

# Prédiction de la teneur en gras intramusculaire dans le jambon de porcs vivants par la technologie aux ultrasons et relation avec le gras intramusculaire dans la longe

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## **Prediction of intramuscular fat content in the ham of live pigs using ultrasound technology and relationship with loin intramuscular fat.**

The Canadian Centre for Swine Improvement (CCSI) and the *Centre de Développement du Porc du Québec* (CDPQ) have been working together for several years to develop methods to predict intramuscular fat (IMF) on live pigs. Ultrasound technology provides good results for the prediction of IMF in the loin muscle, but it had never been used for determining IMF content in the ham muscles. Sixty commercial pigs tested at the Deschambault test station in Quebec were scanned for loin and ham IMF a few days prior to slaughter. Their left loin and ham were sampled 24hrs after slaughter and IMF was assessed through chemical analysis on the fourth last chop and on three ham muscles (*Biceps femoris*, *Semi membranous* and *Semi tendinosus*). Correlations between live and carcass IMF on the three ham muscles ranged from .35 to .59, suggesting that this very promising method could be used to predict IMF in hams with some refinements. The relationships between loin and ham IMF were studied through correlations between chemical IMF on the fourth last chop and on the *Biceps femoris*, *Semi membranous* and *Semi tendinosus* muscles. The correlations ranged from .52 to .58, showing a clear link between IMF in the loin and ham muscles and also the possibility of selecting pigs having high loin IMF and low ham IMF.