





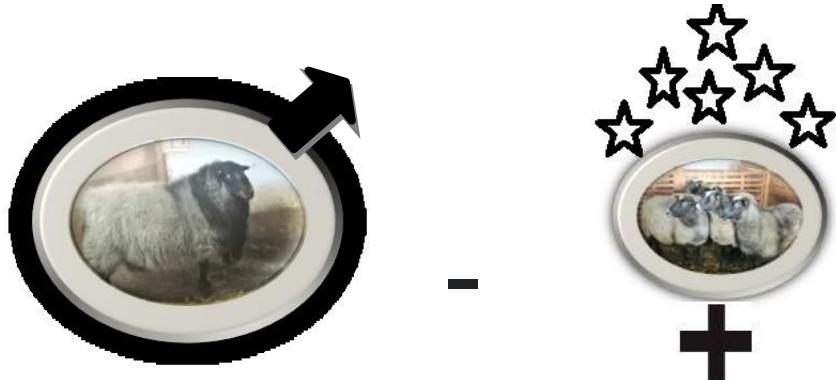
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## ELITE Romanov sheep in Serbia - a "Matić" farm - (animals, semen, and embryos for export)



*Preface:*

„It should be noted that this is a completely different Romanov sheep, with large dimensions, growth and fertility. We have the opportunity to talk about the meat type of Romanov sheep, which has further increased in size and fertility. It is now a very intensive sheep, but still an excellent mother who excellently returns invested time and resources. It is the sheep that has the fastest population growth in our region. I'm sure the rest of the world will soon know what we're talking about now.

For a good start, I managed to buy the best animals from two of the most elite Romanov farms, Mrs. Michaela Kvisova and Mr. Josef Slejtr, then from other 8 breeders and to combine them into my genetics vision, to become the best Romanov farm in Europe and the best meat productive sheep in the World in terms of the amount of meat produced per sheep per year. Significant progress has been made in the last 3 years, combining several new lines from other farms and from our genetics source, so we invite you to prove it for yourself. We chose only individuals with extreme values according to certain parameters, putting them together to make an ideal sheep. I believe that we have already achieved these values in 2025, but we also know that all the results so far have had a significant upward trend. We now have an average weight of ewes over 90 kg, with a plan to lamb five and six lambs, with their daily gain over 350 grams per day. This is already reality in 30% of the herd. We are working on their reproducibility and standardization. Our rams are around 130 kg.”

*Ing. Radoslav Matić, the farm owner*



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## **Unique features on the farm:**

- *Romanov rams of the best genetic index in the world (breeding index over 210%).*
- *One of 2 sheep from a litter of 8 is at our farm (world record for live-born lambs).*
- *Many unique combinations of rams and sheep with proven hereditary traits (increasing prolificacy, body frame, color).*
- *Farm is making its flock from sextuplets (so-called “6 × 6 concepts”).*
- *Best rams can reach 100 kg in 11 months.*
- *Sheep body weight of 80-100 kg; for rams +100 kg (up to 130 kg).*
- *Total litter weights with 100 days are exceeding 120kg (and over 160 kg in best mothers).*
- *Available 11 bloodlines and 25 rams for semen production.*
- *Embryo and semen production can be ordered with 90% of the chosen gender (in progress).*
- *Merged fast body weight gain and prolificacy (>300 grams/day on 3,8 lambs born - 3,5 raised).*
- *Each generation is still increasing average body weight gain and the number of lambs.*
- *To be continued ...*



The best genetic pool of Romanov sheep in Europe is now concentrated at "Matić" farm in Šid Municipality, Serbia, Europe.

The farm was established eight years ago. In 2019, 68 sheep were imported from the Czech Republic, including 50 sheep from Mrs. Michaela Kvisová and 18 from Josef Sleztr, the two most renowned breeders of the Romanov breed. Additionally, 10 sheep originate from Mr. Eraković in Serbia, and the remaining 47 sheep come from our own breeding program, achieved through mating elite sheep and rams. Then, imports were made from 7 additional breeders from the Czech Republic: Zajíček Peter, Zych Radek, Dobes Libor, Brichtová Petra, Zdranková Martina, Vjater Miroslav and Vizner Jiri. Here we were already looking for specific rams that corrected the shortcomings we noticed in the Romanov breed. It is also noteworthy that we have invested 140,000€ in our genetic pool over the past six years.

So, here are the top animals imported from the Czech Republic, national fair champions, the offspring of winners... For example, from "Paradise Star" we have 2 daughters and 5 granddaughters, and this is the sheep that has produced 51 lambs over 11 lambing. From „Hanna“ and „Vasil,“ we own rams weighing over 120-130 kg... and sheep weighing from 80 to 100 kg. Top rams are scored with relative breeding values over 200% (Viking, Devil, Paradise Lee). Our rams easily reach over 40-45 kg within 100 days (regardless of the size of the litter in which they were born). So, today's farm consists of 160 sheep of the world's best Romanov genetics, featuring 11 different ram-blood lines and 15 older (proven) trained rams in a semen collection program (several top retired rams with frozen semen), plus 7 young rams under testing ("hoppers") – all trained for semen collection as well. The mature sheep weigh between 80-100 kg. Many ewes and rams are of unique combinations of extreme breeding traits.

We can prove that this sheep is the most productive in the world. This is a matter of strong selection, adjusted feeding, and strong management decisions. The average lambing index is 3,8 in mature sheep, and at 100 days after lambing, the average total weight of litter is between 120-160 kg. We do have sheep with 9 lambs per year. In the last 2 years, 15 sheep gave sextuplets (we keep 13 females and 6 males on the farm). We made a group of 26 yearling females from sextuplets that are mated with the best ram from the sextuplets (best is 11 months old-91 kg of BW). For the next generation, we leave only lambs from litters of  $\geq 4$  lambs (preferably 4-6).

We still believe that Romanov limits have not been reached, and this is proven with every new generation. The main aim is to build a large-frame mother (80-100 kg of BW), that easily lambs 4-6 vital lambs (lambs of at least 2-2,5 kg). It is no problem for a male lamb to weigh over 40 kg at 100 days old, and some female lambs reach that weight as well. All those extremes stay with us on the farm.

The farm is under the supervision of the "**RAMGEN**" sheep breeding center, with the professional help of Dr. Aleksandar Milovanović.

## — Romanov sheep —

### 1. Genetic basis

*In addition to elite rams, there are also elite sheep on the farm, fifty-five rated in the Czech Republic selection service as Elite Records.*

*We invested in the best possible Romanov genetics. It is not only about the possibility of investing (which is not small at all), but also about the luck that you have the opportunity to buy what you want, and that you also know how to make ideal combinations for further breeding.*

*We would put Proves Chimera in first place, which is from a litter of eight, and at the same time, it is a world record.*

*On the farm are four daughters of the legendary Paradise Ster Queen, the most prolific sheep in the Czech Republic, that lambed 11 times and gave birth to 51 lambs. Her daughters are: Paradise Angel, Andula, Sara and Russell.*

*From the breeding farm of Mrs. Michaela Kvisova, we still have elite sheep: Paradise Ebel, Emina, Konie, Maja and Kate (Champion of the Czech Republic 2019).*

*From Josef Slater's elite farm, we have: Proves Anna, Alena, Annabel, Agi and Aranka.*

*All these sheep were bought as adults and that's why they were evaluated in the Czech Republic.*

*Some pictures of elite sheep mothers that we start with: Andula, Srussel, Coni, Emine, Ebel, Anna....*



For example, on the left picture is Paradise Ster Queen with her 8 lambs in the Czech Republic; in the central picture is Paradise Angel sheep - offspring from that litter of 8 is on our farm. The son of Paradise Ange, a Paradise MACADAM ram (on the right side) is now used for semen production.



## 2. Nutrition

*Sheep have well-balanced feeding, mostly on concentrates and Lucerne. Before lambing and during lactation, feeding is ad libitum. Mineral and vitamin status are often controlled.*

*The average age of the first insemination/breeding was >55 kg as the first criterion (from 8-10 months)-we shifted this practice to 12 months and over 70 kg. Now, all our sheep before lambing have between 80-100 kg.*



**Lambing index:** Average lamb number at the various parities at "Matić" farm

Average lambs per lambing	1 <sup>st</sup> lambing	2 <sup>nd</sup> lambing	3 <sup>rd</sup> lambing	≥4 <sup>th</sup> lambing
	2,7	3,5	3,8	3,85

The average birth weight of lambs at lambing is 2,5 kg.

Gender	Days of test ↓	Litter size and its proportion on the farm level (%) and body weight according to days in test (in kg)					
		1	2	3	4	5	6
		2%	2%	25%	50%	10-15%	5%
♂	30	13	12	11	10	10	10
	60	26	25	24	23	23	22
	100	40	39	38	38	36	35
♀	30	10	10	9	9	8	7
	60	23	22	22	21	20	20
	100	32	31	30	29	28	27

*In average, about 65% of lambing is with 4 or more lambs. Fives and sixes are not rare in our herd.*



### **3. Selecting criteria for lambs (at lambing and at 100 days of life)**

**For the next generation of reproduction are left just lambs from the litter of  $\geq 4$  lambs.  
Males have to be heavier than 35 kg, and females more than 30 kg at 100 days.**

Lambs that go to the slaughterhouse:

- Male lambs that weigh less than **35 kilos at 100 days** and lambs from small litters (with 1, 2, or 3 lambs).
- Female lambs that weigh less than **30 kilos at 100 days** and from small litters (with 1, 2, or 3 lambs).



**Group of selected rams 4,5 months old (litters from 4-6 lambs, weighing from 45- 54 kg)**

**Total weight of litter at 100 days: 125-160 kg.**

**Expected male weights at 100 days: 38 kg (350 gr/day) and up to 46.**

**Expected female weights at 100 days from 32 kg (290gr/day) and up to 39 kg.**

**The average slaughter age of our lamb in Serbia is four months, with a weight of 35 kg.**

Keep in mind that slaughtered lambs are those with lower genetic gain and lower body weight gain at 100 days (all lambs are born from litters of 1-3 lambs). The tested meat dressing percentage is between 51-53% of the live weight.

If the industry accepts heavier lambs, such as 45 kg, this can be achieved at 5 months in pure-breed farms. At that stage, owners can expect a total litter weight of 160-210 kg per sheep as usual. After crossing with Suffolk, some owners reach 80-90 kg in F1 within 8-10 months per sheep (see picture below), regardless of the litter size they were born.



**Meat dressing in a purebred with intensive feeding is %: 51-53%, and 55% in F1 crosses (Romanov mothers × UK Suffolk rams).**

### **Other management practices at the farm:**

- Mating season: All year round possible. The best and most practical for us are in April & September.
- Duration of lactation in days: 75. Surplus lambs (from 4-6) are artificially reared on automatic milk machines with added probiotics.
- Regular vaccination (against Clostridial infection and Pasteurella) and deworming 2x per year.
- Early pregnancy detection by ultrasound scanning. Semen quality control before mating season.
- Practiced shearing time: twice per year - in 1/3 of March and the end of August.

<b>The number of lambs (from 4-8 months old) that can be bought in one year and their price at "Matić farm":</b>	<b>- ♀ 150 heads: 500 Eu ♀</b>	<b>- ♂ 150 heads: 600Eu ♂</b>
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#### **Embryo price:**

**300 Euro (only best animals are included in embryo production- litters from 4<sup>th</sup> lambs)**

„The farm is continually working to improve the negative traits of Romanov sheep, specifically their small body frame and low weight gain, while also increasing the number of lambs per litter. We are developing the so-called “Meat type of Romanov sheep - Serbian Romanov strain,” with an average daily gain of over 300 grams, regardless of litter size. This is the breeding goal for a “Matić farm.” We could expect further progress only by strict adherence to the selected criteria.

*Ing. Radoslav Matić, the farm owner*

*Photo gallery from the “Matić Romanov farm”, Serbia*



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