

„THE USE OF ULTRASONOGRAPHY IN THE ASSESSMENT OF THE COURSE OF PREGNANCY AND PRENATAL DIAGNOSIS IN SHEEP” – ABSTRACT

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The scientific objective of the doctoral dissertation was to analyse the morphometric parameters of the placenta and to assess blood flow in the placental and umbilical cord circulation as well as to determine the possibility of early pregnancy diagnosis in sheep using the ultrasound technique.

The research was carried out on Pomeranian and Suffolk sheep kept on a sheep farm at the Experimental Department of the National Research Institute of Animal Production in Kołbacz. Sheep were mated during their natural breeding season, no oestrus synchronization methods were used. The duration of gestation was determined based on the day of mating and was confirmed retrospectively after parturition.

In the research, a morphometric analysis of placentas obtained after parturition was carried out, taking into account the age of the ewes, litter size, sex and birth weight of lambs. Using Doppler ultrasonography, an assessment of haemodynamics in the placental and umbilical vessels in pregnant sheep was carried out. The usefulness of various ultrasound parameters in the early diagnosis of pregnancy in sheep was also determined.

The obtained results showed that the morphometric parameters of sheep placentas depend on the age of ewes, litter size, sex and birth weight of lambs. Therefore, these parameters should be taken into account in the ultrasonographic assessment of placental development in sheep.

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