

CROATIAN AUTOCHTHONOUS POULTRY BREEDS

Z. Janječić, S. Mužic, M. Đikić

Faculty of Agriculture University of Zagreb Croatia; (zjanjecic@agr.hr)

Recently, in Croatia there is a growing interest for protection and preservation of autochthonous poultry breeds, reflecting in signing the Convention on Biodiversity. This Convention sets the obligation for all the member countries to identify, monitor and protect the diversity of biological resources, what is a strategic goal of the National strategy and action plan for protection of biological and landscape diversity of the Republic of Croatia. Up till now, the biggest progress on evaluation of characteristics and establishing the originality of Croatian fowl breeds has been made in Zagorje turkey and Hrvatica hen, while in Dravska goose, Križevačka Kukmica hen and Posavska Kukmica hen this work is due.

In Croatia, in Hrvatsko Zagorje region, the first records on turkeys date back as far as 1561 and during the said four-century period, the influence of turkeys from other regions was very small. At the end of rearing season, when turkeys are 6 months old, the average weight of cocks and hens is 6 and 4 kg, respectively. The average annual laying rate is 21 eggs, of which 16 adult birds are reared (Mužic et al., 1999). Several trials have been made lately with purpose of establishing the phenotype and genotype characteristics of 4 different types of feather coloration in Zagorje turkey. Based on the visualization of the PCR products no polymorphic places in the ovalbumine gene have been found between and within the experimental Zagorje turkey types. It was concluded that Zagorje turkeys are genotypically identical on the level of ovalbumine gene, while their small phenotypic differences have origin in negative environmental influence (Janječić, 2002). During 2004 there have been 2570 Zagorje turkeys on 256 family farms listed in the record books (HSC, 2005).

At the area alongside river Drava today there is about 1800 breeding Hrvatica hens. There are 4 different types of this hen, different in feather coloration: red, partridge-golden, golden-black and black. The average body weight of cocks is 3-4 kg, while hens weigh 2-3 kg and they lay 200-240 eggs per year (Posavi et al., 2004).

During the year 2000 the program to preserve and rehabilitate the Dravska goose began. The breeding area has been researched and a preliminary breed standard determined. Present breeding population of Dravska goose in Međimurje and Podravina is estimated to be about 2000 birds. The average body weight of ganders is 5-6 kg, while geese weigh 4-5 kg and produce 10-15 eggs per year. Križevačka kukmica hen and Posavska kukmica hen are bred only by few breeders mostly as exhibiting poultry. Estimated population size is 50 and 400 breeding birds, respectively (Posavi et al., 2004). Protection and preservation of autochthonous fowl breeds is part of the effort made to preserve the cultural and historical background, inherited on this area from our ancestors and which we owe to future generations.

Keywords: Dravska goose, Hrvatica hen, Križevačka kukmica hen, Posavska kukmica hen, Zagorje turkey

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There are hundreds of highly productive poultry breeds available around the world. Some of them are very famous for egg production, some are popular for meat production and some breeds are famous and popular for both meat and egg production. Poultry breeds are of three types, on the basis of their productivity. We have described the name and characteristics of some productive poultry breeds below. Table of Contents. Egg Productive Poultry Breeds (Layers). Meat Productive Poultry Breeds (Broilers). Dual-Purpose Poultry Breeds. Egg Productive Poultry Breeds (Layers). The chickens raised for egg production are known as layer chickens. Almost all types of commercial layer poultry breed start laying eggs within their five to six month of age. Autochthonous poultry breeds have been forsaken, forgotten even, since they have always been of less importance in the rural socio-economic context, associated with the domestic economy and, above all, regards from a perspective of self-consumption. The study, protection, improvement and dissemination of breeds, has had an almost inexplicable absence of works on the subject with the first reference to Portuguese poultry breeds in the 30s of the last century. The biometric study of the breeds is fundamental for the knowledge of the morphological characteristics and the productive potentialities. Croatian autochthonous Istrian cattle, breed currently listed by the FAO as "critically endangered". The study included 20 randomly selected cattle blood samples on which. Istrian cattle is a Croatian autochthonous breed living on the Istrian karst peninsula and the island of Krk in western part of Croatia, and belong to the Podolian subspecies of the original bovine cattle, the *Bos taurus primigenius Bojanus*. Aurochs; Ur. originating from the steppe region on Volhynian - Podolian plateau of Ukraine. Goat: Croatian White goat Croatian Spotted goat. Autochthonous cattle breeds. autochthonous cattle breeds involved the program of protection in the beginning nineties of XX. centuries, except Busha whose protection approach few years ago. Istarsko govredo 400 Broj uzraslih uzgojno valjanih grla 350 300 250 200 150 100 50 0 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 Godina Slavonsko srijemski podolac Bua. one of first protection programs of autochthonous breeds in situ protection program collected and deposited sperms and embryo several tens of disposable cows (110 cows) grow on several hundred reproductive available animals (430 cows) finished genetic