

Summary of the discussion on July 2nd at Jokioinen

Because of the short time available for the symposium on July 1st, a discussion session was arranged during a post-conference tour to Agricultural Research Centre, Jokioinen, on July 2nd. There was a lively discussion, in which the following problems were raised:

- * Early distribution of Finnsheep for studies in different countries and its motives.
- * Criteria used for choosing animal samples from Finland (prolificacy and/or other traits).
- * Existence and kind of selection in the imported Finnsheep flocks.
- * Utilization of Finnsheep genes in practical sheep production (systematic crossbreeding or use in synthetics).
- * Need of further research on Finnsheep (comparisons with Romanov, survival rates of lambs, resistance to various diseases and its possible improvement, differences between various crosses).
- * Good and bad effects of Finnsheep genes on wool quality.
- * Physiological and economic importance of locating fat to the kidney area instead of subcutaneously.
- * Most sensible criteria of feed conversion efficiency in sheep.
- * Role of and ways in utilizing Booroola gene in sheep breeding.
- * Problems of optimizing litter size in using Booroola gene as compared to using otherwise prolific breeds.
- * Relationships of major fertility genes found in different breeds (Booroola, Javanese, Cambridge, Icelandic, others?).
- * Consequences and problems of year-round lambings in D'Man sheep.
- * Desirability and possibilities of testing most of the prolific breeds in common environment (possibilities of exporting D'Man breed for experiments in other countries or of testing the other prolific breeds in Morocco).
- * Desirability and problems of increasing the number of teats (inheritance in increasing the number of teats from 2 to 4 and from 4 onwards, or from non-functioning to functioning, comparisons with beef cattle with 4 teats and 1 calf).