

GLOSSARY

Autolysis: Autolysis refers to the destruction of cells or tissues by their own enzymes.

Exogenous: An *exogenous* factor is any material that is present and active in an individual organism or living cell but originated outside that organism.

Metabolites: *Metabolites* are the intermediate products of metabolic reactions catalyzed by various enzymes that naturally occur within cells. This term is usually used to describe small molecules.

Microflora: Microflora refer to the bacteria and microscopic algae and fungi especially those living in a particular site or habitat.

Pathogen: The microorganisms which cause disease in a person eating meat infected with these organisms.

pH: Acidity of muscle is measured by pH. The pH is defined as the logarithm (to the base 10) of the reciprocal of the hydrogen ion concentration, which is mathematically expressed as $\text{pH} = \log_{10} 1 / (\text{H}^+) = -\log_{10} (\text{H}^+)$.

Postmortem: After death of an animal.

Proteolysis: Proteolysis refers to the breakdown of proteins or peptides into amino acids by the action of enzymes.

Starter cultures: A *starter culture* is a microbiological *culture* which actually performs fermentation. These *starters* usually consist of a cultivation medium, such as grains, seeds, or nutrient liquids that have been well colonized by the microorganisms used for the fermentation.

Water activity (aw): *Water activity* or a_w is the partial vapor pressure of *water* in a substance divided by the standard state partial vapor pressure of *water*.