

# ASSESSMENT OF LIVE PIG PERFORMANCE WITH FOCUS ON THE BREED AND GENDER

*Rajčok D., Imrich I., Mlyneková E.*

## **Abstract**

The aim of this study was to evaluate the effects of gender and purebred breed on growth performance and body composition traits of pigs under commercial production conditions. A total of 154 pigs, including 96 gilts and 58 boars from five purebred breeds (Large White, Landrace, Hampshire, Pietrain and Duroc), were analysed. Growth and body composition traits were standardized to 100 kg live weight. Boars reached the testing weight at a significantly younger age than gilts (165.94 vs. 176.54 days) and achieved higher  $ADG_{100}$  (649.47 vs. 607.49 g/day), higher lean meat content (63.89 vs. 62.79%) and lower back fat thickness (0.77 vs. 0.91 cm) ( $P < 0.05$ ). Significant breed differences were observed, with Pietrain pigs showing the highest  $ADG_{100}$  (656.80 g/day), the lowest  $BFT_{100}$  (0.57 cm) and the highest  $LMC_{100}$  (66.04%), while Hampshire pigs exhibited the least favourable carcass composition. Significant gender  $\times$  breed interactions were detected for most traits. The results confirm that both gender and breed significantly affect growth efficiency and body composition and should be considered in breeding and management decisions.

**Key Words:** Pig; gender; breed; growth performance; body composition