

## **Assessment of slaughter value Pekin ducks STAR 53 HY**

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### **Summary**

The aim of the study was to estimate the growth and the slaughter value of ducks, which were reared until the 7<sup>th</sup> week of age. Pekin ducks STAR 53 HY (120 females and 120 males) were used as an experimental material. Body weight of the birds was recorded during the rearing period, and then, 15 males and 15 females were slaughtered when the rearing was finished. After that the analyses of slaughter value and tissue separation were conducted. The average body weight of drakes increased from 51.7 to 2397.5 g between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 49<sup>th</sup> day of their life. Beneficial changes in tissue composition of duck carcasses between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> week of rearing were found. Carcass musculature considerably increased from 17.8 to 26.8% during the period, whereas the bone content (the remaining parts of carcasses) considerably decreased from 54.2 to 48.9% and carcass fatness slightly decreased from 28.0 to 24.3%. Thus, the average body weight of pekkin ducks STAR 53 HY at the age of 7 week amounted to 2697.0 g, the carcass weight 2073.9 g, including 24.3% of skin with subcutaneous fat and abdominal fat content, 26.8% of breast, thigh and second thigh muscle content and 48.9% of bone content (the remaining parts of carcasses).

KEY WORDS: Pekin ducks / growth rate / slaughter value