

THE ACCUMULATIVE EFFECT OF FINNSHEEP BREEDING IN CROSSBREEDING SCHEMES: MARKET LAMB PRODUCTION FROM CROSSBRED EWES

MOHAMED H. FAHMY

*Research Station, Agriculture Canada, P.O. Box 90, Lennoxville, Quebec, Canada
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Growth and carcass data were collected on 252 multiple-born lambs representing 11 genetic groups, fed either high-energy mainly concentrate ration or low-energy mainly roughage ration and slaughtered at either 32 or 41 kg liveweight. The lambs were the progeny of Suffolk rams mated to Suffolk, Finnsheep (F), DLS (1/2 Dorset, 1/4 Leicester, 1/4 Suffolk) ewes and ewes from seven F-DLS crosses ranging between 1/8F-7/8DLS (1/8F) to 7/8F-1/8DLS (7/8F) in addition to DLS × DLS lambs. The effect of genetic group was significant for gain to 32 kg, dressing percentage, leg, loin, shoulder and kidney fat percentage of the carcass, lean, fat and bone percentage of the 12th rib and fat thickness over the loin-eye muscle. A significant linear relationship was calculated between five of the measurements and the proportion of F breeding in the lambs' dam. Finnsheep ewes produced \$6.39 worth of retailed lambs for each kilogram of their liveweight, compared to \$3.64 for Suffolks and \$3.28 for DLS. The advantage of the F crosses in retail value compared to Suffolk ranged from 47 (7/8F) to 11% (2/8 F). Lambs fed concentrate ration and slaughtered at 41 kg liveweight were significantly fatter and larger than those fed roughages and slaughtered at 32 kg. Sex of the lamb had significant effect on all the traits studied except on color, area of loin-eye and carcass dimensions. Interactions between genotype and treatments were generally nonsignificant whereas sex × slaughter weight and sex × feeding treatment were significant on many traits studies.

Key words: Finnsheep crosses, growth, carcass traits, DLS sheep, Suffolk, feeding treatment, slaughter weight

[Effet cumulatif de la race ovine Finnoise dans un programme de croisements: production d'agneaux de marché à partir de brebis croisées.]

Titre abrégé: Agneaux de marché provenant de brebis Finnoises croisées.

Des données sur la croissance et la carcasse ont été recueillies à partir de 252 agneaux issus de naissances multiples et représentant 11 groupes génétiques. Ces agneaux étaient alimentés soit avec une ration riche en énergie composée principalement de grains, soit avec une ration faible en énergie composée principalement de fourrage. Les agneaux ont été abattus au poids vif de 32 ou 41 kg. Les agneaux utilisés étaient des DLS × DLS, ou de descendance de béliers Suffolk accouplés à des brebis de races Suffolk, Finnoise (F), DLS (1/2 Dorset, 1/4 Leicester, 1/4 Suffolk) ou à des brebis provenant de sept croisements F-DLS s'échelonnant entre 1/8 F - 7/8 DLS (1/8 F) et 7/8 F - 1/8 DLS (7/8 F). L'effet du groupe génétique était significatif pour le gain jusqu'à 32 kg, le pourcentage de rendement, le pourcentage de gigot, de longe, d'épaule et de gras rénal de la carcasse, le pourcentage de muscle, de gras et d'os de la 12^e côte, la couleur et l'épaisseur de gras sur l'oeil de maigre. Une relation linéaire significative a été calculée entre cinq des caractères mesurés et la proportion de