

# The quality of a new sheep meat product. Effect of salting and ageing process

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# Introduction

- Meat from heavier animals, particularly culling ewes is very depreciated and worthless.
- Meat more suitable to process as drying, curing with salts or smoking products.
- The objective was to study a strategy which gives value-added to meat from culled ewes, with a very low commercial price, and to create a new sheep meat product.



# Materials and methods



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- Fresh meat (*in vitro* characteristics)

- pH

- color

- light

- (CIE)

- weight

- weight

- temperature

- density

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# Materials and methods

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- air-c

- vacuum packaging.



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# Materials and methods

- The effects of ageing, salting and drying on physical characteristics of meat were assessed *in subscapularis* and *semimembranosus* ms.:
  - color; and
  - water activity ( $a_w$ )

# Statistical analysis

- The experimental design was completely random.
- Parameters such as pH, water-holding capacity, texture, pigments, water activity and color, in fresh meat, during salting and air-drying, were analyzed. The effect of ageing was studied.
- Fresh meat pH, color, and aw as well as pigment determination, water-holding capacity and texture, and color and aw during salting and air-drying data were submitted to an analysis of variance, with ageing as only treatment with two levels (72 e 120 h).
- One-way ANOVA procedure from SPSS software for Windows, version 17.0, was used.

# Results and discussion

**Table 1: Means  $\pm$  standard deviation of fresh meat color and physical parameters. Effect of ageing.**

Color parameters	Effect of ageing		Significance
	Ageing 1	Ageing 2	
L*	35.32 $\pm$ 0.63 <sub>a</sub>	31.07 $\pm$ 0.43 <sub>b</sub> SR6	***
a*	17.00 $\pm$ 0.55 <sub>a</sub>	14.67 $\pm$ 0.30 <sub>b</sub>	***
b*	10.50 $\pm$ 0.27 <sub>a</sub>	6.55 $\pm$ 0.31 <sub>b</sub>	***
H*	31.82 $\pm$ 0.55 <sub>a</sub>	23.82 $\pm$ 0.67 <sub>b</sub>	***
C*	180.52 $\pm$ 1.05 <sub>a</sub>	98.05 $\pm$ 6.67 <sub>b</sub>	***
<b>Physical parameters</b>			
pH	5.56 $\pm$ 0.28	5.69 $\pm$ 0.05	NS
a <sub>w</sub>	0.90 $\pm$ 0.01	0.96 $\pm$ 0.00	NS
WHC	26.80 $\pm$ 1.36	32.56 $\pm$ 1.91	NS
DO*	4.77 $\pm$ 0.39	4.89 $\pm$ 0.45	NS
SF (kgf/cm <sup>2</sup> )	8.97 $\pm$ 0.28 <sub>a</sub>	6.20 $\pm$ 0.24 <sub>b</sub>	***

Means in the same column with different superscripts differ significantly: \* P<0.05; \*\* P<0.01; \*\*\* P<0.001 NS – not significant



**SR6**

Eu reduziria a informação dos quadros, tirando os desvios padrão e os a's e b's. na minha opinião não terão muita importancia para a apresentação.

Sandra Rodrigues; 19/07/2010

# Results and discussion

**Table 2: Means  $\pm$  standard deviation of meat color parameters.  
Effects of salting and air-drying**

Parameters	Effect of salting		Significance
	Ageing 1	Ageing 2	
L*	34.22	33.394 <sub>b</sub>	***
a*	9.76	9.79	NS
b*	7.51	6.54	***
H*	42.41	38.62	***
C*	81.41	70.90	***
	Effect of air-drying		
L*	29.32	30.11	***
a*	4.68	3.91	***
b*	6.43	5.50	***
H*	52.99	54.28	*
C*	32.63	22.77	***

Means in the same column with different superscripts differ significantly: \* P<0.05; \*\* P<0.01; \*\*\* P<0.001; NS – not significant.

# Results and discussion

**Table 3: Means  $\pm$  standard deviation of activity of water ( $a_w$ ). Effects of salting and air-drying, according ageing**

$a_w$	Ageing 1	Ageing 2	Significance
Fresh meat	0.901	0.96	NS
Salting	0.86	0.87	***
Air-drying	0.76	0.79	***

Means in the same column with different superscripts differ significantly: \*  $P < 0.05$ ; \*\*  $P < 0.01$ ; \*\*\*  $P < 0.001$ ; NS – not significant.

# Conclusions

- Ageing, salting and air-drying affect the color parameters making the meat darker and reducing the water activity which was SR4 extremely important for final product preservation.
- The ageing process is important in terms of meat texture, since it makes the meat more tender as result of a shear force reduction.



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Sandra Rodrigues; 19/07/2010

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