

Mersida JANDRIĆ, Željko SAVIĆ¹

INFLUENCE OF MILK ON THE CONTENT AND CHANGES OF MILK FAT DURING PRODUCTION OF SJENIČKI WHITE CHEESE

SUMMARY

The quality and overall values of the cheese depend on the type and quality of milk. Milk fat is the most important parameters of quality which determines randman, consistency, rheological characteristics and sensory properties of cheese dough. The studies aimed to determine the significance of milk type for the percentage of milk fat content after cheese making, changes during ripening, as well as the content of mature cheeses for a 45-day ripening period when it comes to Sjenica cheese of industrial production. Studies have shown that the milk fat content in cottage cheeses were for cow milk cheese 21.33% and 23.43% for sheep milk cheese. During ripening, the milk fat content in both kinds of cheese for the whole period of ripening steadily increased. After 45-day period of ripening cow milk cheese had an average content of 25.66%, and sheep milk cheese had 29.36% milk fat.

At the end of the ripening period of 45 days average content of milk fat was in cow milk cheese 25.66% and 29.36% in sheep milk cheese. Dynamics of milk fat in dry matter had a different trend. In cow milk cheese was recorded a decrease in the first 30 days and a slight increase in the last 15 days. Sheep milk cheese had a trend of balanced increase for the entire period of ripening. The content of milk fat in dry matter (MF in DM) in mature kinds of cheese in average was 51.07% in cow milk cheese and 52.72% in sheep milk cheese. These results showed that the cheese had a high content of fat in dry matter and belong to the group of full-fat kind of cheese.

Key words: Sjenički cheese, milk fat, ripening.

INTRODUCTION

Sjenički cheese is one of the famous white brined cheese in the Republic of Serbia. Center of the production are mountain plateau, with a rich, healthy and high-quality natural meadows and pastures on the Pester plateau that surround the town Sjenica. It is produced by the indigenous technology on individual farms, and now more and more in industrial conditions. The raw material for the production is fresh whole fat cow's and sheep's milk without the application of heat treatment in process of making cheese.

The quality and overall value of the cheese depends on chemical composition and quality of milk, whereby a fat content is of particular

¹Mersida Jandrić *(corresponding author: mersida.jandric@hotmail.com), Željko Savić, University of Pristina, Faculty of Agriculture, Lesak, SERBIA

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importance. The fat content of milk depends on the species, breed, diet, lactation, etc. Sheep's milk has high values of chemical components, and it is the best raw material for the production of cheese, because it gives twice higher randman than cow's milk. Milk fat is one of the most valuable parameters of the chemical composition of milk on which depend the quality and the overall value of the cheese.

The content of milk fat in cheese affects on its energetic and nutritional value, chemical composition and rheological characteristics, respectively, its structure and consistency. Milk fat in cheese is mainly in solid, aggregate state and it is distributed in a protein matrix.

Together with water, even though to a less extent, it is the carrier of viscous properties of the cheese. The milk fat content is determined by the size of fat droplets in milk, standardization, coagulation and curd processing (Bringe and Kinsella 1986; Fox and Cogan 2000; Lopez et al., 1998).

Djordjević (1987) states that the size of fat droplets affects the retention of fat in the cheese lump and its transition into the whey. If fat droplets are larger and if process of making cheese lasts longer, the transition of milk fat into the whey is greater during the curd processing.

The main function of fat is reflected in its contribution to the sensory properties of cheese. The milk fat, due to the high share of low and medium fat acids, as well as the characteristic melting temperature, which is close to the temperature of a human body, has a very pronounced effect on the taste and smell of cheese. Therefore, the cheese with high fat content is characterized by a fuller taste and smell (Puđa, 2009).

Milk fat, with proteins, represents the predominant part of the dry matter of cheese. Changes in milk fat during ripening are at much lower level in response to changes of proteins. A smaller volume of fat change is the result of very limited accessibility of substrates. The milk fat during cheese production retains the shape of fat droplets, the form in which the milk fat is originally present in the milk. During cheese ripening membrane of fat droplets constitutes a sort of protection to lipids content, so that the lipases presented in the cheese mass significantly come more difficult into contact with the substrate. The decomposition of fat by enzymes lipase is done during the ripening process, which means, hydrolysis of the triglycerides to free fat acids and small amounts of diglycerides and monoglycerides is occurred. It is generally accepted that the lipase is largely responsible for the release of free fat acids, which contain more than four carbon (C-4) atoms. The free fat acids affect the taste of the cheese, and serve as a substrate for the formation of other compounds such as: alcohols, estri, aldehydes, ketones, et al. (Fox et al., 1993; and Fenelon Guinee, 2000).

Milk fat and its degradation products influence the formation of the sensory properties of the cheese. However, in terms of the uncontrolled maturation, changes in free fat acids can cause the appearance of rancid taste (Wilkinson, 1990).

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The experiments with the industrial production of cheese are made in the dairy "Pester" in Sjenica, Republic of Serbia. The both types of cheese are made from raw whole cow's and sheep's milk. Preparation of milk included primary treatment (squeezing- filtering) and reheating at a temperature, equal to the temperature needed for the process of making cheese, of 32 °C. Milk coagulation lasted 50 min. Curd was cut into cubes of 5x5 cm. Whey separation and the formation of curd was carried out by filtration in the course of 1.5 h. The cheese was sliced into slices of 10x10 cm. The research was aimed to determine the content of fat and fat in dry matter (MF in DM) in cheese after the preparation (1st day), and then to monitor their changes after 15, 30 and 45 days of ripening which was optimal ripening period.

Cheese analysis was conducted in the chemical laboratory of the Veterinary specialist institute, by the following methods:

- Determination of fat percentage by Van-Gulik Acidobutyrometric method (Carić et al., 2000).

- The both types of cheese were made in 5 repetitions, and the total sample was 10.

Rate of statistical significance was carried out over a difference of arithmetic means and measures of variations, standard deviation (SD) and coefficient of variation (CV). Student's t-test was used to test the difference of means (Stanković et al., 1989).

Determination of % fat by Van Gulik method

Apparatus and accessories: Analytical balance; Butyrometer for cheese; Automatic pipette 10 ml; Gerber's centrifuge; Water bath, t = 65-70 °C.

Reagents: sulfuric acid; Amyl alcohol.

Procedure: In a butyrometer glass 3 g cheese sample is weighed. We put the glass in butyrometer, and through upper opening of butyrometer, we pour sulfuric acid so that the acid level covers the contents of the cup. We close the butyrometer, shake it strongly and place it in a water bath temperature of 65-70 °C, with intent of cheese dissolution. It is needed to jumble the content of butyrometer every 15 min. Agitation of butyrometer is steadily growing until the complete dissolution of cheese, whereby the liquid gets darkly violet color. When the sample is dissolved, butyrometer is removed from the bath and using automatic pipette we add 1 ml amilo alcohol, then we well shake the content and add sulfuric acid approximately to the upper line of the scale. Shaken butyrometer is kept in a water bath for 5 min at a temperature of 65 °C. Then we clean off the butyrometer and put in a Gerber's centrifuge. Centrifuge it for 5min, remove the butyrometer and place it with facing down lower stoppers in a water bath of 65 °C, for 3-5 min.

Isolated fat in dried part of butyrometer is the amount of fat in weight percentages directly seen on a scale of butyrometer.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Milk fat is an important nutritive component of milk and cheese and greatly contributes to the formation of specific sensory and functional properties of the cheese. Milk fat which is incorporated into a protein matrix, which presents the base of cheese structure, provides a so-called “Smooth taste of whole fat milk cheese” (Miočinović, 2013).

Research results related to the dynamics of fat during cheese ripening are given in Table 1.

Table 1. Dynamics of fat during cheese ripening in %

Cheese type	Parameters	Ripening period (days)			
		1	15	30	45
Cow's milk cheese	Min	20.43	19.90	18.70	21.39
	Max	22.10	24.71	27.34	27.63
	$\bar{x} = (n=5)$	21.33	22.26	24.29	25.66
	Sd	0.60	1.55	2.94	2.28
	Cv %	2.83	6.96	12.10	8.91
Sheep's milk cheese	Min	22.03	24.76	26.62	27.63
	Max	24.71	26.25	30.78	29.85
	$\bar{x} = (n=5)$	23.43	25.94	28.31	29.36
	Sd	0.87	0.76	1.77	1.33
	Cv %	3.71	2.95	6.26	4.50

Testing the significance of arithmetic means

Ripening period-days	t-calculated	$X_1 - X_2$
1	4.46	2.10**
15	4.77	3.68**
30	2.62	4.02*
45	3.13	3.70**

The theoretical values of the „t“ arrangement refer to the number of degrees of freedom (df) 8 and are: $p < 0.05 = 2.179$; $p < 0.01 = 3.055$

At the beginning of ripening cow's milk cheese had an average milk fat of 21:33%, and sheep's milk cheese 23:43%. The analysis of the results showed that these differences were statistically significant. Differences in fat content are the result of different water content, as well as the raw material that is used for making cheese.

As a ripening period develops, an increasing content of milk fat for the entire period of maturity in both types of cheese is noticed, whereby this increase was even.

After 15-days of ripening average increase of milk fat in cow's milk cheese amounted 0.93% and in sheep's milk cheese 2:51%, so that the cow's milk cheese had an average of 22:26% of milk fat and sheep's milk cheese

25.94%. Processing of the results showed that the differences between the both types of cheese were highly significant.

Table 2. Dynamic of milk fat in dry mater (MF in DM) during ripening period in %

Cheese type	Parameters	Ripening period (days)			
		1	15	30	45
Cow's milk cheese	min	49.37	47.29	42.58	45.94
	max	52.88	50.94	50.98	53.52
	$\bar{x} = (n=5)$	51.76	49.16	48.33	51.07
	Sd	1.26	1.42	2.94	1.64
	Cv %	2.44	2.90	6.09	3.22
Sheep's milk cheese	min	47.81	49.01	52.22	49.11
	max	51.50	52.20	54.64	55.33
	$\bar{x} = (n=5)$	49.44	50.46	51.21	52.72
	Sd	1.26	1.35	2.73	2.66
	Cv %	2.55	2.68	5.34	5.04

Testing the significance of arithmetic means

Ripening period-days	t-calculated	$X_1 - X_2$
1	2.91	2.32*
15	1.48	1.30
30	1.60	2.88
45	1.18	1.65

The theoretical values of the „t“ arrangement refer to the number of degrees of freedom (df) 8 and are: $p < 0.05 = 2.179$; $p < 0.01 = 3.055$

The fat content trend increasing has continued in the period of 15-30 days of ripening. This increase in cow's milk cheese was 2:03%, and 2:37% in sheep's milk cheese. After 30 days of ripening cow's milk cheese is the average had 24.29% of milk fat and sheep's milk cheese had 28.31% of milk fat. Analysis of the data showed that the differences between the cheeses were statistically significant.

During the last 15 days of ripening, a further increase of fat content was observed. After a set period of ripening, the average content of milk fat was 25.66% in cow's milk cheese and 29.36% in sheep's milk cheese.

Analysis of the data resulted in statistically highly significant differences among both kinds of cheese.

If we compare both types of the cheese at the beginning and end of the ripening period, we can conclude that the milk fat content increased in cow's milk cheese for 4:33% and 5.93% for sheep's milk cheese.

If we analyze the correlation between fat content and moisture content of the cheese, it leads to the conclusion that the reduction in moisture is in

proportion to the increase of milk fat content. Proof of this is sheep cheese, which contains the most milk fat, and contains a minimum of moisture.

The obtained results of milk fat content are in accordance with the results of similar types of cheese in this group, and which state the following authors: fat cheese 26.32%, Pljevaljski cheese 25.44% Polimsko-Vasojevički 29.38% Polimsko-Sjenicki 24.92% (Dozet et al. 1996); Domiati 22.75% (Abd El Salam 1993); White cheese-slice 19.87% (Živić, 1989); Homoljski 28.42% (Jovanovic et al., 2004); Sjenicki 27.22%, 27.70% Zlatarski (Mačej et al., 2006); Sjenicki cheese 26.38%, Sjenicki type cheese 24.63% (Savić, 2011); Polimsko-Vasojevički 29.85% (Konotar, 2006).

Savić et al., (2016) state that the basis of curd structure is composed of proteins, while milk fat plays a filler role and is incorporated into the curd network and contributes to the soft consistency of Sjenica cheese and good sensory properties.

During the cheese ripening, different processes occur, some of which lead to the concentration of milk fat in dry matter. The fat content in dry matter depends on the amount of salt (NaCl), because the salt drawing water from the cheese increases dry matter. Among other processes that affect the concentration of milk fat in dry matter, it includes also the transition of soluble nitrogen matter of cheese into brine for ripening, as well as the decline of the salt concentration in the cheese. Results in the content and dynamics of milk fat in dry matter (MF in DM) are given in Table 2.

Based on these results, it can be seen that dynamics of fat in dry matter had a trend of balanced increase for the entire fixed period of maturity of 49.44% to 52.72% in sheep's milk cheese. In cow's milk cheese it is recorded a declining trend for the period 1-30 day maturity from 51.76% to 48.33%, and the increase in the last 15 days of ripening for 51.07%.

At the end of the set period of ripening, the milk fat content in the dry matter, in average was 51.07% in cow's milk cheese and 52.72% in sheep's milk cheese. Processing of the results showed that the differences between two types of cheese were not statistically significant. Bearing in mind the fact that fresh whole milk is used for making cheese, therefore cheese is characterized by a high content of fat in dry matter (51.07%, 52.72) due to which belong to the group of full-fat cheese.

CONCLUSION

Milk fat is one of the most valuable parameters of chemical composition and quality of the milk, and the physical properties, chemical composition of curd, structure and randman of cheese production depend on it.

Milk fat content in cheese effects on its energetic and nutritional value, chemical composition and rheological properties and on its viscosities consistency structure. The type of fat cheese has softer coexistence, while the cheese with lower milk fat has tougher dough and firmer consistency.

Basic function of fat is reflected in her contribution, formation of sensory and functional properties of cheese, and lower and middle fat acids. Milk fat as a very pronounced effect on the taste and smell of cheese, which is a characteristic of sheep's milk cheese.

Cheese is characterized by a high content of fat and fat in dry matter (MF in DM), since the raw material for making cheese was whole cow's and sheep's milk. On the basis of fat content in dry matter (51.07% and 52.72%), all types belong to the group of full-fat types of cheese.

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