

HOW DOES THE TIME WHEN ANGORA RABBITS ARE TAKEN INTO
BREEDING INFLUENCE MULTIPLICATION RESULTS

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INTRODUCTION

In the case of angora rabbits the time when animals are taken into breeding has a definitive effect on the life production of the animal. The time when the animals are taken into breeding is also influenced by the age, development, sex and the length of wool. In case of mothers has a heat stimulating effect: mating is the easiest and most successful after shearing. /about 70 % of all mothers can be paired in 3 days/.

First shearing is done at the age of 60 days, further shearings are done in every 60-90 days, in the light of world market demand.

Taking into breeding occurs in this way between the possible 120-240 days. Basic requirements are the wool quality and quantity. Angora gives its highest wool production at the fourth and further shearings. Genetic correlation is 0,44 between the second and the fourth shearing, while between the fourth and the third it is 0,8.

Consequently, breeders choose the breeding animals on the basis of the results of the third shearing. In this case animals may reach the age of 8 months at this time.

We tested 115 angora mothers which have been taken into breeding at various ages /5, 6, 7, 8 months/.

Results:

Age of animals taken into br.	pc	Pregnancy after 1st mating	pc	died	born %	alive pc	born %	spearation pc
5 60+90 ^x	42	59,5	25	5	20	118	58,5	69
6 60+60+60	16	62,5	10	-	10	56	60,7	34
7 60+60+90	35	74,3	26	3	23	124	70,2	87
8 60+90+90	22	59,1	13	2	11	56	39,3	22

x different numbers of starting groups formed because of difference in mating capability

CONCLUSIONS, SUGGESTIONS

As the results of the test show there is a considerable difference between taking rabbits into breeding at the age of 5 or 7 months /59,5 and 74,3 % pregnancy/ and 58,5 and 70,2 % separation.

However, besides these two factors we also have to take into consideration that if we take the animals into breeding at the age of 5 months, the costs of raising will be reduced as about 50 % of the mothers deliver young again at the age of 8 months. This results in considerable improvement in the multiplication index. It is possible to take the rabbits into breeding at the age of 5 months genetically, but because of the insufficiency of environmental factors, presently we can achieve only poorer results than in case we take the rabbits into breeding later.

Taking rabbits into breeding earlier is of importance in the following cases:

- a./ When we establish a new farm where we have only young animals
- b./ In all cases when a rapid increase is needed in the number of animals
- c./ It is definitely suggested in the case of a stock high value /imported stock, or stock of high genetic production/. Young mothers can be taken into breeding at the age of 5 months if their weight reaches 80 % of the average weight of grown-up population.

SUMMARY

The authors have compared the time when angora does are taken into breeding and the multiplication results. Their examination results show that mothers taken into breeding at the age of 5 months after the second shearing give better littering results but separation results are worse than in case of mothers who have been taken into breeding at the age of 7 months after the third shearing or later.

