

DYNAMICS OF BEEF GRADING CARCASSES IN ROMANIA, FROM BEGINNING TO PRESENT

DINAMICA CLASIFICĂRII CARCASELOR DE VITĂ ÎN ROMÂNIA, DE LA ÎNCEPUT PÂNĂ ÎN PREZENT

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Carcass grading is the operation of carcass quality assessment, depending on the relationship between the three major components: meat, fat and bones. In the case of cattle carcasses, this is represented by the visual assessment of muscle development and fat deposits. The researches performed lead to the conclusion that the interest of the cattle breeders from Romania for cattle trade in concordance with the EUROP system is lower than in the other EU member states, because it does not present material advantages.

Key words: Grading, dynamics, beef carcasses

Introduction

Carcass grading is the operation of carcass quality assessment, depending on the relationship between the three major components: meat, fat and bones. In the case of cattle carcasses, this is represented by the visual assessment of muscle development and fat deposits.

The main grading objective is represented by the correct payment for farmers, in concordance with carcass weight and quality, considering in this way farmer's work and investment; at the same time, there are subsidies offered by the Romanian government for the classified carcasses.

The replacement of the live-weight payment with the one concordant with the grading determines a quick improvement of cattle quality, implicitly of cattle carcasses.

Another objective is represented by standardization, the common language in the international meat trade. The European Union set uniform quality assessment procedures (the EUROP system), defined by the same parameters in the entire continent.

Material and Methods

The evolution of cattle livestock in Romania has had a dramatic decrease since the revolution in 1989, but the implementation of the EUROP system and the benefits generated by this should refresh beef and veal production in our country.

Cattle carcass classification, according to the EUROP system, started two years ago in Romania, and the number of carcasses classified after slaughtering, and implicitly the payments to farmers in concordance with the quality of these carcasses, have continuously increased.

In order to study the evolution of dynamics of cattle carcass classification in Romania, we analyzed the results of all classification reports centralized during 24 months, respectively six trimesters, subjects to reports to the European Commission, Management Committee for Beef and Veal.

Table no.1
Number of cattle carcasses classified starting with the first reporting trimester from 2007 and ending with the last reporting trimester from 2008

	Cattle carcasses grading in 2007	Cattle carcasses grading in 2008
TRIM I	17.342	34.058
TRIM II	25.503	36.083
TRIM III	35.566	42.481
TRIM IV	44.376	35.240

Source: CCC EUROP

So, we may remark an ascendant evolution during the whole year 2007, starting with the first trimester with only 17,342 carcasses classified according to the EUROP system; until the end of the year, this cattle livestock increased with over 255%, up to 44,376%, the trimestrial increase being:

- Trimester II compared to trimester I - + 47.1%;
- Trimester III compared with trimester II - + 39.6%;
- Trimester IV compared to trimester III - + 24.8%.

But these increases were limited at the level of 2007, because starting with the first trimester of 2008 the number of carcasses classified has decreased below the level of the trimester III from the previous year.. (Figure no.1)

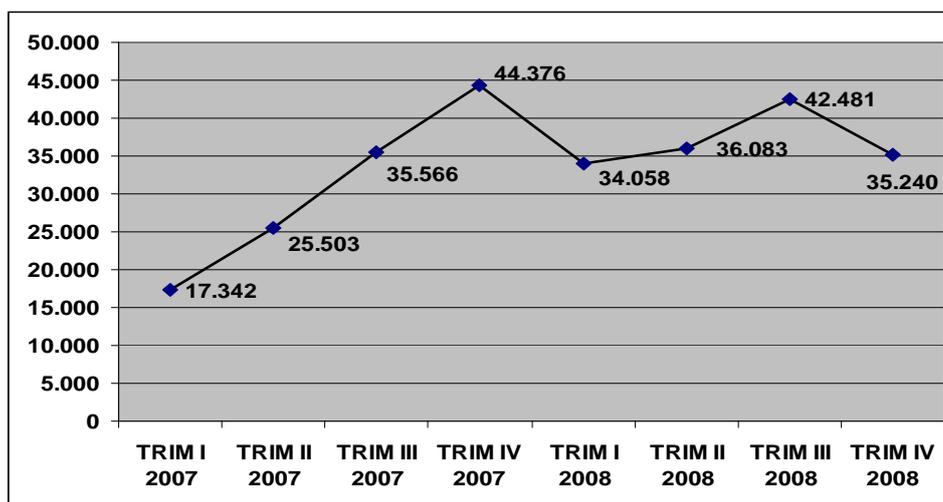


Figure no. 1 Dynamics of cattle carcass classification in Romania, between 01.01.2007 and 31.12.2008

The year 2008 presented a significant oscillation of the cattle livestock whose carcasses were classified, with large variations. However these variations couldn't cover the performance from the last semester of 2007, when the number of carcasses classified overtook 44,000.

The trimestrial variations in 2008 were:

- Trimester II compared to trimester I - + 5.9%;
- Trimester III compared to trimester II - + 17.7%;
- Trimester IV compared to trimester III - - 17.0%.

According to the first CCC EUROP estimations in 2009, for reporting, in the first trimester the number of classified cattle carcasses will not attain the level of the previous trimester, it will be below the value of 35,000 carcasses, maintaining the descendant character of the evolution of cattle carcass classification in Romania.

Results and Discussion

Analyzing the evolution of the correspondent trimesters from 2008, respectively 2007, we may remark that there was a significant increase in each trimester, compared to the same trimester of the previous year, excepting the last trimester when the decrease was over 20%. Figure no. 2.



Figure no. 2 Percentage variations of cattle carcasses classified in 2008, compared with the correspondent trimesters from 2007

Conclusions

The EUROP system for cattle carcass classification in Romania does not present, at the moment, a constant practice for farmers. The variations from the first 24 months of classification, and also the estimations for the first trimester of the current year show that, although at the beginning, in 2007, the EUROP system implementation for cattle carcass classification could be considered a success, at the moment these results are negative.

The researches performed lead to the conclusion that the interest of the cattle breeders from Romania for cattle trade in concordance with the EUROP system is lower than in the other EU member states, because it does not present material advantages.

The measures adopted by Romania in order to stimulate the cattle breeders to commercialize carcasses in concordance with the EUROP system are insufficient; we may remark a dramatic decrease of interest for this system. If this situation would not be quickly rectified, it would lead to the stagnation of the qualitative cattle carcass evolution in Romania, compared to cattle carcasses in the other EU member states.

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