GLOSSARY:

Amylolysis: The conversion of starch to sugars by the action of acids or enzymes such as amylase.

Antemortem: Antemortem implies subjecting a body to something before death. Therefore, an antemortem clot is a clot formed in the heart or a large vessel before death, but it wasn't discovered until the autopsy that was performed after the occurrence of death.

Bone taint: One of the most important causes of spoilage of dry cured ham is called 'bone taint' or 'deep spoilage'. This alteration occurs most commonly in the large muscle masses adjacent to the bone structures and is characterized by a foul-smelling odour. Bone taint' has been associated with proteolytic activity of the enzymes of the meat, but most researches consider the microbial population as being mainly responsible for this alteration

Electron Transport Chain: is a series of complexes that transfer electrons from electron donors to electron acceptors via redox (both reduction and oxidation occurring simultaneously) reactions, and couples this electron transfer with the transfer of protons (H^+ ions) across a membrane. This creates an electrochemical proton gradient that drives the synthesis of adenosine triphosphate (ATP), a molecule that stores energy chemically in the form of highly strained bonds.

Glycogenolysis: Glycogenolysis is the biochemical breakdown of glycogen to glucose and takes place in the cells of muscle and liver tissues in response to hormonal and neural signals.

Glycolysis: Glycolysis breaks down glucose and forms pyruvate with the production of two molecules of ATP. The pyruvate end product of glycolysis can be used in either anaerobic respiration if no oxygen is available or in aerobic respiration via the TCA cycle which yields much more usable energy for the cell.

Pentose phosphate pathway: The pentose phosphate pathway is a metabolic pathway parallel to glycolysis. It generates NADPH and pentoses (5-carbon sugars) as well as ribose 5-phosphate, the last one a precursor for the synthesis of nucleotides.

Phosphorylation: A biochemical process that involves the addition of phosphate to an organic compound. Examples include the addition of phosphate to glucose to produce glucose monophosphate and the addition of phosphate to adenosine diphosphate (ADP) to form adenosine triphosphate (ATP).

Tricarboxylic acid cycle: The tricarboxylic acid cycle (TCA cycle) is a series of enzyme-catalyzed chemical reactions that form a key part of aerobic respiration in cells. This cycle is also called the Krebs cycle and the citric acid cycle. The cycle starts with pyruvate, which is the end product of gylcolysis, the first step of all types of cell respiration.

UDP: Uridine diphosphate glucose is a nucleotide sugar, involved in glycosyltransferase reactions in metabolism. It is used in nucleotide sugar metabolism as an activated form of glucose as a substrate for enzymes called glucosyltransferases. It is a precursor of glycogen and can be converted into UDP-galactose and UDP-glucuronic acid, which can then be used as substrates by the enzymes that make polysaccharides containing galactose and glucuronic acid.

UTP: A uracil nucleotide containing three phosphate groups esterified to the sugar moiety. Uridine triphosphate has the role of a source of energy or an activator of substrates in metabolic reactions, like that of adenosine triphosphate, but more specific. When Uridine triphosphate activates a substrate, UDP-substrate is usually formed and inorganic phosphate is released.