

Total fat as a percentage of the S carcasses increased from 13 % at 9 kg to 25 % at 24 kg. Subcutaneous fat as a percentage of total fat was low and increased only very slightly from 31 to 35 % with increasing carcass weight. A × S carcasses were fatter and had a greater proportion of subcutaneous fat than the S carcasses.

*Key words* : Kid, Angora, Saanen, growth, feeding, carcass.

### **Ralgro implants as a growth-promoter for Saanen male kids**

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The effect of Ralgro implants (12 mg Zeranol) to intact weaned male kids on growth and behaviour was investigated in two feeding experiments : in both experiments, the kids were fed a concentrate *Ad libitum* (2.6 Mcal of Metabolizable Energy, 16 % Crude Protein, 1 % Ca, .45 % P, and 22 ppm monensin-sodium, on an as-fed basis), and a daily allowance of 100 grams wheat straw. In experiment 1, five kids were first implanted at the age of 75 days and reimplanted 42 days thereafter ; five unimplanted contemporary kids were used as control. The initial body-weight (kg), average daily gain (g/d) on days 1-42 and 1-70, and feed efficiency (kg concentrate/kg gain) of the treatment and control groups were 12.6, 252, 250, 3.5 and 12.7, 219, 212, 4.0, respectively.

In experiment 2, 6 kids were implanted at the age of 86 days, and 6 kids served as control. All the kids were kept 30 days on experiment. The initial body-weight (kg), average daily gain (g/d) and feed efficiency of the treatment and control groups were 15.7, 250, 2.9 and 14.7, 228, 3.4, respectively.

The positive effect of Ralgro on growth was significant in experiment 1 only ; no differences were found in blood urea nitrogen concentrations at three sampling dates between the Ralgro and control kids : 29.9, 30.7 mg/100 ml (1-st day on experiment) : 22.3, 22.2 mg/100 ml (day 8 on experiment) ; 26.7, 26.1 mg/100 ml (day 30 on experiment). Ralgro implantation increased teat length in both experiments ( $B < 0.01$ ) and teat length was found to be a practical way to distinguish implanted and non-implanted kids. Testicular circumference was not affected by the treatments.

In experiment 1, the implanted kids spent more time sitting (46 % vs. 35 %, day 10 ; 28 % vs. 10 %, day 25 ; 74 % vs. 40 %, day 45) and less time standing and jumping than the control kids ( $B < 0.05$ ).

The rectal temperature was lower in the implanted than in the control kids (39.22 °C vs. 39.67 °C, exp. 1,  $B < 0.01$  ; 39.10 °C vs. 39.60 °C, exp. 2,  $B < 0.01$ ) during ordinary spring days (18 °C, 55 % RH) ; during a hot-spell (32.8 °C, 13 % RH) not such differences were noted (39.2 °C vs. 39.37 °C, exp. 1 ; 39.8 °C, 39.8 °C, exp. 2).

It seems that Ralgro implanting has some potential to promote growth in intact male kids fed highly energetic diets ; however, this effect could be the result of several metabolic influences, as expressed by behavioural parameters and different patterns in rectal temperatures, instead of a mere anabolic effect.

*Key words* : Implant, growth-promoter, kid, Saanen, Ralgro.