The EUROP carcass grading system cannot predict the eating quality of beef

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Outline

- Importance of Eating Quality
- EUROP carcase grading system
- Analysis to assess EUROP vs Consumer Eating Quality
- Demonstrate no association

Decreased market share of beef in the European market

Meat supply for group of 8 EU countries - Germany, France, Italy, Spain, UK, Netherlands, Hungary, Finland - in tonnes



Which is better?



European Carcass Classification

Fatness score



European Carcass Classification

Fatness score



Increasing Lean Meat Yield decreases IMF



Increasing Yield Decreasing IMF

IMF Improves Eating Quality



Increasing sensory scores

 EUROP score will negatively correlate with eating quality





Experimental Design

Design

- 100 carcasses
 - Cows and Young Bulls
 - Polish and French Cattle and Consumers
 - EUROP Score Range E- to P+
 - 7 Cuts
 - Oysterblade, Tenderloin, Outside, Rump, Topside, Striploin, knuckle

Variable	Ν	Mean	Std Dev	Minimum	Maximum	
USoss	100	300.3	163.05	120	590	
UMB	100	341.8	154.76	100	780	
CarcWt	100	330.4	49.97	202	474.8	





Untrained Consumer taste panels







Average MQ4 Score for each cut



Statistical Analysis

Linear mixed effects model

- Base model
 - Source Country
 - Consumer Country
 - Gender
 - Cut
- Additional covariates tested
 - EUROP score
 - USA Ossification score
 - USA Marbling score
 - Carcass Weight

Results

The MQ4 score and EUROP Grade



The MQ4 score and EUROP Grade



MQ4 score and EUROP Grade





















EUROP Carcass Grade

MQ4 score and EUROP Grade 90 Rump 80 70 **No Logical Pattern!** MQ4 Score 40 30 20 U= U-E-R+ R-0+ O= **O**-**P+** R=

EUROP Carcass Grade



MQ4 score and EUROP Grade 90 **Knuckle** 80 70 **No Logical Pattern!** MQ4 Score 40 30 20 U= U-E-R+ R-0+ O= **O**-**P+** R=

EUROP Carcass Grade





MQ4 score and EUROP Grade



Fattness, Age and Weight?









Fattness, Age and Weight?









No Change!



 EUROP score will negatively correlate with eating quality





 EUROP score will negatively correlate with eating quality



 EUROP score will negatively correlate with eating quality



Implication: EUROP can not be used as a proxy system to describe Eating Quality

A specific eating quality system is required!



Conclusion

Conclusions

 EUROP score does not correlate with eating quality







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