Summary

The use of repartitioning agents has been discussed extensively during the last decade. Numerous studies have been conducted to evaluate the efficacy and safety of these products. Somatotropin (SM) has been evaluated extensively in swine. However, limited information is available on other meat animals. Somatotropin is very effective in improving the composition of carcasses and yet has limited effects on the sensory and processing characteristics of pork. Several beta-adrenergic agonists (BA) are being evaluated for safety and efficacy as repartitioning agents in a wide variety of meat animals. These compounds improve carcass composition and have limited, or no, effect on colour and intramuscular fat content of muscle. Some BA affect tenderness more than others. Improvements in the composition of meat animals and the efficiency of growth obtained through the use of repartitioning agents will be beneficial to the livestock and meat industry.

Introduction

Repartitioning agents have been evaluated extensively during the last decade. Somatotropin (SM) and beta-adrenergic agonists (BA) have been shown to have dramatic effects on carcass composition (increasing muscle mass and reducing fat content). Although these compounds have different modes of action, they have a similar effect on the growth and composition of meat animals. Repartitioning agents have been evaluated on a variety of species of livestock. However, more information is currently available on swine than the other species.

To clearly characterize the effects of repartitioning agents on carcass and meat quality, we must define quality. In this review, carcass quality will refer to slaughter characteristics, carcass cutting yields and composition. Meat quality will refer to the appearances of fresh muscle and the sensory properties of fresh and processed meats.

The purpose of this review is to discuss the efficacy of repartitioning agents and their impact on the quality and acceptability of meat and meat products.

Somatotropin

Somatotropin has a consistent effect of reducing dressing percentage 2 to 3% in swine and cattle (Table 1). This reduction in dressing percentage is directly related to the increase in size, or yield, of by-products. McKeith *et al.* (1989) reported increase in the weights of livers, kidneys, hearts and stomachs in swine. The increase in by-product yields have limited economic value in the pork industry.

McKeith *et al.* (1989) discussed implications of somatotropin to the pork processing industry. The slaughter segment of the industry would require few alterations. However, the fabrication and processing segment may require some changes. The reduction of subcutaneous fat may require changes in the procedures used to remove fat and skin from the loin. Belly thickness may be reduced and ultimately make bellies too thin for traditional bacon production.

THE EFFECT OF REPARTITIONING AGENTS ON CARCASS AND MEAT QUALITY

Floyd K. McKeith

Department of Animal Sciences, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois, 61801, United States Table 1. Effect of somatotropin on dressing percentage of beef and swine.

<i>Pigs</i> Machlin, 1972 Baile <i>et al.</i> , 1983 Chung <i>et al.</i> , 1985 Bryan <i>et al.</i> , 1989 Knight <i>et al.</i> , 1991 Bidanel <i>et al.</i> , 1991 Clark <i>et al.</i> , 1992 Lefaucheur <i>et al.</i> , 1992 Goodband <i>et al.</i> , 1993	up to $3.4\% \downarrow$ $\approx 1\% \downarrow$ ND ^a up to $2.1\% \downarrow$ up to $1.5\% \downarrow$ up to $3\% \downarrow$ $2.8\% \downarrow$ up to $3.6\% \downarrow$ up to $4\% \downarrow$
<i>Cattle</i> Dalke <i>et al.</i> , 1992 Moseley <i>et al.</i> , 1992	ND up to 4% \downarrow

^a ND = not different

 Table 2. Effects of somatotropin on carcass composition.

Swine		
Chung et al., 1985	% muscle % fat	4.2↑ .ND
Etherton et al., 1986	% protein % fat	1.2% ↑ 5.3% ↓
Etherton et al., 1987	% protein % fat	1.9% ↑ 7.1% ↓
Campbell et al., 1989a	% protein % fat	2.8%↑ 11.3%↓
Campbell et al., 1989b	% protein % fat	.ND 5.6%↓
McLaughlin et al., 1989	% protein % fat	1.4% ↑ 4.8% ↓
Bidanel et al., 1991	% protein % fat	11.8% ↑ 12.7% ↓
Knight et al., 1991	% protein % fat	1.0% ↑ 4.6% ↓
Cattle ^a		
Dalke et al., 1992	% protein % fat	1.3%↑ 4.7%↓
Moseley et al., 1992	% protein % fat	1.4% ↑ 5.6% ↓

^a Composition of 9-10-11th ribs.

Treatment of swine with somatotropin can reduce fat content up to 10 to 15% and increase lean content up to 10 to 15%(Table 2). The changes in composition for cattle were smaller, 5.6% and 1.4% for protein and fat respectively. These changes will reduce subcutaneous fat thickness 20 to 40% and will also have an effect on the intermuscular fat of most cuts. Reducing intermuscular fat is important to the meat industry because of the difficulty of trimming and/or removing intermuscular fat from fresh cuts of meat. Contemporary consumers are conscious of the fat that they are consuming and cuts with high levels of intermuscular fat are difficult to merchandise. Improvements in the percentage of muscle protein translate into larger muscles which is a positive attribute for the fresh and processed pork industries. The magnitude of the compositional changes for beef were smaller than those observed for pork, but reducing fat and increasing lean in feedlot animals is an asset to the beef industry. Limited information is available on the effects of somatotropin on sheep and poultry.

Changes in composition will result in changes in the carcass cutting yield of meat animals. The yield of cuts from pigs treated with somatotropin (4mg/d) is presented in Table 3. The yield of the untrimmed and trimmed major wholesale cuts did not differ dramatically between the control and SM treatments. However, boneless cut yields from somatotropin-treated carcasses were higher for all major cuts, with the exception of the picnic shoulder. Changes in the composition of cuts was the most dramatic result of this comparison. SM reduced the fat content of boneless trimmed cuts by 25 to 50%. This change was a result of reducing intermuscular and intramuscular fat. As stated previously, the reduction of intermuscular fat enhances the appearance of meat. However, reduction of intramuscular fat in pork and beef may not be desirable. Research has suggested that intramuscular fat contents of 2 to 2.5% for pork and 3 to 3.5% for beef are the thresholds of acceptability.

Somatotropin has limited effects on the colour of pork (Table 4) and reduces the intramuscular fat content in the *longissimus* of beef and pork by 20 to 40%. The reduction in intramuscular fat content has a direct effect (based on the current grading program) on the value of beef animals in the United States. Intramuscular fat content of pork has no direct economic effect on the value of pork. Sensory properties of pork *longissimus* muscle are presented in Table 5. Somatotropin increases shear force of pork in most cases, although it has limited effects on sensory ratings for tenderness and juiciness. The values reported for most of the studies were less than 4 kg of force for shears and the sensory responses were above the midpoint of the scale which suggests that the products had acceptable palatability ratings.

The processing properties of pork treated with somatotropin have been evaluated on sausage and cured meat products. Lonergan *et al.* (1992) evaluated the processing properties of pepperoni, boneless ham and bacon from somatotropin-treated pork and found few economically important differences. McKeith and Merkel (1991) reported that the processing yields of thin bellies were lower than traditional bellies but that no difference were observed in the sensory properties of the product. Boles *et al.* (1991) found no differences in the processing and sensory properties of hams from somatotropin and control hams. Halloran *et al.* (1991) reported that cured hams, loins and bellies from somatotropin-treated animals had characteristics beneficial to both processors and consumers. **Table 3.** Effect of somatotropin on the carcass yield and composition of major wholesale cuts^a.

		Control	Somatotropin
Side weight (kg)		34.56	33.79
Wholesale cuts (kg)	Ham	9.24	9.36
	Loin	8.49	8.28
	Belly	5.39	5.03
	Shoulder	7.36	7.22
Trimmed wholesale			
cuts (kg)	Ham	8.21	8.51
	Loin	6.75	7.07
	Picnic Shoulde	r 3.85	3.84
	Boston butt	2.58	2.75
Boneless trimmed	Ham (kg)	6.16	6.57
	Water (%)	68.34	71.67
	Lipid (%)	12.48	8.96
	Loin (kg)	4.50	4.99
	Water (%)	56.74	66.95
	Lipid (%)	27.18	14.05
	Boston butt (kg) 2.43	2.55
	Water (%)		70.92
	Lipid (%)	20.99	10.00
	Picnic shoulder	2.94	2.89
	Water (%)		71.67
		15.00	9.34

^a McKeith et al., 1989.

Beta-adrenergic agonists

A variety of beta-adrenergic agonists have been evaluated in meat animals (Figure 1). The structures of these compounds differ and suggest that the effects of the compounds may vary. BA consistently increase the dressing percentage in pork, beef, lamb and poultry (Table 6). The increase in dressing percentage may be related to increasing muscle mass, decreasing fat and limited effects on by-products.

Numerous studies have evaluated the efficacy of BA on growth and composition of meat animals. In this review, I selected papers that presented composition changes in percentage muscle, protein and/or fat (Table 7). Most studies suggest that BA will reduce the fat content of the carcass by 5 to 10% and will increase muscle mass to the same extent. The magnitude of the response for poultry is not as large as that found in pork or beef.

Table 4. Effects of somatotropin on the colour,	, firmness and marbling of the
longissimus muscle.	

Swine		
Chung et al., 1985 ^a	marbling % lipid	0.8 ↑ 0.6% ↑
Novakofski <i>et al.</i> , 1987 ^a	colour firmness marbling % lipid	$ \begin{array}{c} \text{N.D} \\ 0.4 \downarrow \\ 0.4 \downarrow \\ 0.7\% \downarrow \\ 1.4\% \downarrow \end{array} $
McLaughlin et al., 1989 ^a	colour	N.D
Beermann et al., 1990 ^a	colour firmness marbling	$\begin{array}{c} 0.1 \downarrow \\ 0.2 \downarrow \\ 0.5 \downarrow \end{array}$
Bidanel et al., 1991	% lipid	1.3%↓
Miller et al., 1991 ^a	colour firmness marbling	0.7 ↑ 0.2 ↓ 1.0 ↓
Clark et al., 1992 ^a	colour marbling	N.D 0.3 ↓
Goodband et al., 1993 ^a	colour firmness marbling	$\begin{array}{c} 0.4 \downarrow \\ 0.2 \downarrow \\ 0.9 \downarrow \end{array}$
<i>Cattle</i> Dalke <i>et al.</i> , 1992	marbling ality grade	0.7 degree ↓ 2/3 grade ↓

^a = Using a 5-point scale.

Table 5. Effects of somatotropin on the sensory properties of pork longissimus.

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Novakofski <i>et al.</i> , 1987 ^a	tenderness juiciness shear force	up to 0.6↓ N D up to 0.3kg ↑
Solomon et al., 1988	shear force	up to 1.1kg 个
Prusa <i>et al.</i> , 1989 ^b	tenderness juiciness shear force	up to 31.8↓ N D N D
Beerman et al., 1990	shear force	up to 0.6kg ↑
Boles et al., 1991 ^b	tenderness juiciness	up to 7.0 \downarrow up to 12.0 \downarrow
Solomon et al., 1991	shear force	up to 1.6kg ↑
Goodband et al., 1993 ^c	tenderness juiciness shear force	up to 0.7 \downarrow up to 0.8 \downarrow up to 1.0kg \uparrow

^a = 14-point scale; ^b = 150-point scale; ^c = 10-point scale.

Epinephrine

Salbutamol

Figure 1. Beta-adrenergic agonists.

HO CH-CH₂-NH-CH₃ H HOH C. OH CH₃ CH-CH₂-NH-C-CH₃ ĊH₃

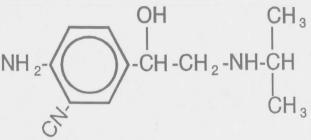
OH

Clenbuterol

C OH CH₃ CH-CH₂-NH-C-CH₃ NH₂-I CH₃

The effect of repartitioning agents on carcass and meat quality.

Cimaterol NH 2-



Ractopamine

OH CH3 CH-CH₂-NH-CH-CH₂CH₂-OH HO

L-644,969

OH CH₃ | | CH-CH₂-NH-CH-CH₂CH₂-OH NH₂-

Fable 6. Effects of beta	agonists o	on dressing	percentage.
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Swine		
Dalrymple et al., 1984a	CL	0.9%↑
Dalrymple, 1984	CM	0.7% ↑
Jones et al., 1985	CM	1.0%↑
Moser et al., 1986	CM	0.3%↑
Stites et al., 1991	RAC	2.0% ↑
Bark et al., 1992	RAC	ND
Cole et al., 1987	SL	2.2% ↑
Warriss et al., 1990a	SL	2.0% ↑
Warriss et al., 1990b	SL	1.6% ↑
Beef		
Ricks <i>et al.</i> , 1987	CL	0.8% ↑
Hanrahan et al., 1986	CM	4.6% ↑
Carroll et al., 1990	RAC	0.3%↑
Chikhou et al., 1993		to 3.5% 1
Sheep		
Dalrymple <i>et al.</i> , 1984a	CL	2.6% ↑
Kim <i>et al.</i> , 1987	CM	4.9% ↑
Shackelford et al., 1992	L644,969	ND
Poultry		
Dalrymple et al., 1984b	CL	1.1% 1
Dalrymple and Ingle, 1987	CM	1.0%↑
Wellemreiter and Tonkinson, 1990	RAC	1.1% ↑

CL = ClenbuterolCM = CimaterolRAC = RactopamineSL = Salbutamol

Table 7. Effect of beta adrenergic agonists on carcass composition.

Hanrahan <i>et al.</i> , 1987	СМ	% fat	up to $8.3\% \downarrow$	
		% fat	up to $10.6\% \downarrow$	
C <i>attle^a</i> Ricks <i>et al.</i> , 1984	CL	% protein	up to 2.2% ↑	
		%fat	9.9%↓	
Bark et al., 1992	RAC	% muscle	10.8% ↑	
Stites et al., 1991	RAC	% muscle	3.0% ↑	
Watkins <i>et al.</i> , 1990	RAC	% muscle % fat	up to 6.0% \uparrow up to 4.3% \downarrow	
Swine Moser et al., 1986	СМ	% muscle	2.6%↑	

Table 7 (cont). Effect of	beta adrenergic	agonists on	carcass composition.

<i>Cattle (cont.)</i> Convey <i>et al.</i> , 1987	L644,969	% muscle % fat	up to 8.0% \uparrow up to 6.0% \downarrow
Anderson et al., 1989	RAC	% protein % fat	up to 1.3% \uparrow up to 4.2% \downarrow
Sheep Baker <i>et al.</i> , 1984 ^b	CL	% protein % fat	up to 2.2% \uparrow up to 4.8% \downarrow
Kim et al., 1987	СМ	% protein % fat	0.2% ↑ 1.5% ↓
<i>Poultry</i> Dalrymple & Ingle, 1987	СМ	% fat	0.8%↓
Gwartney et al., 1991	СМ	% protein % fat	up to 1.0% \uparrow up to 1.5% \downarrow

^a Composition of the 9-10-11th rib section.

^b Hindsaddle analysis.

Table 8. Effects of diet and ractopamine on the carcass cutting yield^a of market pigs^b.

Protein %: Lysine %:	14.00 0.15	16.00 0.00	16.00 0.00	
Cuts Ractopamine, ppm:	20.00	20.00	0.00	
Carcass weight, kg	77.9	77.5	77.0	
Boneless Picnic, kg	2.97	2.99	2.85	
Boston Butt, kg	2.67 ^{cd}	2.82 ^c	2.55 ^d	
Boneless Loin, kg	5.25	5.20	5.01	
Skinless Belly, kg	5.19	5.08	5.19	
Boneless Ham, kg	7.15 ^c	7.21 ^c	6.59 ^d	
Inside, kg	1.86 ^c	1.88^{c}	1.73 ^d	
Outside, kg	2.95 ^c	3.04 ^c	2.52 ^d	
Knuckle, kg	1.37	1.44	1.34	

^a Cut weights from one side of the carcass. ^b Adapted from Stites *et al.*, 1989. ^{c,d} Means in the same row with common superscripts do not differ (P>0.05).

Carcass cutting yields (Table 8) are improved with the use of ractopamine (RAC). The results are similar to those presented for SM. The magnitude of the differences between control and treated carcasses are smaller than would be expected. The composition of the cuts (Table 9) is improved a great deal (up to a 25% reduction in fat). The magnitude of the reduction is less than that of SM.

Table 9. Effect of diet and ractopamine on the composition of closely trimmed boneless wholesale cuts^a.

Protein %: Lysine %: Cuts Ractopamine, ppm:	14.00 0.15 20.00	0.00	16.00 0.00 0.00
Picnic Shoulder	67.85 ^b	68.17 ^b	CC 00 ^C
Moisture, %	07.85 13.66 ^b	08.17 12.97 ^b	66.00 ^c 61.75 ^c
Fat, % Protein, %	18.77 ^b	12.97 18.98 ^b	17.45 ^c
Boston Butt			
Moisture, %	66.44 ^b	65.17 ^b	61.61 ^c
Fat, %	17.95	17.02	22.23
Protein, %	17.73 ^b	17.70 ^b	15.97 ^c
Ham			
Moisture, %	67.60 ^b	68.28 ^b	65.75 ^c
Fat, %	12.79 ^b	12.01 ^b 19.50 ^b	16.00 ^c
Protein, %	19.50	19.50	18.29 ^c
Loin	L		
Moisture, %	60.03 ^b		57.62 ^c
Fat, %	22.27 ^b	20.54 ^b	
Protein, %	17.65	18.19 ^b	16.61 ^c
Belly			
Moisture, %	46.63 ^b		43.78 ^c
Fat, %	40.10 ^c		44.02 ^d
Protein, %	13.38	13.97 ^b	12.17 ^c
Soft tissue		L	
Moisture, %	38.18 ^b	40.95 ^b	35.21 ^c
Fat, %	50.93 ^b	47.43 ^b	55.03 ^c
Protein, %	10.94 ^b	11.43 ^b	9.55°

^a Adapted from Stites et al., 1989.

^{b, c, d} Means in the same row with common superscripts do not differ P>0.05).

Fresh meat characteristics (colour, marbling and firmness) were not affected or were improved with the use of BA (Table 10). Marbling score was increased in the two studies in swine. Limited data is available on the sensory properties of meat animals treated with BA. Stites *et al.* (1993) reported no difference in tenderness, juiciness and shear force of chops from pigs treated with RAC and Merkel (1988) found no difference in the shear force of pork treated with RAC. All other studies with other BA reported increases in shear force of muscle evaluated (Table 11). Merkel (1988) suggested that all BA do not affect tenderness in the same manner. Several studies have evaluated endogenous enzyme activity and found that some of the BA shift the activity of calcium dependent protease.

Table 10. Effect of beta adrenergic agonists on the colour, firmness, marbling and lipid content of muscle.

Swine			
Jones et al., 1985 ^a	СМ	colour firmness	N D N D
		marbling	ND
		6	
Moser et al., 1986 ^a	CM	colour	ND
		marbling	up to 0.7 ↑
Wallace et al., 1987a	L644,969	colour	ND
		marbling	ND
Watkins et al., 1990 ^a	RAC	colour	up to 0.5 ↑
watkins et al., 1990	RAC	firmness	up to $0.4 \uparrow$
		marbling	up to 0.6 1
Stites et al., 1991 ^a	RAC	colour firmness	N D N D
		marbling	ND
Warriss et al., 1990a	SA	colour L*	ND
Warriss et al., 1990b	SA	colour L*	ND
Cattle	CT	1.1.	ND
Ricks et al., 1984	CL	marbling	ND
Miller et al., 1988	CL	marbling	1.1 degree ↓
	CD (~	ND
Allen et al., 1987	CM	% lipid colour	N D N D
		colour	ND
Hanrahan et al., 1987	CM	% lipid	ND
Chikhou et al., 1993	CM	% lipid	up to $1.5\% \downarrow$
Chikilou et al., 1995	CIVI	70 lipid	up to 1.570 ¥
Anderson et al., 1989	RAC	Quality grade	ND
Lamb			
Boucque et al., 1987	CM	% lipid	ND
1		colour	ND
Kim et al., 1987	CM	aalama	ND
198/	CM	colour	ND
Shackelford et al., 1992	L644,969	marbling	ND
	and the second		

^a Using a 5-point scale.

Table 11. Effect of beta adrenergic agonists on the sensory properties of the *longissimus*.

Pork Jones et al., 1985	СМ	shear force	up to 0.5kg ↑
Warriss et al., 1990a	SA	shear force	0.9kg ↑
Warriss et al., 1990b	SA	shear force	0.8kg ↑
Merkel et al., 1988	RAC	shear force	ND
Stites et al., 1993	RAC	tenderness juiciness shear force	N D N D N D
Beef Miller <i>et al.</i> , 1988	CL	shear force	0.7kg ↑
Chikhou et al., 1993	СМ	shear force	up to 62N ↑
<i>Lamb</i> Koohmaraie <i>et al.</i> , 1991	L644,969	shear force	up to 3.5kg ↑
Koohmaraie and Shackelford, 1991	L644,969	shear force	up to 2.2kg ↑
Pringle et al., 1993	L644,969	shear force	3.5kg ↑
Merkel et al., 1988	СМ	shear force	up to 2.0kg ↑
<i>Poultry</i> Morgan <i>et al.</i> , 1989	СМ	shear force	up to 1.3kg ↑
Gwartney et al., 1991	СМ	shear force	up to 1.2kg \uparrow

Processing characteristics (cured hams and bellies) are not affected by the use of RAC (Stites *et al.*, 1991; 1993). Results from these studies indicate that RAC had no effect on the processing yields of bacon or belly thickness and that processing yields of hams were increased. Sensory evaluation of the hams also indicated that there were no differences in the tenderness, juiciness or shear force of the *semimembranosus* muscle.

Conclusions

Repartitioning agents have positive effects on the composition of meat animals and have limited negative effects on carcass quality. Dressing percentage is negatively affected by SM although BA have a positive effect on this trait. The magnitude of changes in composition of carcasses and cuts are greater for SM-treated animals compared to animals treated with BA. Carcass quality was generally affected with the use of SM but the changes were small. BA created few tenderness of pork. Evaluation of the literature suggests that all BA do not affect tenderness the same in pork and that some of the BA have large effects on the tenderness of lamb.

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