTRUINDO SABERES, FORMANDO PESSOAS E TRANSFORMANDO A PRODUÇÃO ANIMAL

SEXUAL CONDITION EFFECTS ON CARCASS CHARACTERISTICS AND SLAUGHTER YIELD OF LAMBS

Pablo Tavares COSTA^{*1}, Stefani MACARI¹, Rômulo Tavares COSTA¹, Carina Crizel da VARA¹, Tiago Albandes FERNANDES¹, Lisandre de OLIVEIRA², Ricardo Zambarda VAZ¹, Gilson de MENDONÇA¹

*corresponding author: pablocostta@hotmail.com

¹Universidade Federal de Pelotas, Capão do Leão, Rio Grande do Sul, Brasil

²Instituto Federal Farroupilha, Alegrete, Rio Grande do Sul, Brasil

The demand increase for sheep meat makes it necessary to raise the national herd productivity, in order to identify the tools that allow slaughter the animals at young ages, with high weights and carcass yields, producing superior meat quality. Several factors influence the lambs growth and development, being important the sex, and alluding this, the difference between castrated, uncastrated and induced cryptorchid animals. Thus, this study aimed to evaluate the sexual condition effects on carcass characteristics and yield of slaughtering lambs. A total of 46 Texel x Corriedale crossbred males, originating of single births, were divided into three groups: uncastrated (n = 15), castrated (n = 17) and induced cryptorchid (n = 14), created in the Pampa Biome region, in the Rio Grande do Sul State, in extensive system of natural pastures, and slaughtered with eight months of average age. The castration was performed by bilateral orchiectomy and the induction to cryptorchidism by using specific rubber rings for this purpose. The animals were slaughtered when they simultaneously reached a minimum weight of 30 kg and a body condition between 3 and 3.5. The variance analysis was used to evaluate the sexual condition effects. Castrated lambs reached the slaughter conditions early ($p < 0.05$), with mean of 225.94 days of age, compared to cryptorchid and uncastrated, slaughtered at 250.93 and 250.92 days, respectively. Uncastrated, cryptorchid and castrated lambs presented respectively 59.47, 59.36 and 56.24 cm of body length, 83.47, 81.82 and 79.15 cm of thoracic perimeter and 39.17, 37.33 and 34.29 kg of body weight at slaughter, these results suggest the superiority of uncastrated and cryptorchid in relation to castrated lambs ($p < 0.05$). The corporal compacity, hot carcass weight and cold carcass weight were higher ($p < 0.05$) for uncastrated lambs than for the castrated lambs, with respectively 0.66 and 0.61 kg cm⁻¹, 16.88 and 14.96 kg, and 16.35 and 14.59 kg. No significant differences were observed for anterior and posterior height at slaughter, carcass conformation, carcass fatness score, true and commercial yield, and carcass cooling losses ($p > 0.05$). It is concluded that castrated lambs reach slaughter conditions at younger ages than the castrated and cryptorchid lambs, presenting lighter carcass without differences in yields and finishing. Non-castration and cryptorchidism induction can be used when are young lambs with reduced fat percentages in the carcass.

Keywords: carcass, castration, cryptorchidism, male lambs, *Ovis aries*

Promoção e Realização:



Apoio Institucional:



Organização:

