Comparison of product yield for entire males and castrate pigs based on CT-scanning

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Objectives
To analyse the difference in cutting yield between entire males and castrates based on CT-scanning.

Materials and methods
Scanning data from entire males and castrates slaughtered on a commercial abattoir were used in the instigation. 2x51 left side carcasses were selected based on slaughter weight and lean meat percentage (LMP) to be representative for the Danish pig population.

The yield from the primal cuts was calculated with the software PigClassWeb, which allows virtual cutting in the CT-scan.

Results
The yield shown in figure 2 and 3 has been normalized so that the sum of the primal cuts for each half carcass equals 36 kg.

The same test has been reproduced 10 times randomly selecting different sample groups of castrates, to show whether the result is confident.

Conclusion
Entire males have larger fore-end and smaller back compared to castrate, when the LMP and slaughter weight are the same.

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Figure 1. Layout for the primal cuts with PigClassWeb

Figure 2. Product Weight for primal cuts

Figure 3. Product Weight for untrimmed back and bellies

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