

Comparison between semi-intensively and intensively grown beef



CATÓLICA
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OF BIOTECHNOLOGY

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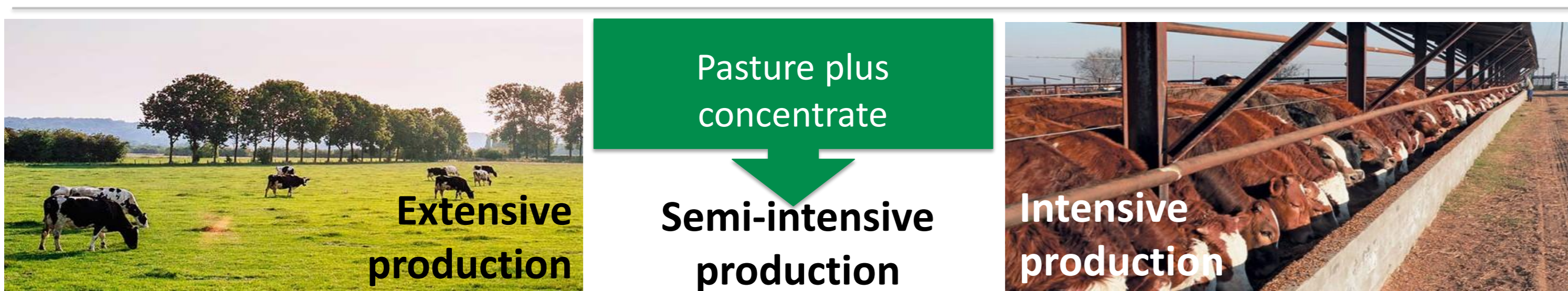
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PORTO

Scope and objective



Effect on meat quality

- Lean meat (fat < 10%)¹. Fat may be higher than 30%².
- Healthier and more nutritive meat. Quality of fatty acids profile is dependent on the concentrate (supplemented with oils or not)^{3,4}.
- Better fatty acids content^{3,4}.

Goal of the work: to identify possible nutritional differences on the total fat content, fatty acids profile, cholesterol and α -tocopherol content.

Methodology

Sampling:

Animals: more than 20 young steers or heifers meat were analyzed.
Semi-intensively grown beef: from two producers from Alentejo
Intensively grown meat: from Spain producers.
Traceability was assured by Clube de Produtores SONAE.

Total fat content

Soxhlet method
(as described in the Portuguese Standard NP1613-1979⁵)

α -tocopherol content

Saponification⁶
HPLC with fluorescence detection⁶
Standard curve with external standard

Cholesterol content

Saponification⁶
HPLC-DAD⁷
Standard curve with external standard

Fatty acids profile

Transesterification to FAMES
GC-FID with internal standard

Results

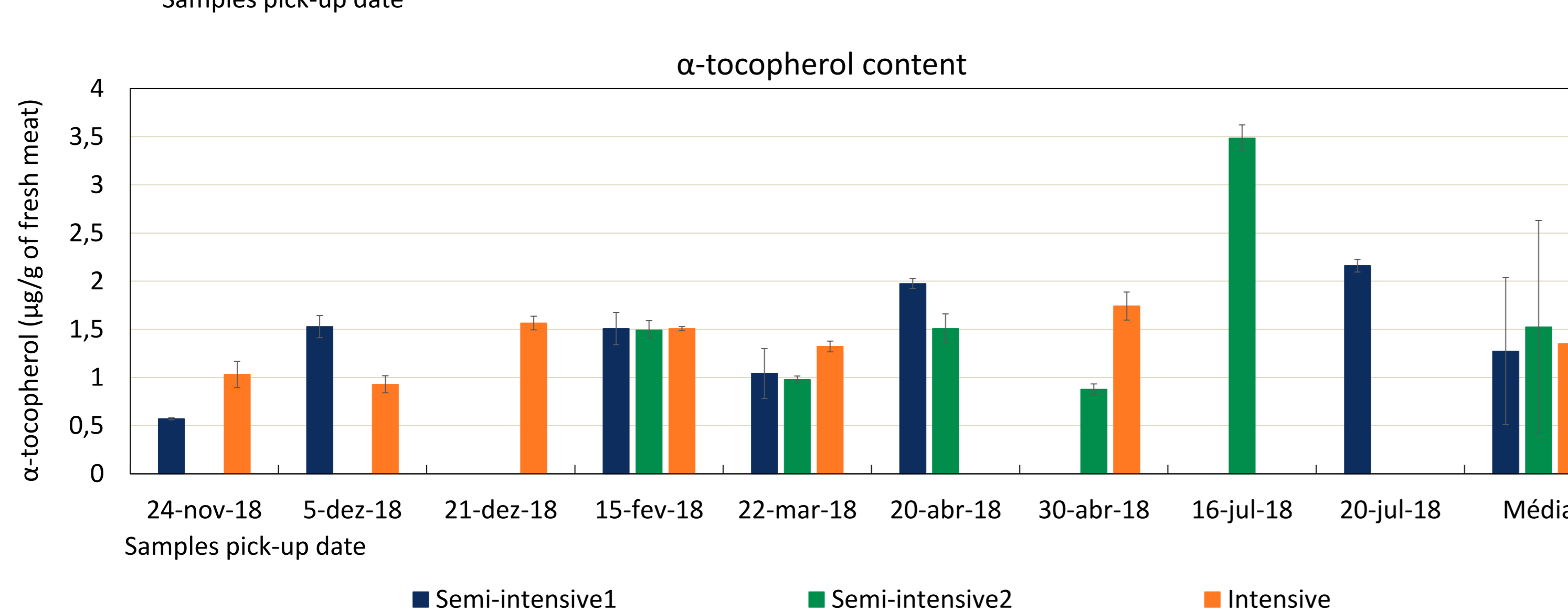
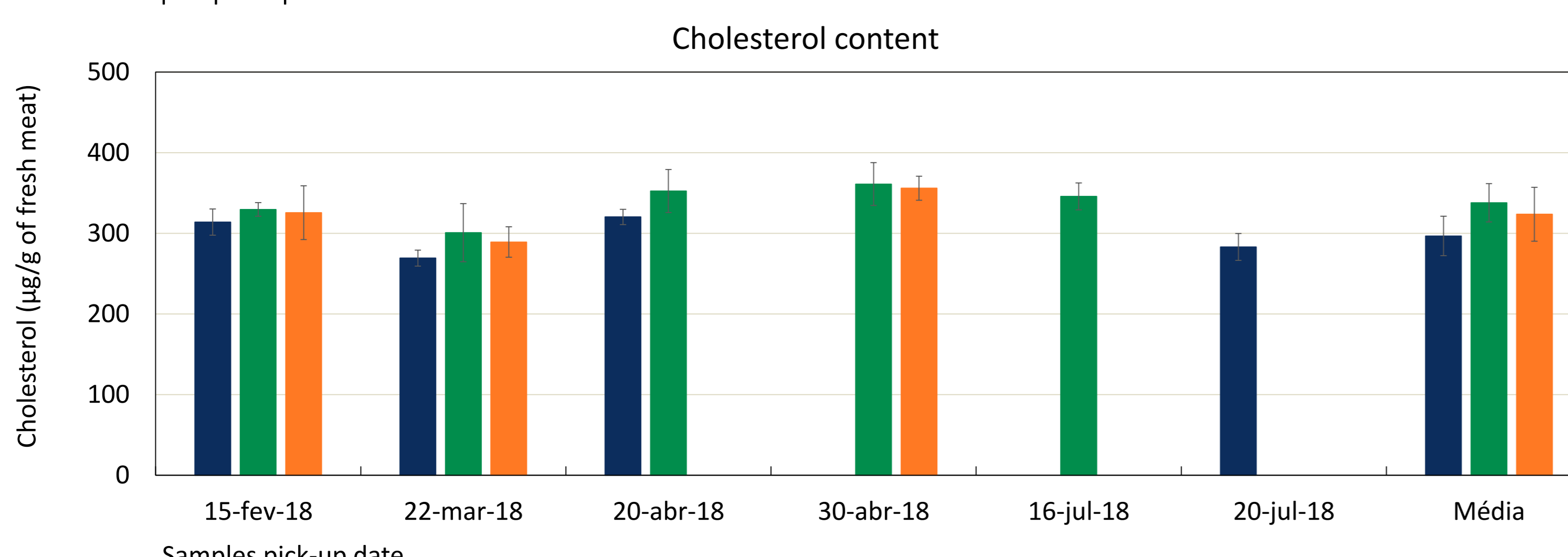
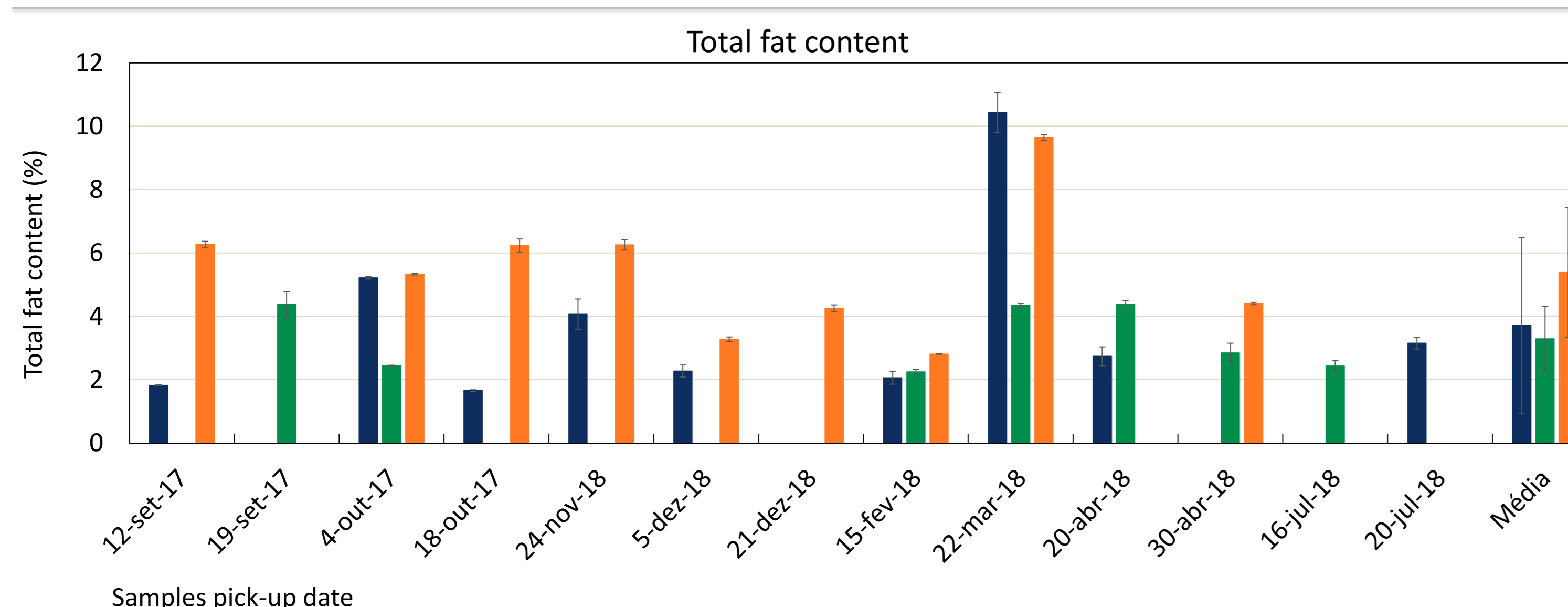


Table 1. Comparison of fatty acids composition of semi-intensively and intensively grown beef.

Fatty acid, %	Semi-intensive1		Semi-intensive2		Intensive	
	Fatty acid, %	SD µg/mg sample	Fatty acid, %	SD µg/mg sample	Fatty acid, %	SD µg/mg sample
C10	0,03	0,01	0,01	0,01	0,03	0,01
C12	0,16	0,03	0,05	0,04	0,05	0,02
C14i	0,04	0,01	0,01	0,00	0,03	0,01
C14	3,48	0,75	1,20	1,12	2,15	0,46
C15i	0,10	0,02	0,03	0,02	0,09	0,03
C15ai	0,45	0,22	0,17	0,22	0,50	0,14
C14:1	0,19	0,03	0,06	0,04	0,14	0,04
C15	0,44	0,08	0,15	0,14	0,40	0,10
C16i	1,21	0,72	0,27	0,06	0,99	0,45
C15:1	0,16	0,03	0,05	0,03	0,14	0,06
C16	24,15	1,95	7,77	6,08	22,43	0,99
C16:1 t9	0,03	0,01	0,01	0,01	0,04	0,01
C16:1 c7	0,20	0,02	0,07	0,05	0,20	0,04
C16:1 c9	2,50	0,69	0,87	0,84	3,26	1,13
C17i	0,30	0,06	0,09	0,05	0,31	0,01
C17ai	0,57	0,07	0,18	0,14	0,58	0,08
C17	0,96	0,19	0,33	0,29	0,98	0,22
C16:2 c9c12	0,79	0,48	0,18	0,04	0,79	0,45
C17:1 c9	0,03	0,01	0,01	0,00	0,03	0,01
C17:1 c10	0,64	0,17	0,22	0,21	0,84	0,09
C18i	0,24	0,10	0,06	0,02	0,26	0,09
C18	18,31	2,44	5,51	3,42	14,82	2,01
C18:1 t6-t9	0,72	0,19	0,22	0,16	0,78	0,15
C18:1 t10	1,17	0,68	0,44	0,42	1,88	0,97
C18:1 t11 (VA)	0,51	0,20	0,16	0,11	0,68	0,25
C18:1 c9-t15-t12	30,38	2,77	9,85	7,87	35,00	3,78
C18:1 c11	1,58	0,20	0,48	0,33	1,97	0,27
C18:1 c12	0,23	0,05	0,07	0,05	0,27	0,04
C18:1 c13	0,20	0,11	0,08	0,10	0,26	0,13
C18:2 t9t12	0,12	0,04	0,03	0,02	0,16	0,01
C18:1 c14-t16	0,26	0,07	0,09	0,09	0,29	0,04
C18:2 c9t12	0,05	0,01	0,02	0,01	0,08	0,02
C18:2 t9c12	0,05	0,01	0,02	0,01	0,04	0,01
C18:2 c9c12	6,81	2,87	1,65	0,39	6,93	1,63
C18:2 c9c15	0,09	0,04	0,03	0,02	0,07	0,02
C18:3 c9c12c15	0,18	0,04	0,05	0,02	0,22	0,04
C20	0,12	0,03	0,04	0,02	0,10	0,02
C18:2 c9t11	0,11	0,03	0,04	0,03	0,26	0,15
CLA c,c	0,07	0,01	0,02	0,02	0,09	0,01
C20:1 c9	0,15	0,02	0,05	0,04	0,18	0,05
C20:4 n6	1,67	0,76	0,38	0,02	1,27	0,51
EPA c20:5 n3	0,10	0,08	0,02	0,01	0,03	0,01
C24	0,20	0,07	0,05	0,01	0,22	0,10
DPA c22:5 n3	0,25	0,15	0,06	0,02	0,16	0,05
SFA	50,76	1,37	15,91	11,45	43,95	2,50
MUFA	38,70	3,57	12,60	10,08	45,67	3,50
PUFA	10,55	4,04	2,58	0,50	10,39	2,32
Total n-6	9,15	3,53	2,33	0,49	9,10	1,93
Total n-3	0,53	0,26	0,13	0,04	0,41	0,09
n-6/n-3 ratio	18,15	5,17			22,23	1,88
PUFA+MUFA/SFA ratio	0,97	0,05			1,28	0,12
					1,08	0,11

Conclusions

Analysis to total fat content, fatty acids profile, cholesterol and α -tocopherol content have shown that there are variability along the year in meat from the same producer as expected. Comparing means, semi-intensively produced meat have higher amount of PUFA (polyunsaturated fatty acids) in percentage of total fatty acids, and equal amount of SFA (saturated fatty acids) than intensive meat. However, that meat have lower amount of total fat. For both cholesterol and α -tocopherol there is no visible differences between samples. Cholesterol is the component with less variation along the year as well as between samples with values around 300 µg/g of fresh meat for both production systems. Thus, besides the fat content and profile there are no significant nutritional differences between production systems, although it is necessary to increase the number of samples to achieve a more constant quality level for each type of system.

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Acknowledgements

This work was supported by Fundo Europeu de Desenvolvimento Regional (FEDER), through the Programa Operacional Competitividade e Internacionalização (POCI) under the project **ModelMeat .: Modelo de Optimização de Ambiente e Qualidade do Produto para Serviços de Apoio à Competitividade dos Agentes da Fileira da Produção Animal Extensiva (POCI-01-0247-FEDER-017630)**.
The authors would also like to thank to Clube de Produtores – Sonae.

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