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VETERINARY SCIENCES

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MICROBIOLOGICAL CONTROL OF RABBIT MEAT PRODUCTION DURING STORAGE AND SALES

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Abstract. Risk-based control at production facilities during storage and sale of rabbit meat is carried out by leading veterinary doctors by determining the content of KMAFAnM in rabbit meat at different temperature regimes and determining the hygienic criterion of the technological process for the production of rabbit meat. When storing rabbit meat at a temperature of $(-2 \dots -3) ^\circ\text{C}$, the content of KMAFAnM

was established in the amount of $(1.23 \pm 0.12) \times 10^2$ CFU/g, which is 1.2 times ($p < 0.001$) less compared to the indicators for the sale of rabbit meat at a temperature of $(0 \dots 6)^\circ\text{C}$. The highest hygienic criteria of the technological process for rabbit meat have been established in terms of the content of colonies of aerobic microorganisms and bacteria of the genus Enterobacteriaceae during sale in cold rooms at a temperature of $(0 \dots 6)^\circ\text{C}$ - with a daily average logarithm log: m= from 4.2 to 1.5 and M= from 5.3 to 3.2, as well as for rabbit meat during storage in cold rooms at a temperature of $(-2 \dots -3)^\circ\text{C}$ - with a daily average logarithm log: m= from 2.7 to 1.2 and M= from 4.2 to 1.6

Key words: rabbit meat, safety, quality, microbiological control, hygiene criteria, technological process.

Introduction. One of the prerequisites for the implementation of the system of control of the safety of rabbit meat production at control points (HACCP) is microbiological testing of rabbit meat during storage and sale, which provides confidence that the meat is safe and of high quality for ordinary consumers. Also, in the production of rabbit meat and its circulation in modern conditions, the most demanded, in addition to GVP and GMP, is good hygienic practice – GHP [1, p. 8].

Veterinary medicine specialists, guided by EU Regulation No. 2073/2005, must establish hygienic criteria for the technological process at the stage after processing rabbit carcasses before placing them in cold storage at rabbit meat production facilities, and during sale to consumers [2, p. 19].

Microbiological control of rabbit meat safety and quality is carried out in order to detect violations of sanitary and hygienic requirements during the production, storage and circulation of rabbit meat at facilities for its production and circulation - wholesale bases, agro-food markets, supermarkets, etc. [3, p. 5; 4, p. 8].

Therefore, it is currently relevant to carry out microbiological control of rabbit meat during its production and circulation in order to avoid meat spoilage.

The aim of the work was to test microbiological indicators of rabbit meat to determine the content of KMAFAnM and hygienic criteria of the technological

process during storage and sale of meat products.

Materials and methods. The material for the study was 24 rabbit meat samples, which were stored at wholesale bases and sold in stores and supermarkets in the Kyiv region. The content of KMAFAnM was determined by sowing the studied sample of rabbit meat on nutrient media at temperatures not lower than (34–37) °C and subsequent calculation of their content [5, p. 13]. Hygienic criteria of the technological process for rabbit meat for storage and sale at appropriate temperature regimes in refrigeration chambers – (–2...–3) °C and (0...6) °C by calculating the daily average logarithm (log) of meat according to the methodology of EU Regulation No. 2073/2005 [2, p. 21].

Results and discussion. Rabbit meat, which was stored at capacity during storage at a temperature in refrigerators (–2...–3) °C and sale at a temperature of (0...6) °C, had organoleptic indicators of fresh meat: on the surface of the rabbit carcass there is a dry crust of drying, the smell is specific to this species of animal, without foreign odors, the consistency is elastic, the color is pale pink; internal fat is white, without foreign odors; after testing the cooking, the rabbit meat corresponded to the fresh grade: the broth is transparent, with a pleasant smell, on the surface of the broth there are fat balls of the same size; the cooked meat is divided into muscle bundles, with a specific pleasant taste and smell. In the future, microbiological indicators of rabbit meat were determined. The results of tests of the content of KMAFAnM in rabbit meat during storage and sale at appropriate temperature regimes are presented (table 1).

Table 1

**Content of KMAFAnM in rabbit meat during storage and sale,
CFU/g, $M \pm m$, n=24**

Type of meat	Number of colonies of mesophilic aerobic and facultative anaerobic microorganisms, CFU/g
Cold rooms at rabbit meat production facilities during storage at temperatures (–2...–3) °C	
Rabbit meat	$(1,23 \pm 0,04) \times 10^2$
Refrigeration chambers at rabbit meat sales facilities at temperatures (0...6) °C	
Rabbit meat	$(1,03 \pm 0,02) \times 10^2$ ***

Note: *** – $p < 0,001$

The results of the table 1 show that when storing rabbit meat at a temperature of $(-2...-3) ^\circ\text{C}$, the content of KMAFAnM was determined to be $(1.23\pm0.12)\times10^2$ CFU/g, which is 1.2 times significantly ($p<0.001$) less compared to the indicators when selling rabbit meat at a temperature of $(0...6) ^\circ\text{C}$ – $(1.03\pm0.02)\times10^2$ CFU/g.

We present the results of the hygienic criteria of the technological process for rabbit meat during storage and sale at appropriate temperature regimes in refrigeration chambers – $(-2...-3) ^\circ\text{C}$ and $(0...6) ^\circ\text{C}$ by calculating the daily average logarithm (log) in rabbit meat during storage and sale at appropriate temperature regimes (table 2).

Table 2

Hygienic criteria of the technological process for rabbit meat for storage and sale at appropriate temperature regimes, CFU/cm², M $\pm$ m, n=24

Type of meat	Number of colonies of aerobic microorganisms		<i>Enterobacteriaceae</i>		<i>Salmonella</i>	
	Daily average logarithm (log), CFU/cm ²					
	m	M	m	M	m	M
Cold rooms at rabbit meat production facilities during storage at temperatures (–2...–3) °C						
Rabbit meat	2,7	4,2	1,2	1,6	–	–
Refrigeration chambers at rabbit meat sales facilities at temperatures (0...6) °C						
Rabbit meat	4,2	5,3	1,5	3,2	–	–

From Table 2 it was established that the highest hygienic criteria of the technological process for rabbit meat by the content of colonies of aerobic microorganisms and bacteria of the genus *Enterobacteriaceae* during sale in refrigerated chambers at a temperature of $(0...6) ^\circ\text{C}$ were at the daily average logarithm log: m= from 4.2 to 1.5 and M= from 5.3 to 3.2; for rabbit meat during storage in refrigerated chambers at a temperature of $(-2...-3) ^\circ\text{C}$ – at the daily average logarithm log: m= from 2.7 to 1.2 and M= from 4.2 to 1.6. Bacteria of the genus *Salmonella* were not detected under different temperature conditions of storage and sale of rabbit meat.

Conclusions. For proper risk-based control, veterinary medicine specialists should be guided by laboratory tests of the content of KMAFAnM in rabbit meat during storage and sale in refrigerated chambers, respectively at temperatures of

(-2...-3) °C and (0...6) °C. It is important for the safety and quality of rabbit meat to establish hygienic criteria for the technological process during storage and sale of products in refrigerated chambers at the above temperature regimes.

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