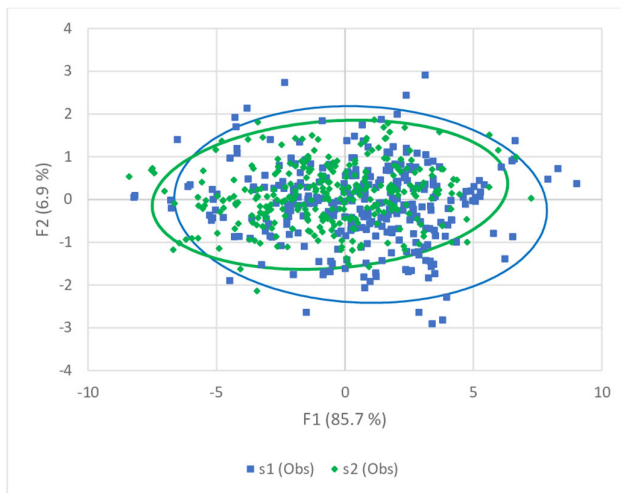
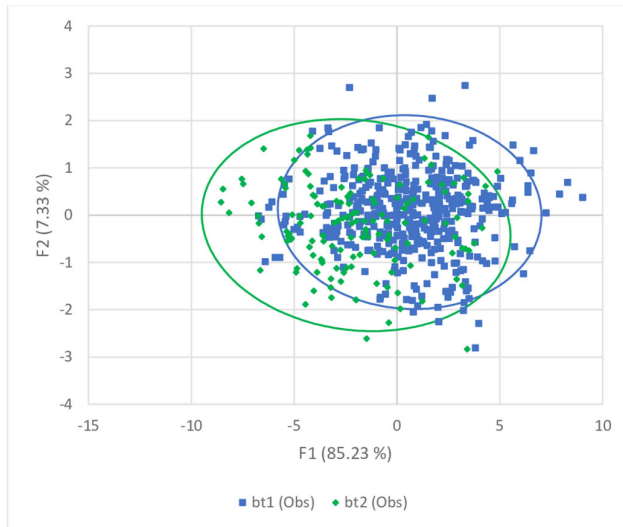


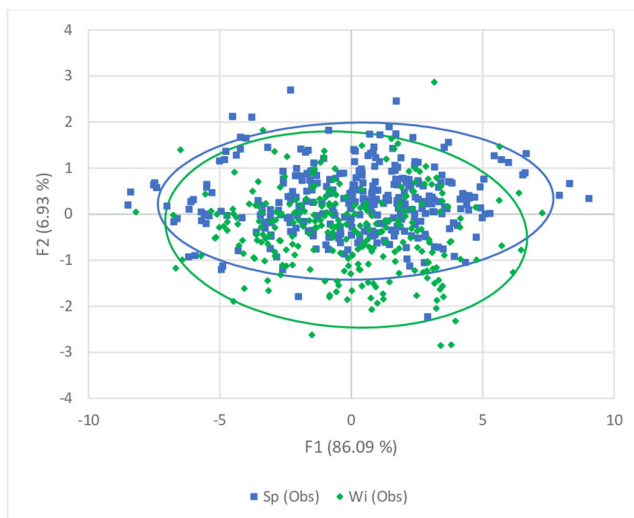
**Figure S1:** Scatter plot of the first two principal components for the age–weight observations grouped by the year of birth. The ellipses represent the 95% confidence intervals for 2014-, 2015-, 2016-born lambs, reported as y1, y2, and y3, respectively.



**Figure S2:** Scatter plot of the first two principal components for the age–weight observations grouped by sex. The ellipses represent the 95% confidence intervals for male and female lambs, reported as s1 and s2, respectively



**Figure S3:** Scatter plot of the first two principal components for the age–weight observations grouped by birth type. The ellipses represent the 95% confidence intervals for single- and twin-born lambs, reported as bt1 and bt2, respectively.



**Figure S4:** Scatter plot of the first two principal components for the age–weight observations grouped by season of birth. The ellipses represent the 95% confidence intervals for spring- and winter-born lambs, reported as Sp and Wi, respectively.