



Carcass conformation and composition of Churro Galego Bragançano and Suffolk male lambs

V. Cadavez¹, A. Teixeira¹, R. Delfa² and S. Matos¹. ¹Escola Superior Agrária de Bragança, Área de Zootecnia, Apartado 172, 5301-855 Bragança, Portugal, ²Unidad de Tecnología en Producción Animal, Servicio de Investigación Agrária, Diputación General de Aragon, Apartado727, 50080 Zaragoza, Spain

Abstract

Thirty-four Suffolk and Churro Galego Bragançano (CGB) ram lambs with live weight ranging from 14 to 34.5 kg were used. Lambs were slaughtered after 24h fasting. Carcasses were cooled at 4 °C for 24 h and external carcass measurements were recorded before being halved and the left side divided into eight standardised commercial joints. Each joint was then dissected into muscle, subcutaneous fat, inter-muscular fat and bone.

Least-squares models were fitted to the data with main effects for breed and live weight. The subcutaneous fat depth at the 12th-13th ribs was fitted as a covariate.

The CGB breed had the longest carcass (K) and leg length (F) and the shortest buttocks (G), chest (Wr) and Shoulders (S) carcass measurements (All significantly different, $P < 0.001$). No significant ($P < 0.05$) differences were found in *M. longissimus dorsi* area (MLTA) between Suffolk and CGB breeds. All carcass measurements were significantly ($P < 0.001$) increased by live weight.

Suffolk lambs presented the highest ($P < 0.01$) muscle content (64.3 vs 61.6%) and the lowest ($P < 0.001$) subcutaneous fat content (5.0 vs 7.6%). No significant ($P > 0.05$) differences were found in inter-muscular fat and bone proportion in the two breeds.