

Effect of chicory grazing on killing out percentage and meat eating quality in lambs

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Background and Objective



- Lambs grazing on chicory
 - Faster growth, and thus potential to finish early
 - Reduced parasitism
- Meat quality
 - Crucial for consumer acceptance
 - Impact of chicory unknown
- Objective
 - To assess effect of chicory on sensory meat quality

Materials and Methods



- Two lamb grazing treatments
 - Grass/clover (control) or pure stand chicory
 - 20 weeks grazing from turnout at 4 wks of age
- Carcass weight and loins from abattoir
 - Killing out (KO) percentage calculated
 - 19 taste and flavour characteristics determined through experienced taste panel (Bristol)
 - Lambs allocated to panels by sex

Results and conclusion



- Chicory increases KO percentage
 - Chicory vs grass/clover: 39.9 vs 37.2% ($P < 0.01$)
- Female chicory loins were juicier
 - Chicory vs grass/clover: 5.2 vs 4.9 ($P < 0.05$)
- Chicory grazing did not detrimentally affect overall liking or flavour liking
- Chicory provides a safe, alternative crop for lambs, yielding higher carcass weights with no detrimental effects on sensory meat quality

Acknowledgements

