

Effect of immunocastration on ham quality parameters of male Duroc pigs for dry cured ham production

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Introduction

It is planned in January 2018 to end surgical castration in Europe. In Spain the dry cured ham industry is very important and Duroc is an important breed used to produce high quality hams. Due to the fact that boar taint is not masked during curing process, it is important to find solutions if surgical castration stops.

Objective

To evaluate how ham quality and fat composition, were affected by immunocastration of male pigs (IM) in comparison with surgically castrated males (CM) and female (FE) pigs.

Material and Methods

Animals: 43 FE, 42 IM and 42 CM

IM: Improvac® at 88 and 172 days of age

Slaughter live weight: 134.12 ± 10.2 kg



Fat thickness -MLOIN



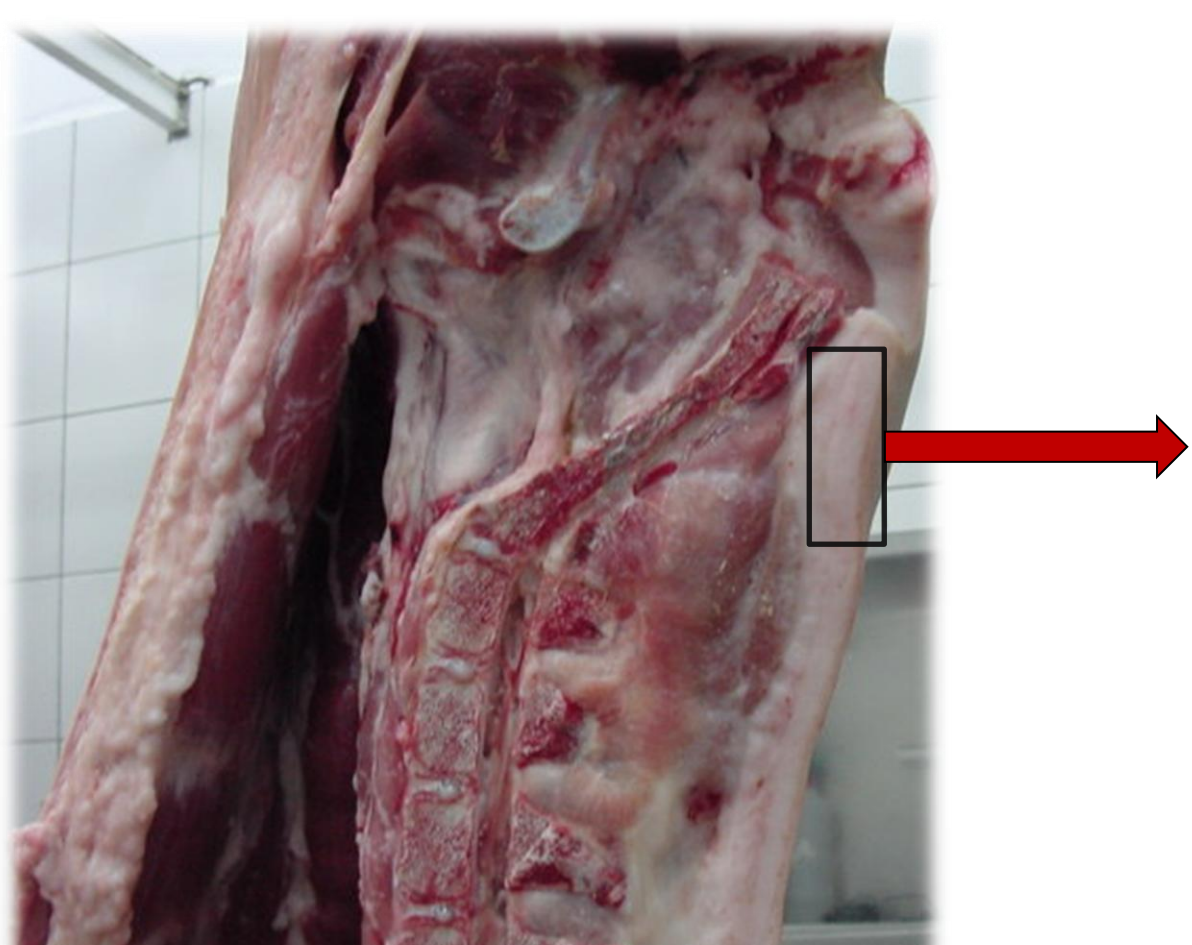
CEu & pHu



HAM %



Intramuscular fat (IMF)



Fatty acids composition

Results

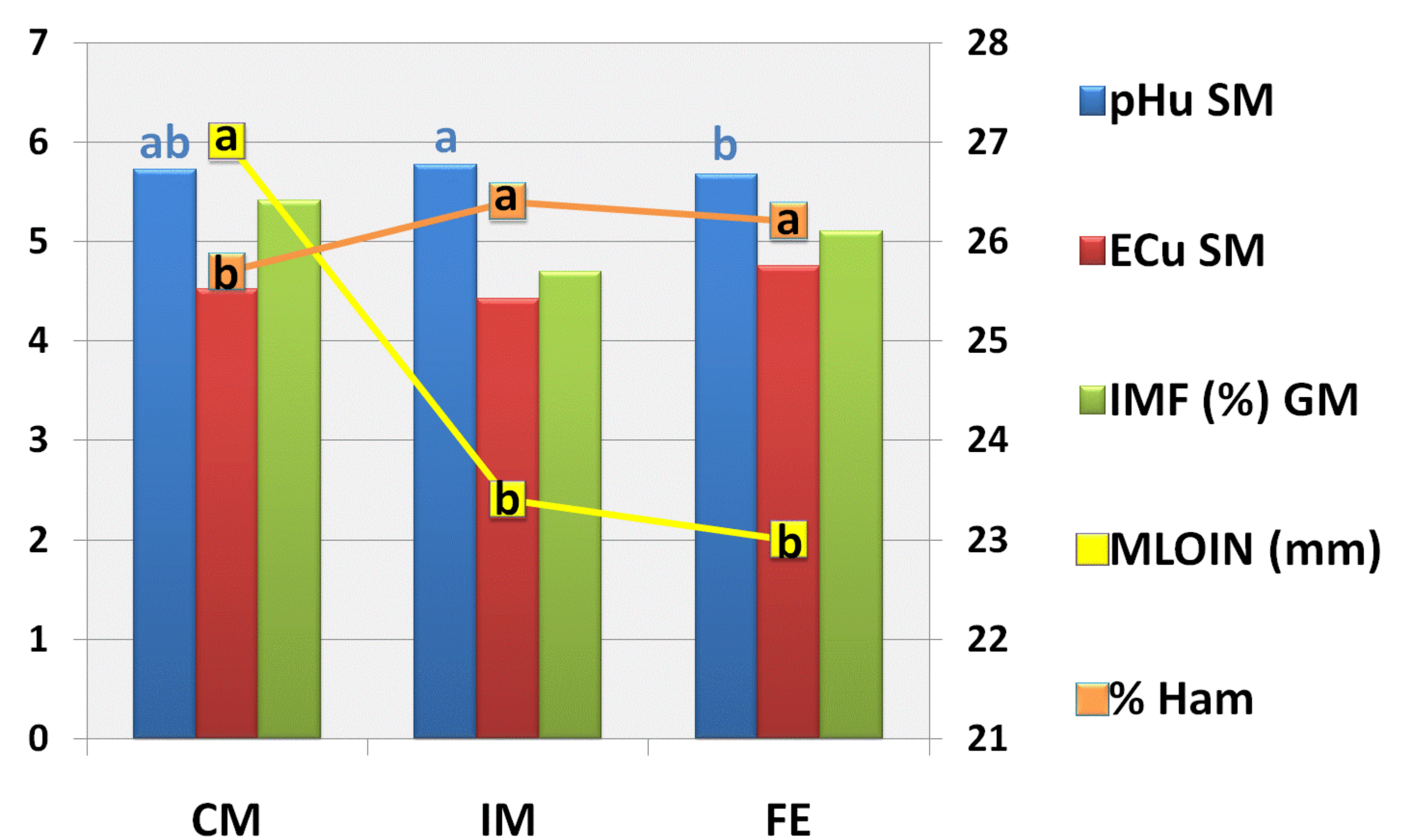


Figure 1: Quality variables of the ham

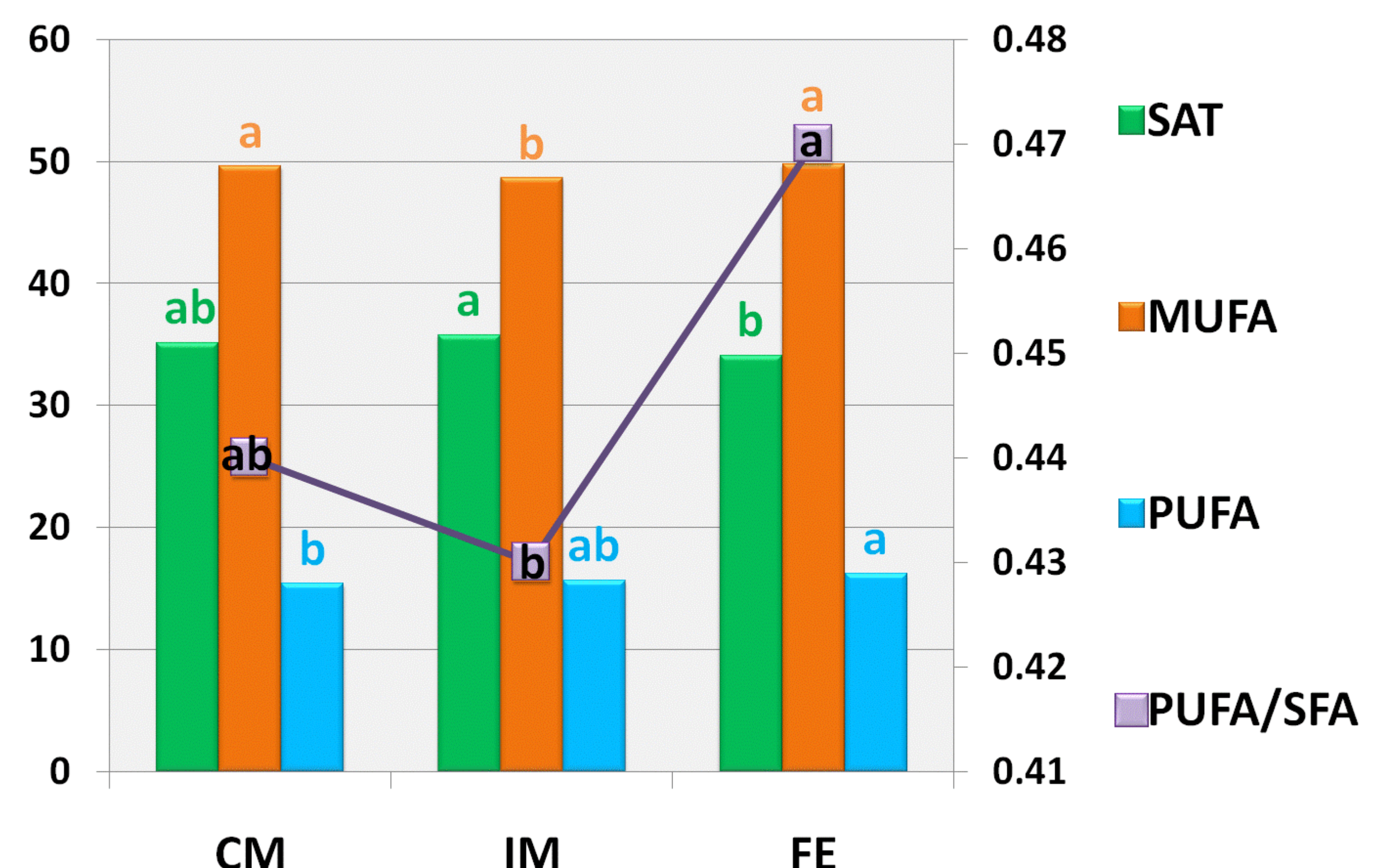


Figure 2: Fatty acid composition (%)

Conclusions

It can be concluded that immunocastration produces hams more similar to those of females regarding fat thicknesses and with small differences in meat and fatty acid composition compared to those of females and surgically castrated. Thus, immunocastration is a good alternative to surgical castration