



DEPARTMENT OF CATTLE BREEDING
Beef cattle and meat quality

The research is aimed at economically viable production of beef while meeting the current demands on its nutritional value and organoleptic properties.

OVERVIEW

Our research is mainly focused on the area of beef production and quality. We investigate growth, feeding efficiency, carcass quality and meat quality in various cattle breeds and crossbreds. We evaluate different fattening systems and diets, effects of sex and slaughter age on beef production and quality.

We study genetic and non-genetic effects on meat composition, particularly on the content of intramuscular fat and fatty acids profile. Along with this we evaluate the factors influencing the organoleptic and technological properties of beef.

In addition, we investigate farming systems applied in farmed cervids with the aim to achieve economically viable venison production. Different rearing methods and dietary regimes have been assessed with respect to growth, carcass and meat quality of farmed deer.

We are responsible for training of beef carcass classifiers in harmony with the EU legislation.

GROUP MEMBERS

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KEYWORDS

Beef cattle, carcass value, meat quality, deer farming, venison

MAIN TOPICS & PROJECTS

Efficient beef production

Feeding experiments are focused on the efficient production of beef and the improvement meat quality parameters. Different feedstuffs are tested, e.g. the partial replacement of grains in diets with alternative diet components. In addition, post-slaughter carcass manipulation (carcass hanging methods, ageing of meat etc.) are assessed with respect to meat chemical composition, physical attributes and sensorial characteristics.

Genetic factors influencing the fatty acid profile of bovine meat and adipose tissue

Associations of polymorphisms in different candidate genes with intramuscular fat content and fatty acid composition of muscle and various adipose tissue types have been investigated with the aim to understand the genetic variation underlying the beef fatty acid profile.

Expression of genes related to intramuscular fat content and fatty acid composition

The expression level in bovine lipid metabolism related genes is measured to elucidate the molecular mechanisms which induce the different levels of fat deposition and its composition.

Optimization of diets used for farmed fallow deer

Different feeding systems applicable in fallow deer farms are evaluated with the objective to efficiently produce venison with nutritive and organoleptic characteristics meeting the demands of current consumers.

KEY PUBLICATIONS

Needham, T., Laubser, J.G., Kotrba, R., Bureš, D., Hoffman, L. C. (2020): Influence of ageing on the physical qualities of the *longissimus lumborum* and *biceps femoris* muscles from male and female free-ranging common eland (*Taurotragus oryx*). *Meat Science*. 159, 107922.

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