

D. Soldado<sup>1</sup>, L. Fialho<sup>1</sup>, A. Francisco<sup>2,3</sup>, B. Grafanhante<sup>4</sup>, A. P. Portugal<sup>2</sup>, S. Alves<sup>3,4</sup>,  
R. Bessa<sup>3,4</sup>, J. Santos-Silva<sup>2,3</sup>, E. Jerónimo<sup>1,5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Centro de Biotecnologia Agrícola e Agro-Alimentar do Alentejo (CEBAL) / Instituto Politécnico de Beja (IPBeja), 7801-908 Beja, Portugal

<sup>2</sup> Instituto Nacional de Investigação Agrária e Veterinária, Pólo Investigação da Fonte Boa, 2005-048 Vale de Santarém, Portugal

<sup>3</sup> Centro de Investigação Interdisciplinar em Sanidade Animal (CIISA), Avenida da Universidade Técnica 1300-477 Lisboa, Portugal

<sup>4</sup> Faculdade de Medicina Veterinária, Universidade de Lisboa, Avenida da Universidade Técnica, 1300-477 Lisboa, Portugal

<sup>5</sup> ICAAM - Instituto de Ciências Agrárias e Ambientais Mediterrânicas, Universidade de Évora, Pólo da Mitra, Ap. 94, 7006-554 Évora, Portugal

[david.soldado@cebal.pt](mailto:david.soldado@cebal.pt) | [eliana.jeronimo@cebal.pt](mailto:eliana.jeronimo@cebal.pt) | <https://projects.inia.pt/valrumeat/>



## Introduction

→ Consumption of polyunsaturated fatty acids (PUFA) has been considered as favorable to human health, which has motivated an extensive research in order to enhance PUFA levels in ruminant products.

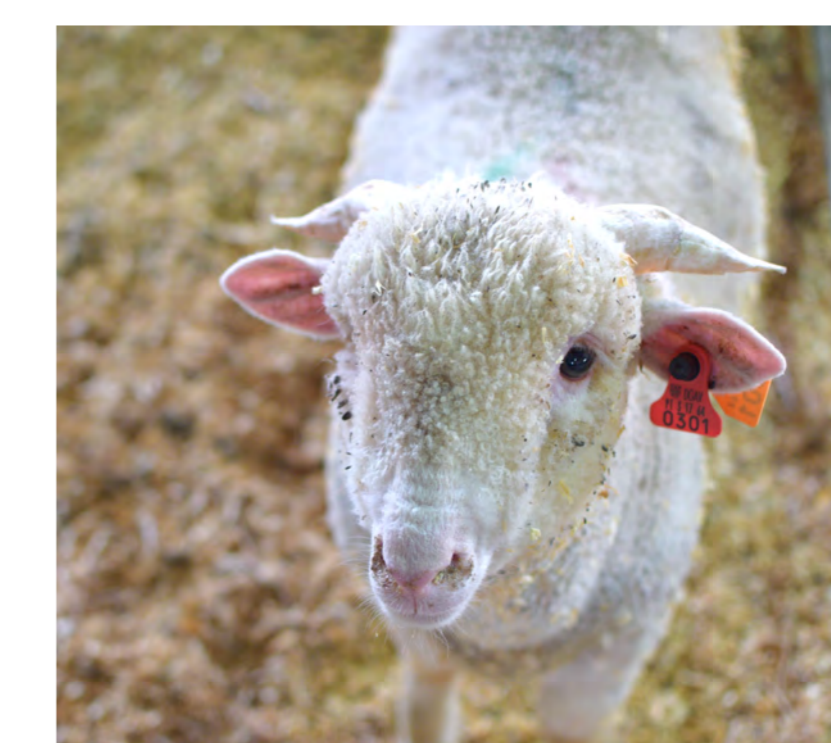
→ Supplementation of diets with PUFA-rich lipid sources is used to increase PUFA levels in ruminant meat. However, PUFA are highly prone to oxidation, which may compromise the meat quality.

## Aim

Evaluate the impact of dietary supplementation with PUFA-rich lipid sources with different degrees of unsaturation on lipid oxidation of meat and the efficacy of  $\alpha$ -tocopherol supplementation, in six productive experiments with lambs

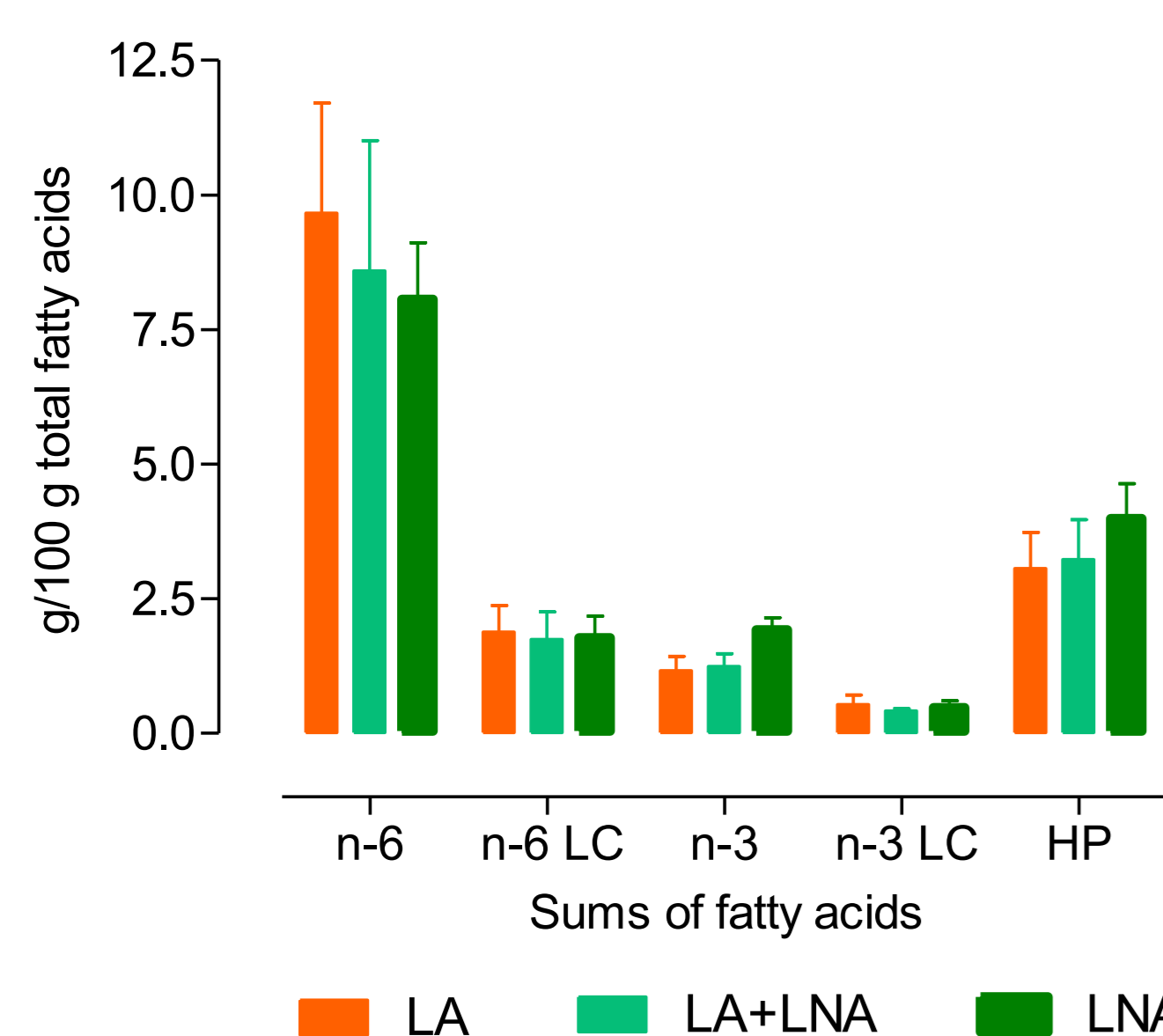
## Conclusions

- ✓ Dietary supplementation with lipid sources rich in n-3 PUFA increase the lipid oxidation in meat
- ✓  $\alpha$ -tocopherol level was not enough to prevent the lipid oxidation in meats enriched in n-3 PUFA
- ✓ Higher levels of  $\alpha$ -tocopherol or combination with other antioxidants should be considered in n-3 PUFA enriched diets



## Results

### Fatty acid composition of intramuscular fat

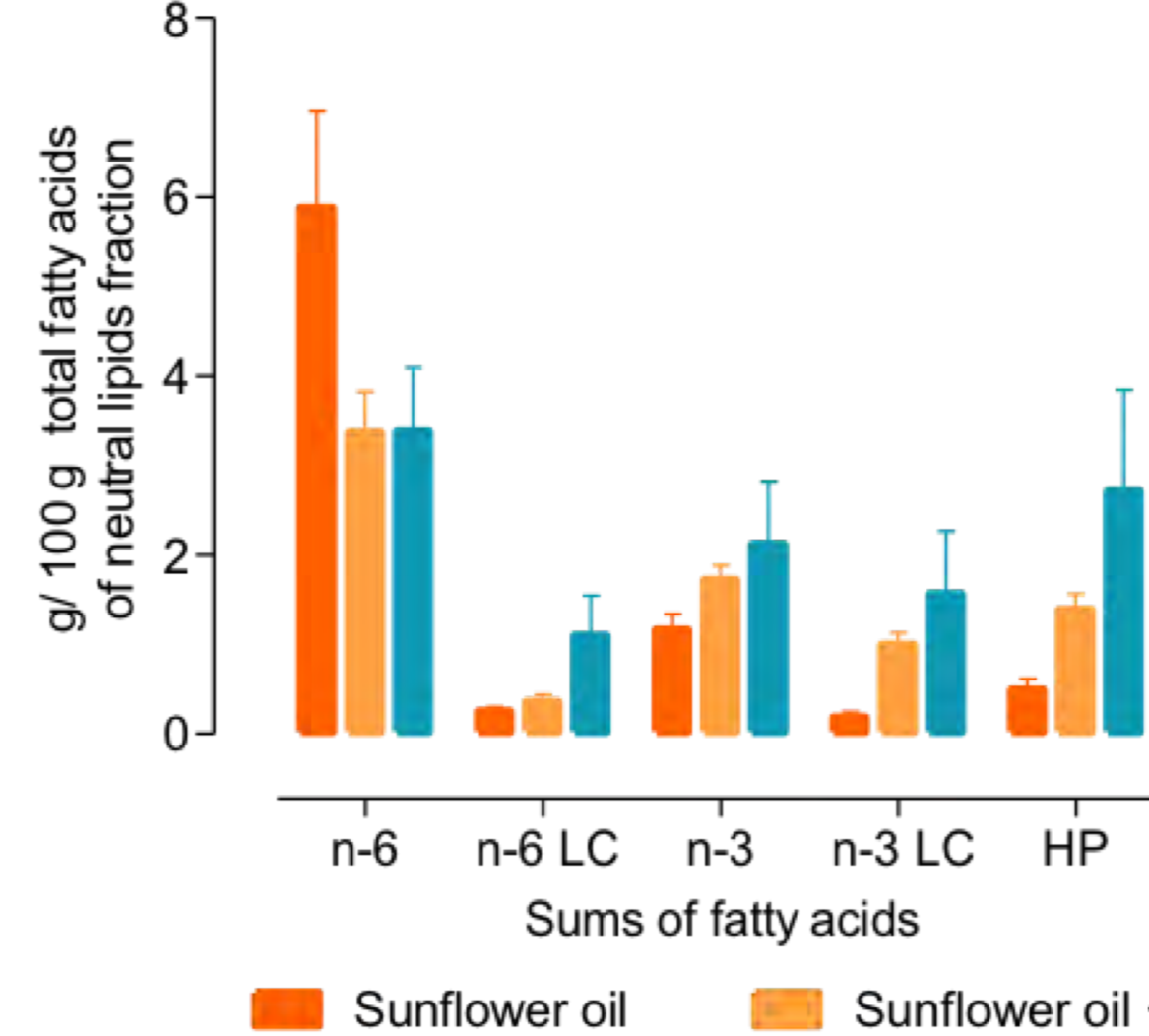


**Lipid supplements rich in linoleic acid (18:2n-6, LA)**  
-  $\uparrow$  total n-6 PUFA

**Lipid supplements rich in linolenic acid (18:3n-3, LNA)**  
-  $\uparrow$  total n-3 PUFA  
-  $\uparrow$  highly peroxidizable (HP) PUFA

n-6 – n-6 polyunsaturated fatty acids; n-6 LC – n-6 long chain polyunsaturated fatty acids; n-3 – n-3 polyunsaturated fatty acids; n-3 LC – n-3 long chain polyunsaturated fatty acids; HP – Highly peroxidizable polyunsaturated fatty acids, sum of polyunsaturated fatty acids with 3 or more unsaturated bonds

### Neutral lipids



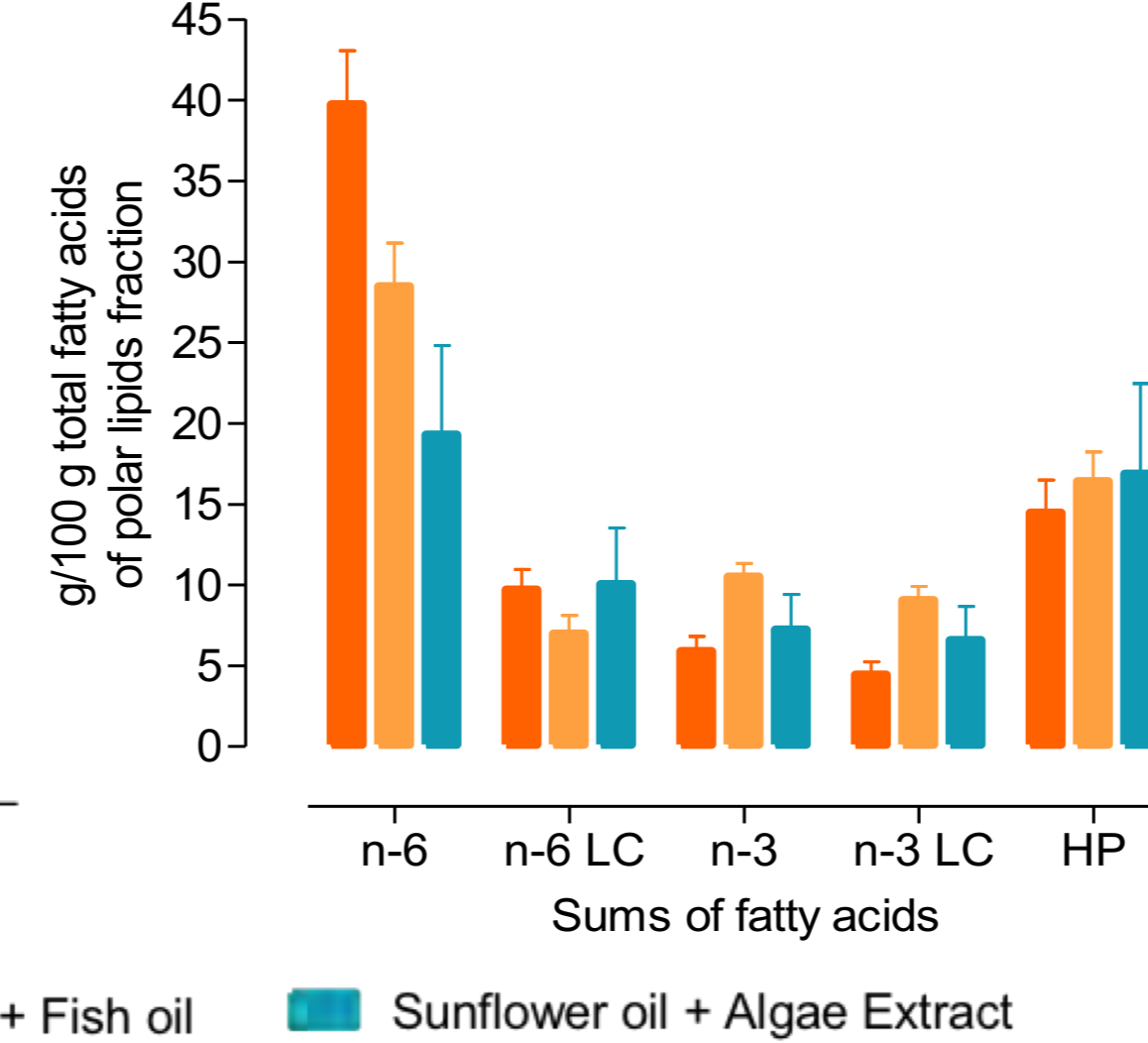
### Fish oil and algae extract

-  $\downarrow$  total n-6 PUFA  
-  $\uparrow$  total n-3 PUFA, n-3 LC-PUFA and HP-PUFA

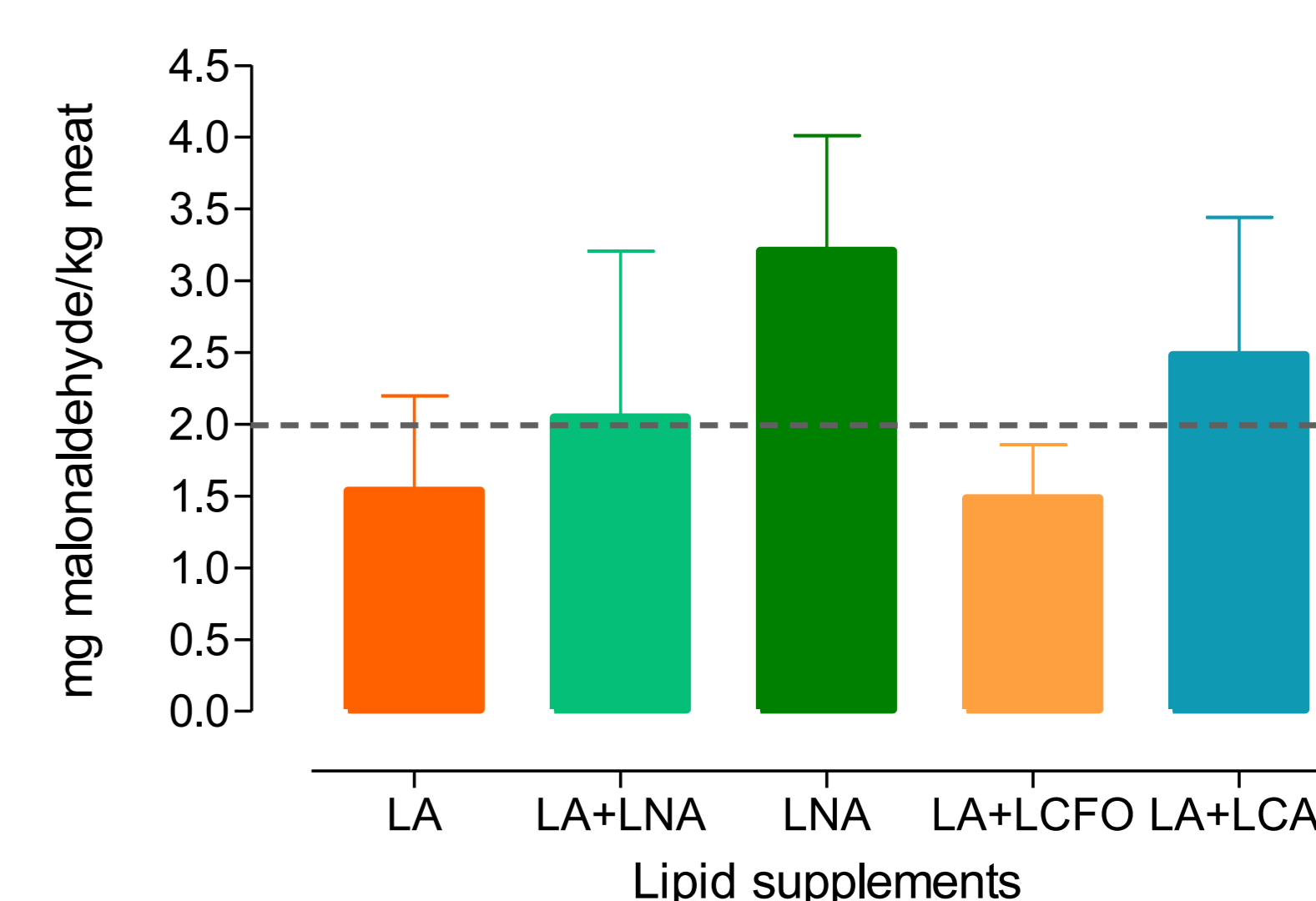
### Algae extract

-  $\uparrow$  total n-6 LC-PUFA in neutral lipids  
- Highest levels of total n-3 PUFA, n-3 LC-PUFA and HP-PUFA in neutral lipids

### Polar lipids



### Lipid oxidation



\* threshold value of 2 mg MDA/kg for consumer acceptability of beef

**Lipid supplements rich in linolenic acid (18:3n-3, LNA)**

-  $\uparrow$  lipid oxidation

**Lipid supplements rich in n-3 LC-PUFA from Algae Extract**

-  $\uparrow$  lipid oxidation

## Material and Methods

### Animals

- 6 productive trials
- 145 Merino Branco ram lambs
- 6 weeks of trial

### Diets

- Forage:concentrate (60:40 – 20:80)
- $\alpha$ -tocopherol (22.5 mg/Kg)

Supplemented with:	
→ 6% Soybean oil → 6% Sunflower oil → 3.20% Sunflower + 1.81% peanut + 0.18% olive oils	LA
→ 4.20% Sunflower + 1.80% Linseed oils	LA+LNA
→ 5.04% Linseed + 0.72% Olive + 0.24% Sunflower oils	LNA
→ 4% Sunflower oil + 2% fish oil	LA+LCFO
→ 4% Sunflower oil + 3.53% Algae extract	LA+LCAI

### Diets fatty acid composition

Lipid supplements	Linoleic acid (18:3n-6, LA)	Linolenic acid (18:3n-3, LNA)	n-6		n-3	
			Long Chain (n-6 LC)	Long Chain (n-3 LC)	Long Chain (n-6 LC)	Long Chain (n-3 LC)
<i>g/100g of total fatty acids</i>						
LA	39.6-51.7	3.60-8.00	-	-	-	-
LA+LNA	50.1	13.8	-	-	-	-
LNA	29.2	32.2	-	-	-	-
LA+LCFO	16.1	2.11	0.33	1.47	-	-
LA+LCAI	40.6	7.56	3.46	7.67	-	-

### Sampling

- Longissimus thoracis muscle** (72 h after slaughter)

Vacuum packed, stored at  $-80^{\circ}\text{C}$

Individually placed on polystyrene trays, over-wrapped with  $\text{O}_2$  permeable film, stored at  $2^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 7 days

Fatty acid quantification in intramuscular fat

(Folch et al. 1957, *J Biol Chem*, 226:497-509;  
Oliveira et al. 2016, *Anim. Feed Sci. Technol.*, 213: 64-73)

Lipid oxidation determination

(Grau et al. 2000, *J. Agric Food Chem*, 48:1155-1159)

### Aknowledgements:

This work was supported by the Program Alentejo 2020, through the FEDER under the scope of "ValRuMeat" (ALT20-03-0145-FEDER-000040). The authors would like to thank FCT/MCTES through the PTDC/CVT/ 103934/2008, UID/AGR/00115/2019 and UID/CVT/00276/2019 projects.