TESTING HEAVY PIG PRODUCTION ON SLOVENIAN FARMS

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To provide the supply of adequate raw material for high-quality meat products, the production of heavy pigs should be introduced on Slovenian farms. A case study was performed on Slovenian farms in which an Italian model for heavy pig production was applied to test Slovenian pig genotypes. Fattening protocol with feed restriction applied after 80 kg body weight (BW) was tested with three crossbreed combinations: pen 1 (n=10; (Slovenian Landrace x Slovenian Large White) x Duroc), pen 2 (n=10; (Slovenian Landrace x Slovenian Large White) x (Duroc x Pietrain)), and pen 3 (n=7; Slovenian Landrace x Slovenian Large White). Experimental diets consisted of maize, barley, wheat, wheat feed flour, soybean, sunflower, and rapeseed meal. The diets contained 9.37 MJ of NE and 17 % 15% and 12% of crude protein for early (30-80 kg BW), middle (80-120 kg BW) and late fattening stage (over 120 kg BW), respectively. Performance, carcass, meat, and fat quality were assessed. In average, the final BW (165±9 kg) was reached earlier than expected (i.e. before 9 months of age), due to higher daily gain (0.80±0.07 kg/day in overall fattening period), resulting in feed conversion ratio of 3.5±0.3 kg feed/kg gain. In the future, for this type of production system, restrictive feeding must be applied more strictly. Carcass leanness (16.3±4 mm average backfat thickness measured at the split line over *Gluteus medius*) was generally satisfactory. The results regarding meat quality demonstrated the importance of a better control pre- and post-slaughter treatment and the differences between crossbreeds in terms of color and intramuscular fat content. The use of crosses with the Duroc breed is particularly interesting because of the favorable content of intramuscular fat.

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