

BREEDING PRACTICES FOR SALERS: OPTIMIZING MEAT PRODUCTION TRAITS

Daniel Simakoski¹, Vesna Karapetkovska - Hristova¹, Vasil Nikolov²

¹University “St. Kliment Ohridski”, Faculty of Biotechnical Sciences – Bitola, NORTH MACEDONIA

²Agricultural University of Plovdiv, Department of Animal sciences, BULGARIA

*corresponding author: daniel.simakoski@uklo.edu.mk

This research introduces a specialized breeding program tailored for Salers cattle, with the primary goal of optimizing meat production efficiency. The program is strategically aligned with local agricultural initiatives and adheres to stringent animal care laws and industry standards, including ICAR and HAPIH regulations. Salers breed is recognized for their unique characteristics, including elongated bodies, slender joints, and compact heads. The breeding program aims to further enhance these traits to maximize productivity. Notably, official data underscores the urgency of this initiative, with a significant disparity between local beef production (4,000 to 5,000 tons annually) and demand (14,000 to 16,000 tons per year). A crucial objective of the program is to address North Macedonia's meat shortage relative to demand. By employing the SEUROP system for carcass quality assessment, the program ensures consistent adherence to industry standards. This study serves as a comprehensive manual for implementing Salers-specific breeding strategies. It provides valuable insights into effective methodologies, techniques for enhancing productivity, and strategies for regulatory compliance. Ultimately, the aim is to foster sustainable practices within the meat production industry in North Macedonia.