

Penelitian

Postmortem Changes in pH, Color, Drip Loss, and Non-Protein Nitrogen in Beef Liver and Lungs During Storage in Refrigerator

Perubahan Postmortem pada pH, Warna, Drip Loss, dan Nitrogen Non-Protein pada Hati dan Paru Sapi Selama Penyimpanan dalam Refrigerator

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ABSTRACT

Beef offal are consumed by people in some countries specifically in Asia. Beef liver and lungs are favorite food which are used as meat in traditional food. The objectives of this study was to determine the postmortem changes in pH, color, drip loss, and non-protein nitrogen (NPN) content in beef liver and lungs during storage in refrigerator (3-4 °C) until 5 d (120 h) after slaughter. The postmortem changes in meat and offal are important to determine the quality including the freshness. The beef liver and lungs were collected from the abattoir and transported in cool box (<7 °C) to the laboratory within 3 hours. The samples size of beef liver and lungs were 20 for each observation time. In the laboratory the beef liver and lungs were measured directly for pH value, color (L*, a*, and b*), drip loss, and NPN content at 4 h postmortem (pm) and afterwards every beef liver sample was sliced into 5 pieces of 100-120 g and stored in chiller of 3-4 °C. The measurement of pH, color (L*, a*, and b* values) according to CIELAB color space, drip loss, and NPN content were conducted at 4 h, 24 h, 48 h, 72 h, 96 h, and 120 h postmortem. Data were analyzed descriptively and by comparing the 95% confidence interval of mean of each observation. The results showed that pH, color, drip loss, and NPN content in general during the storage at refrigerator in beef lungs were higher than the values in beef liver. The pH of beef livers declined until 96h pm and until 48 pm in beef lungs. The L* values increased in beef liver and decreased in beef lungs. The a* and b* values showed a slight increase in the beef livers and did not change in the beef lungs during cold storage. Drip loss and NPN in beef liver and lungs tended to increase significantly during storage. From this study it is suggested that the pH value of beef liver could be used to determine the freshness of beef liver, nevertheless the pH value of beef lungs could not be used as indicator of the freshness. The pH values lower than 6.15 may be considered as indicative of beef liver spoilage and the NPN content of 2.35 in beef liver and of 1.52 in beef lungs are suggested as an indicator of spoilage is suggested as indicator of spoilage of beef liver and lungs.

Keywords: beef liver, beef lungs, color, drip loss, pH, non-protein nitrogen

ABSTRAK

Jeroan sapi dikonsumsi oleh orang di beberapa negara khususnya di Asia. Hati dan paru sapi merupakan makanan favorit yang digunakan sebagai daging dalam beberapa makanan tradisional. Tujuan penelitian ini adalah menentukan perubahan postmortem pada pH, warna, drip loss, dan kandungan nitrogen non-protein (NPN) pada hati dan paru sapi selama penyimpanan dalam refrigerator (3-4 °C) sampai 5 hari (120 jam) setelah pemotongan. Perubahan postmortem pada daging dan jeroan penting dalam menentukan kualitas termasuk kesegaran. Hati dan paru sapi diambil dari rumah potong hewan dan dibawa dalam boks pendingin (<7 °C) ke laboratorium dalam waktu 3 jam. Besaran sampel hati dan paru sapi yang digunakan dalam setiap pengamatan sebanyak 20. Saat tiba di laboratorium, hati dan paru sampel langsung diuji terhadap pH, warna (L*, a*, dan b*) menurut CIELAB color space, drip loss, dan kandungan NPN pada 4 jam postmortem (pm), kemudian hati dan paru dipotong menjadi 5 potongan dengan berat sekitar 100-200 g dan disimpan pada refrigerator dengan suhu 3-4 °C. Pengukuran terhadap pH, warna (nilai L*, a*, dan b*), drip loss, dan kandungan NPN dilakukan pada jam ke-4, ke-24, ke-48, ke-72, dan ke-120 postmortem. Data dianalisis secara deskriptif dan membandingkan nilai rata-ratanya pada selang kepercayaan 95%. Hasil menunjukkan bahwa pH, warna, drip loss, dan kandungan NPN secara umum selama penyimpanan dingin pada paru sapi lebih tinggi dari pada hati sapi. Nilai pH menurun sampai jam ke-96 pm pada hati sapi dan ke-48 pm pada paru sapi. Nilai L* meningkat pada hati sapi dan menurun

pada paru sapi. Nilai a^* dan b^* menunjukkan sedikit peningkatan pada hati sapi dan tidak berubah pada paru sapi selama penyimpanan dingin. Drip loss dan kandungan NPN hati dan paru sapi cenderung meningkat secara nyata selama penyimpanan dingin. Dari studi ini nilai pH hati sapi disarankan dapat digunakan untuk menentukan kesegaran hati sapi sedangkan nilai pH pada paru sapi tidak dapat. dan kandungan NPN dapat digunakan untuk menentukan kesegaran hati dan paru sapi. Nilai pH di bawah 6.15 pada hati sapi dapat digunakan sebagai indikator kebusukan hati sapi, serta kandungan NPN 2.35 pada hati sapi dan 1.52 pada paru sapi dapat dijadikan indikator kebusukan hati dan paru sapi.

Kata kunci: hati sapi, paru sapi, warna, drip loss, pH, nitrogen non-protein

INTRODUCTION

Beef offal is excellent source of protein for several people in some parts of the world and considered as delicacies used a traditional dishes. In Indonesia beef offal is favorite food that used as meat in some traditional food. Beef offal could be used to combat protein malnutrition and food in security in many countries (Alao *et al.*, 2018). Offal or by-products can be further used by humans as food or reprocessed as secondary by-products for both agricultural and industrial uses. According to Seong *et al.* (2014) the utilization of the meat by-products considerably depends upon a number of factors such as; culture, religion, earnings and preference.

The yield of offal has been reported to account for about 10% to 15% of the value of the live animal in developed countries, although animal by-products account for about two-third of the animal after slaughter (Alao *et al.*, 2017). Edible offal constitute about 20-30% of live weight of cattle (Khalil *et al.*, 2018). The range of yields of beef liver and lungs are 1.0-4.5% of live weight and 0.4-0.8% of live weight, respectively (Ockerman *et al.*, 2017). Offal cuts are good sources of protein, and notably very valuable for its nutrition (van Heerden & Morey, 2014). Liver is high in vitamin A, iron, zinc, vitamin B, vitamin C, vitamin D, copper, and fatty acids (Khalil *et al.*, 2018) and lungs contain high levels of protein and bioavailable iron (Jayawardena *et al.*, 2018). However, edible offal are highly perishable because of the high content of nutrients for microbial growth (Custódio *et al.*, 2016).

The pH value, color, and drip loss are used for determination of quality of meat and meat products including offal. However there is still few studies on postmortem changes in beef lungs due to pH, color, and drip loss. The studies in beef liver related to microbiology (Shelef, 1975; Devatkal & Mendiratta, 2006; Hemmat *et al.*, 2013; Alexanyan *et al.*, 2014), nutrition (Li *et al.*, 2014; Kakimov *et al.*, 2018; Biel *et al.*, 2019), and chemical changes (Custódio *et al.*, 2016; Alexanyan *et al.*, 2014) are many recorded. The studies on pH of beef liver had been reported

by Shelef (1975), Hanna *et al.* (1982), Hernández-Herrero *et al.* (1999), and Hemmat *et al.* (2013). Drip loss in beef liver was reported by Strange (1984).

The CIELAB color space is the most frequently used system to specify food colors. It is a three dimensional Cartesian space with three mutually perpendicular color coordinates: L^* , the correlate of perceptual lightness; a^* that represents the red ($a^* > 0$) green ($a^* < 0$) axis and b^* that represents the yellow ($b^* > 0$) blue ($b^* < 0$) axis (Hernández *et al.*, 2016).

Non-protein nitrogen (NPN) compounds in meat include nucleotides, peptides, creatine, creatine phosphate, urea, inosine monophosphate, nicotinamide-adenine dinucleotide (Keeton *et al.*, 2014). Meat is composed of approximately 1.5% nonprotein nitrogen compounds (Honikel, 2009; Keeton *et al.*, 2014). NPN in non-heated pork was (5 ± 0.41) g/kg, (2.72 ± 0.41) g/kg and (2.89 ± 0.43) g/kg nitrogen for non-cured, 10%-brine-cured and 20%-brine-cured pork, respectively (Paulsen *et al.*, 2006). The total volatile base nitrogen (TVB-N) parameter is used as a food freshness indicator, since volatile nitrogen-based compounds are the product of the degradation of protein and non-protein nitrogen compounds, such as trimethylamine (TMA) and ammonia, which are mainly associated with the growth of spoilage bacteria (Conte-Junior *et al.*, 2020).

The study was conducted to determine the postmortem changes during the cool storage in order to determine the freshness of beef liver and lungs since there are still lack parameters for determination of freshness of beef offal besides the organoleptic test and microbiological examination. The aims of this study was to determine the postmortem changes on pH, color, drip loss, and NPN content in beef liver and lungs during storage in refrigerator ($3-4^\circ\text{C}$) until 5 d (120 h) after slaughter.

MATERIALS AND METHOD

Samples

The beef liver and lung samples were collected

from the abattoir and transported in cool box (<7 °C) to the laboratory within 3 hours.

Measurement of pH, Color, Drip Loss, and NPN

The samples size were 20 for each observation time. In the laboratory the beef liver and lung samples were measured directly on pH value, color (L^* , a^* , and b^*), drip loss, and NPN content at 4 h postmortem (pm) and afterwards every beef liver and lungs sample was sliced into 5 pieces of 100-120 g, put into sterile plastic bag, and hung in refrigerator with temperature of 3-4 °C. The measurement of pH, color (L^* , a^* , and b^* values), drip loss, and NPN content were conducted at 4 h, 24 h, 48 h, 72 h, 96 h, and 120 h postmortem (pm).

The pH value in beef liver was measured by using a digital pH meter (WTW, Germany) by insert the electrode into 3 different places in liver and the mean value of three measurements were calculated for 1 sample. Beef lungs were homogenized first using ultra-turrax homogenizer (IKA Ultra-Turrax-System T25, Gemany) and measured for the pH with 3 times measurement for each sample. The of L^* , a^* , and b^* were determined by using by chroma meter (Minolta CR 300, Japan) which was applied to measure on 3 different places on the surface of beef liver and the mean value of L^* , a^* , and b^* was determined.

Drip loss was measured using the method of Honikel (1987). The sample was weighed approximately 100 g and put into a plastic bag and hung using a hook in chiller with the temperature of 3-4 °C. After 48 h the sample was taken out from the plastic bag, carefully taped using paper towels, and subsequently weighed. The drip loss was expressed as a percentage of the initial weight.

NPN content was measured by using the method in the Collection of Official Methods under Article 64 of the German Federal Foods Act; Band I (L), L 06.00-7 2014-08, Determination of Protein Content in Meat and Meat Products; Titration Method according to Kjeldahl Reference Method. Five grams of sample was put into centrifuge glass and added with 50 mL of 20% trichloroacetic acid. The sample was homogenized with ultra-turrax homogenizer (IKA Ultra-Turrax-System T25, Gemany) and let stand for 5 min, then centrifuged at 5000 rpm for 20 min, and the supernatant was collected.

The supernatant was transferred to distillation flask, and added with Kjeldahl tablets (Merck No 153481000), glass granules, 20 mL of 98% sulfuric acid (Merck No 100748), and 10 mL of 35% hydrogen peroxide (Merck No 108600). The distillation flask

was heated at 400 ± 10 °C for 1-2 h until the solution was clear, and let it cool and then added with 30 mL aquadest. The solution in distillation flask was adjusted to 100 mL with 0.1 N sodium hydroxide (Merck No 109141) and subsequently digested in Kjeldahl distillation apparatus (Gerhardt, Germany) and boiled with boric acid 9Merck No 1001651000). The distillation was stopped when the volume of boric acid reached 200 ml. Then the distillate was titrated with 0.1 N hydrochloric acid. The NPN content was calculated with the following equation:

$$\text{NPN (g/kg)} = (\text{volume of titration} \times 1.4007) / \text{weight of sample}$$

Data Analysis

Data were analyzed descriptively to describe the changes on pH, color, and drip loss during chilling. Furthermore, the 95% confidence interval of mean of each observation were compared in each response variables.

RESULTS

pH Value

The pH values of fresh beef lungs were higher than beef liver. The pH of beef liver declined from 6.25 at 4 h pm to 6.15 at 96 h pm and then increased, while the lungs decreased from 6.62 at 4 h pm to 6.44 at 48 h pm and afterwards constant. At 120 h pm the off odors of beef liver and lungs had been occurred (Table 1 and 2). There was a significant difference on pH value among the time of observation at 4, 24 and 72, 96 h postmortem in beef liver. As for beef lungs, there was a significant decrease in pH at 4, 24 and 48 h postmortem, but subsequently there was no significant difference up to 120 h postmortem (Table 3 and 4).

Color

The color (L^* , a^* , and b^*) values of beef lungs showed higher than the beef liver. During storage the L^* values of beef liver generally increased from 23.40 at 4 h pm to 25.26 at 120 h pm, whereas the a^* and b^* values increased until 96 h pm and then decreased. For beef livers, there was no significant increase in L^* values at 4 to 72 h pm, and it was only significantly different at 96 to 120 h pm. The a^* value had a significant difference between 4 h pm and 96 h pm, while the value of b increased significantly at 4 to 24 h pm, and then there was no significant change up to 120 h pm.

Table 1 Mean and standard deviation of pH, color, drip loss, and NPN content in beef liver during storage

Storage (h pm)	pH value (n=20)	Color (n=20)			Drip loss (%) (n=20)	NPN (g/kg)
		L*	a*	b*		
4	6.25 ± 0.09	23.40 ± 0.90	15.74 ± 1.15	5.49 ± 0.83	1.34 ± 0.39	1.97 ± 0.24
24	6.21 ± 0.03	23.25 ± 1.46	15.90 ± 1.56	6.42 ± 1.13	2.27 ± 0.86	2.12 ± 0.20
48	6.20 ± 0.06	24.03 ± 1.58	16.52 ± 0.97	6.57 ± 0.97	2.71 ± 0.91	2.18 ± 0.21
72	6.18 ± 0.05	24.03 ± 1.14	16.53 ± 0.94	7.03 ± 0.78	3.24 ± 1.16	2.26 ± 0.18
96 ^s	6.15 ± 0.07	24.93 ± 2.01	17.28 ± 1.02	6.85 ± 1.20	3.46 ± 1.37	2.35 ± 0.19
120 ^s	6.19 ± 0.07	25.26 ± 2.32	16.46 ± 1.68	6.48 ± 0.93	4.06 ± 1.41	2.49 ± 0.21

^s the samples were sensorically spoilage.

Table 2 Mean and standard deviation of pH, color, drip loss, and NPN content in beef lungs during storage

Storage (h pm)	pH value (n=20)	Color (n=20)			Drip loss (%) (n=20)	NPN (g/kg)
		L*	a*	b*		
4	6.62 ± 0.09	39.19 ± 2.67	31.48 ± 1.85	13.55 ± 1.79	1.42 ± 0.31	1.21 ± 0.15
24	6.54 ± 0.03	38.67 ± 2.55	31.67 ± 2.65	13.73 ± 1.36	1.50 ± 0.52	1.28 ± 0.15
48	6.44 ± 0.06	40.47 ± 3.11	31.08 ± 2.72	14.09 ± 1.39	1.28 ± 0.33	1.37 ± 0.14
72	6.44 ± 0.05	40.12 ± 3.83	31.76 ± 2.29	14.73 ± 1.80	1.48 ± 0.49	1.44 ± 0.15
96 ^s	6.44 ± 0.07	37.66 ± 2.09	31.08 ± 2.46	13.91 ± 1.67	1.52 ± 0.50	1.52 ± 0.14
120 ^s	6.44 ± 0.07	36.35 ± 3.17	31.76 ± 2.64	14.35 ± 1.87	1.55 ± 0.38	1.52 ± 0.16

^s the samples were sensorically spoilage.

The L* values of lungs appeared to fluctuate, but not statistically significant, and decreased significantly at 96 and 120 h pm. While a* and b* there was no significant difference until the last observation (Tables 3 and 4). *Drip Loss*

The drip loss tended to increase overtime. The drip loss in liver, increase significantly from 1.34% at 4 h pm to 4.06% at 120 h pm. While for the drip loss in lung, there was no significant difference until the last observation (Table 3 and 4). The drip loss in liver during storage was a little bit higher than in lungs.

Non-Protein Nitrogen Content

The non-protein nitrogen (NPN) content increased gradually during storage from 1.97 g/kg at 4 h pm to

4.06 g/kg at 120 h pm in liver and from 1.21 g/kg at 4 h pm to 1.52 g/kg at 120 h pm in lungs (Table 1, 2, 3, 4). The NPN content in liver was higher than in lungs.

DISCUSSION

This study found the pH of beef liver and lungs at 4 h pm of 6.25 and 6.62, respectively. The pH of beef liver was lower than the lungs. The result was similar to the study of Seong *et al.* (2014) that showed the pH of 6.23 in beef liver and 6.60 in lungs. In pig offal, Tomović *et al.* (2016) found also the pH of liver (5.96-6.21) was lower than the lungs (6.80-6.91). The pH of beef liver and lungs was a little bit lower than pH of meat that has around 7.2 after slaughter (England *et al.*, 2017; Matarneh *et al.*, 2017).

Table 3 Mean and 95% confidence interval of pH, color, drip loss, and NPN content in beef liver during storage

h pm	pH (Confidence Interval 95%)			L (Confidence Interval 95%)			a (Confidence Interval 95%)			b (Confidence Interval 95%)			Drip loss (Confidence Interval 95%)			NPN (Confidence Interval 95%)		
	Mean	Lower Limit	Upper Limit	Mean	Lower Limit	Upper Limit	Mean	Lower Limit	Upper Limit	Mean	Lower Limit	Upper Limit	Mean	Lower Limit	Upper Limit	Mean	Lower Limit	Upper Limit
4	6.25 ^b	6.21	6.29	23.40 ^b	22.98	23.82	15.74 ^a	15.20	16.28	5.49 ^a	5.10	5.88	1.34 ^a	1.16	1.52	1.97 ^a	1.86	2.08
24	6.21 ^b	6.20	6.22	23.25 ^a	22.57	23.93	15.90 ^a	15.17	16.63	6.42 ^b	5.89	6.95	2.27 ^b	1.87	2.67	2.12 ^{ab}	2.03	2.21
48	6.20 ^{ab}	6.17	6.23	24.03 ^{bc}	23.29	24.77	16.52 ^{ab}	16.07	16.97	6.57 ^b	6.12	7.02	2.71 ^{bc}	2.28	3.14	2.18 ^{bc}	2.08	2.28
72	6.18 ^a	6.16	6.20	24.03 ^{bc}	23.50	24.56	16.53 ^{ab}	16.09	16.97	7.03 ^b	6.66	7.40	3.24 ^{cd}	2.70	3.78	2.26 ^{bc}	2.18	2.34
96	6.15 ^a	6.12	6.18	24.93 ^c	23.99	25.87	17.28 ^b	16.80	17.76	6.85 ^b	6.29	7.41	3.46 ^{cd}	2.82	4.10	2.35 ^{cd}	2.26	2.44
120	6.19 ^{ab}	6.16	6.22	25.26 ^c	24.17	26.35	16.46 ^{ab}	15.67	17.25	6.48 ^b	6.04	6.92	4.06 ^d	3.40	4.72	2.49 ^d	2.39	2.59

Superscript on mean value: different letters in the same column show significant differences at the 95% confidence level.

Table 4 Mean and standard deviation of pH, color, drip loss, and NPN content in beef lungs during storage

h pm	pH (Confidence Interval 95%)			L (Confidence Interval 95%)			a (Confidence Interval 95%)			b (Confidence Interval 95%)			Drip loss (Confidence Interval 95%)			NPN (Confidence Interval 95%)		
	Mean	Lower Limit	Upper Limit	Mean	Lower Limit	Upper Limit	Mean	Lower Limit	Upper Limit	Mean	Lower Limit	Upper Limit	Mean	Lower Limit	Upper Limit	Mean	Lower Limit	Upper Limit
4	6.62 ^c	6.58	6.66	39.2 ^{bc}	37.94	40.44	31.5 ^a	30.61	32.35	13.6 ^a	12.71	14.39	1.42 ^a	1.27	1.57	1.21 ^a	1.14	1.28
24	6.54 ^b	6.53	6.55	38.7 ^{abc}	37.48	39.86	31.7 ^a	30.43	32.91	13.7 ^a	13.09	14.37	1.5 ^a	1.26	1.74	1.28 ^{ab}	1.21	1.35
48	6.44 ^a	6.41	6.47	40.5 ^c	39.01	41.93	31.1 ^a	29.81	32.35	14.1 ^a	13.44	14.74	1.28 ^a	1.13	1.43	1.37 ^{bc}	1.30	1.44
72	6.44 ^a	6.42	6.46	40.1 ^{bc}	38.33	41.91	31.8 ^a	30.69	32.83	14.7 ^a	13.89	15.57	1.48 ^a	1.25	1.71	1.44 ^{cd}	1.37	1.51
96	6.44 ^a	6.41	6.47	37.7 ^{ab}	36.68	38.64	31.1 ^a	29.93	32.23	13.9 ^a	13.13	14.69	1.52 ^a	1.29	1.75	1.52 ^d	1.45	1.59
120	6.44 ^a	6.41	6.47	36.4 ^a	34.87	37.83	31.8 ^a	30.52	33.00	14.4 ^a	13.47	15.23	1.55 ^a	1.37	1.73	1.52 ^d	1.45	1.59

Superscript on mean value: different letters in the same column show significant differences at the 95% confidence level.

Decrease of pH in liver and lungs is related to lactic acid that increases during storage after slaughter (Gill & DeLacy, 1982; Hernández-Herrero *et al.*, 1999). During the storage of liver and lungs, the glycogen concentration declined and the lactic acid concentration increased with time. The ammonia concentration began to increase markedly after 4 days of storage. Accumulation of lactic acid and ammonia would have opposite effects upon the pH, but the pH declined throughout the period of storage (Gill & DeLacy, 1982). The presence of amines at high levels could be associated with spoilage and microbial growth. The presence of these amines at high levels in liver could be associated with spoilage and microbial growth (Custódio *et al.*, 2016). The pH value is a valuable indicator to estimate the spoilage status of beef liver stored under aerobic condition (Shelef, 1975; Hanna *et al.*, 1982; Hernández-Herrero *et al.*, 1999). Shelef (1975) suggested a pH of 6.1 as a reliable indicator of beef liver spoilage, while Hanna *et al.* (1982) and Hernández-Herrero *et al.* (1999) suggested a pH of 6.0 and 6.15, respectively. There were not any studies on the pH of beef lungs conducted. The pH of beef lungs in this study was not different among the observation at 48, 72, 96, and 120 h pm, therefore the pH of beef lungs could not be used as an indicator of freshness.

Meat color can be objectively described by L*, a*, and b* values (Hernández *et al.*, 2016). Consumers' perception on meat quality is directly related to visual appearance particularly color (Alao *et al.*, 2018). This study showed the slight increase of L*, a*, and b* values during storage. Hernández *et al.* (2016) recorded an increase of L* values, slight decrease of a* values, and relatively constant of b* values in beef meat during storage at 1, 4, and 7 days.

Drip loss in this study increased significantly during the storage until 120 h pm. This result compared favorably with the results of Strange (1987). The drip loss in beef liver was higher than in beef lungs since the pH of beef liver was lower than beef lungs. The low pH value has low water binding capacity which causes high drip loss (Warner, 2017). Losses of water from meat can occur via evaporation, gravitational drip, thawing, or cooking, and low water holding capacity (Apple & Yancey, 2013). Measurement of drip loss is to determine the water holding capacity of meat (Apple & Yancey, 2013; Torres Filho *et al.*, 2017; Warner, 2017).

Drip from liver and from muscle may differ because of differences in structure and function of striated muscle and liver. Liver has much larger

extracellular spaces; about 22% of the liver volume consists of sinusoids or capillary bed and large blood vessels. Liver and other edible offal contain a large portion of the residual blood in the carcass. Liver drip consisted of 40% blood with the rest of the fluids released by the cells during cell death and damage to the cell membranes, in contrast to muscle drip which was almost entirely sarcoplasmic proteins and water (Strange, 1987).

During storage the NPN content becomes higher because of the degradation of protein in meat and offal (England *et al.*, 2017). According to Tikki (2008), upon slaughter of the animal, the protein synthesis stops; however, the activity of proteolytic enzymes continues as long as the prerequisites for enzymatic activity are present. Factors of importance are suitable pH, temperature, substrate availability and presence of specific ions or inhibitors. Triki *et al.* (2018) describe that proteolysis forms peptides, dipeptides, and free amino acids which are categorized as non-protein nitrogen. The NPN is then used by microorganisms for their growth which then causes the spoilage even during refrigerated storage. Min *et al.* (2007) and Conte-Junior *et al.* (2020) stated that the total volatile basic nitrogen (TVB-N) parameter is utilized as a meat freshness indicator, since volatile nitrogen-based compounds are the product of the degradation of protein and non-protein nitrogen compounds, such as trimethylamine (TMA) and ammonia, which are mainly associated with the growth of spoilage bacteria. There are no studies on measurement of NPN content in beef liver and lungs, therefore the NPN content of 2.35 in beef liver and of 1.52 in beef lungs are suggested as an indicator of the spoilage of beef liver and lungs.

The pH value of beef liver and lungs declined, nevertheless the L* values increased in beef liver and decreased in beef lungs. The a* and b* values showed a slight increase in the beef livers and did not change in the beef lungs. Drip loss and NPN content increased after slaughtering. From this study it is suggested that the pH value can be used to determine the freshness of beef liver. The pH values lower than 6.15 may be considered as indicative of beef liver spoilage as stated by the previous study, nevertheless the pH value of beef lungs may not be used to determine the freshness. Furthermore, the NPN content of 2.35 in beef liver and of 1.52 in beef lungs are suggested as an indicator of spoilage is suggested as an indicator of spoilage of beef liver and lungs.

“All authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest”.

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