

CONSTRUINDO SABERES, FORMANDO PESSOAS E TRANSFORMANDO A PRODUÇÃO ANIMAL

MORPHOMETRIC CHARACTERIZATION OF SHEEP FEMALES SOINGA OF SUBSEQUENT GENERATIONS

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Increasing the productivity of sheep production systems located in semi-arid regions can contribute to supply the market demand and consolidate the sheep meat production chain in the Northeast region of Brazil. Therefore, it is imperative that breeds adapted to the environmental conditions of these regions and capable of producing meat be inserted into the systems. In this sense, the Morada Nova, Bergamácia and Somalis breeds were used in a tricross-type crossing scheme to compose a new breed, the Soinga breed, which became an option for producers a little more than 10 years ago. Being aware of the importance of keeping the breed standard throughout the generations, the aim was to evaluate the morphometric characteristics of Soinga females, classified through CG-4 and CG-5 genealogy controls (where CG numbers indicate the amount of cataloged and controlled generations) and make a succinct comparison with the established racial pattern for these sheep as well as between different generations. Twenty-nine adult females of the Soinga genetic group, aged at least forty-eight months, were evaluated, with ten females classified as CG-4 and nineteen females classified as CG-5. The following measures were taken: weight; length (CC); previous height (AA); posterior height (AP); and thoracic perimeter (PT). The data were tabulated in electronic spreadsheets and submitted to analysis of variance. Mean values were compared by the Tukey test at the 5% level of significance. When analyzing the means of weight of the animals, it was observed a difference between the CG-4 and CG-5 groups ($P < 0.05$). For CG-4 animals, mean weight (46.20 kg) was found according to the weight established for the breed pattern of the Soinga sheep for adult animals. For the average weight of CG-5 females, the value found was 39.81 kg, lower than that established for the breed. Comparing the mean values of CC, AP and PT of CG-4 and CG-5 females, no significant differences were observed, with a mean of 60.45; 60.52; and 84.48 cm. For AA, a significant difference was observed, in which CG-4 animals obtained higher mean values (62.60 cm) than CG-5 (60.10 cm) females. The Soinga females of the 4th generation of the genealogy control presented weight consistent with the current racial pattern and morphometric measurements larger than the females of the 5th generation.

Keywords: genetic enhancement, generation control, racial pattern

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