

## YIELD OF MAJOR CARCASS PARTS OF BROILERS AS DEPENDENT ON THE LENGTH OF FATTENING PERIOD AND BREEDING SYSTEM

S. Bogosavljević-Bošković<sup>1</sup>, M. D. Petrović<sup>1</sup>, V. Dosković<sup>1</sup>, D. Šarančić<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Faculty of Agronomy, Cara Dušana 34, 32000, Čačak, Republic of Serbia

<sup>2</sup>Municipal Assembly of Pljevlja, Montenegro

Correspondence author: sbb@tfc.kg.ac.rs

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**Abstract:** Complying with certain established regulations of the European Union on extensive i.e. traditional breeding of broilers as well as with the specific character of national poultry breeding, an experimental study was conducted to examine slaughter traits of broilers depending on the length of fattening period and the breeding system employed. Two fattening systems were used: the extensive system practised in a poultry house and the free-range system. Given the importance of the length of the fattening period in non-industrial poultry production, fattening lasted for 49, 56 and 63 days. At the end of each fattening period, the randomly sampled broilers were slaughtered for examination of quantitative and qualitative traits of processed carcasses. This study presents results on the share of major carcass parts (breasts, drumsticks, thighs, wings, pelvis and backs) in processed broilers. Differences in the tested breeding systems and length of the fattening period were small and statistically insignificant ( $P > 0.05$ ). The analysis of significance revealed that the gender of broilers had a statistically very significant ( $P < 0.01$ ) effect on the share of breasts, thighs and drumsticks.

**Key words:** broilers, breeding system, gender, major carcass parts

### Introduction

Modern tendencies in poultry breeding in developed European countries have inevitably imposed a need to define appropriate innovated breeding technologies to be used in poultry production in Serbia that will ensure the satisfaction of safe food production criteria, animal protection requirements and the need for rationalization of the production process.

The European Union regulations on non-industrial, environmentally friendly and organic production are rather stringent. The most important requirements include housing that has sufficient sunlight, limited stocking density, i.e. the









