

## **Utilization of the native breed of Popielno White rabbits and their crossbreds in production of meat**

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### **Summary**

Popielno White rabbits are derived from the native race of non-existent Polish breed albino. Research work on developing this breed was initiated in 1950. In 1989, Popielno White rabbits were included in the program for protection of genetic resources of farm animals, being sponsored by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. The aim of this study was to determine the possibilities of utilizing the native breeds of rabbits for production of carcasses with high culinary life. The experimental material consisted of 80 female and 16 male Popielno White rabbits (BP) and White New Zealand (BN). Females were kept in basic herd indoors in pens with litter. The experimental material included the carcasses of Popielno White rabbits and white New Zealand rabbits and their crosses. After obtaining the age of 90 days by the rabbits, the experimental slaughter was carried out. Indicators of reproductive performance, growth and slaughter were studied. The experiment showed high fertility Popielno White rabbits. Utility indicators of growth were higher than those for crosses of New Zealand White rabbits. The size of the most valuable logging (saddle, the rear part) was comparable with the typical meat breed, that is, with New Zealand White rabbits. Also, the level of overall sensory quality confirmed the culinary qualities of the meat from the crossbreds of Popielno White rabbits.

KEY WORDS: rabbit / the native breed / growth / meat quality