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5
6 **Effect of Vit E, potassium, and alcohol-fermented feed**
7 **supplementation before transport on body weight, carcass**
8 **characteristics, and meat color of Hanwoo Steers**

9
10 *Efecto de la suplementación con Vitamina E, potasio y alimentación fermentada con*
11 *alcohol antes del transporte en el peso corporal, características de la canal y color de la*
12 *carne de novillos Hanwoo*

13
14 *Efeito da suplementação com Vitamina E, potássio e ração fermentada a álcool antes do*
15 *transporte em relação ao peso corporal, às características da carcaça e à cor da carne*
16 *dos Bovinos Hanwoo*

17
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29

30

31 **Abstract**

32 **Background:** During transport of cattle, not only does weight loss occur due to transport
33 stress, but meat quality also deteriorates due to changes in meat color. Hence, stress generated
34 during transportation causes economic loss for livestock farms. **Objective:** To investigate
35 the effect of vitamin E, potassium, and alcohol-fermented feed supplementation before
36 transport on body weight, carcass characteristics, and meat color of Hanwoo steers.
37 **Methods:** Forty steers were divided into four treatment groups, with 10 cattle per treatment
38 in two pens. (1) Vitamin E was fed at 500 IU/head/day. (2) An alcohol-fermented feed was
39 fed at 1.58 kg/head/day for six months prior to transport. (3) Potassium at 1.45% of daily
40 feed amount was fed orally one day before transport and (4) the control group. Transportation
41 loss, carcass characteristics, and surface meat color were measured and data were analyzed
42 by GLM (Generalized Linear Model) and Duncan's Multiple Range test using SAS (V.8.01;
43 2000) package. **Results:** Weight loss due to transport stress was lower in the treatment groups
44 than in the control, especially with potassium treatment. Meat color, redness, clarity, and hue
45 angle were significantly improved (add the p-value) in treatments compared to the control
46 but fat color, marbling score, back fat thickness, carcass percentage, and meat production
47 index were not different among treatments. **Conclusion:** Supplementation of alcohol-
48 fermented feed, potassium, and vitamin E before transportation improves productivity by
49 preventing loss in body weight and deterioration of the meat color due to transportation stress.

50

51 **Keywords:** *alcohol-fermented feed; carcass grade; Hanwoo steers; meat characteristics;*
52 *meat quality; transportation stress; potassium; productivity; weight loss; vitamin E.*

53

54 **Resumen**

55 **Antecedentes:** Durante el transporte de ganado, no solo se produce pérdida de peso debido
56 al estrés del transporte, sino que la calidad de la carne también se deteriora debido a cambios
57 en el color de la carne. Por lo tanto, el estrés generado durante el transporte ocasiona pérdidas

58 económicas para las explotaciones ganaderas. **Objetivo:** Investigar el efecto de la
59 suplementación con vitamina E, potasio y alimentación fermentada con alcohol antes del
60 transporte en el peso corporal, las características de la canal y el color de la carne de novillos
61 Hanwoo. **Métodos:** Cuarenta novillos fueron divididos en cuatro grupos de tratamiento, con
62 10 cabezas de ganado por tratamiento en dos corrales. La vitamina E se administró a razón
63 de 500 UI/cabeza/día. Se suministró una alimentación fermentada con alcohol a razón de
64 1,58 kg/cabeza/día durante seis meses antes del envío, y el potasio se administró por vía oral
65 al 1,45% de la cantidad diaria de alimento un día antes del envío. Se midieron las pérdidas
66 durante el transporte, las características de la canal y el color superficial de la carne, y los
67 datos se analizaron mediante un Modelo Lineal Generalizado (GLM) y la prueba de Rango
68 Múltiple de Duncan utilizando el paquete estadístico SAS (V.8.01; 2000). **Resultados:** La
69 pérdida de peso debido al estrés del transporte fue menor en los grupos de tratamiento que
70 en el grupo control, sobre todo con el tratamiento de potasio. El color de la carne, la rojez, la
71 claridad y el ángulo de tonalidad fueron significativamente mejores en los tratamientos en
72 comparación con el grupo de control, pero el color de la grasa, la calificación de marmoleo,
73 el grosor de la grasa dorsal, el porcentaje de canal y el índice de producción de carne no
74 mostraron diferencias entre los tratamientos. **Conclusión:** La suplementación con alimento
75 fermentado con alcohol, potasio y vitamina E antes del transporte mejora la productividad al
76 prevenir la pérdida de peso corporal y el deterioro del color de la carne debidos al estrés del
77 transporte.

78

79 **Palabras clave:** *alimento fermentado con alcohol; grado de la canal; novillos Hanwoo;*
80 *características de la carne; calidad de la carne; estrés de transporte; potasio;*
81 *productividad; pérdida de peso; vitamina E.*

82

83 **Resumo**

84 **Antecedentes:** Durante o transporte de gado, não somente ocorre perda de peso devido ao
85 estresse do transporte, mas a qualidade da carne também se deteriora devido a mudanças na
86 cor da carne. Por isso, o estresse gerado durante o transporte causa perdas econômicas para
87 as fazendas pecuárias. **Objetivo:** Investigar o efeito da suplementação com vitamina E,
88 potássio e ração fermentada a álcool antes do transporte em relação ao peso corporal, às
89 características da carcaça e à cor da carne de bovinos Hanwoo. **Métodos:** Quarenta bovinos
90 foram divididos em quatro grupos de tratamento, com 10 bovinos por tratamento em dois

91 currais. A vitamina E foi fornecida a 500 UI/cabeça/dia. Uma ração fermentada a álcool foi
92 fornecida a 1,58 kg/cabeça/dia durante seis meses antes do embarque, e o potássio a 1,45%
93 da quantidade diária de ração foi fornecido por via oral um dia antes do embarque. A perda
94 durante o transporte, as características da carcaça e a cor da superfície da carne foram
95 medidas, e os dados foram analisados pelo GLM (Modelo Linear Generalizado) e pelo teste
96 de intervalo múltiplo de Duncan usando o pacote SAS (V.8.01; 2000). **Resultados:** A perda
97 de peso devido ao estresse do transporte foi menor nos grupos de tratamento do que no
98 controle, especialmente com o tratamento com potássio. A cor da carne, o rubor, a claridade
99 e o ângulo de matiz melhoraram significativamente nos tratamentos em comparação com o
100 controle, mas a cor da gordura, o índice de marmorização, a espessura da gordura dorsal, a
101 porcentagem de carcaça e o índice de produção de carne não foram diferentes entre os
102 tratamentos. **Conclusão:** A suplementação de ração fermentada a álcool, potássio e vitamina
103 E antes do transporte melhora a produtividade ao prevenir a perda de peso corporal e a
104 deterioração da cor da carne devido ao estresse do transporte.

105

106 **Palavras-chave:** *ração fermentada a álcool; grau da carcaça; bovinos Hanwoo;*
107 *características da carne; qualidade da carne; estresse no transporte; potássio;*
108 *produtividade; perda de peso; vitamina E.*

109

110 **Introduction**

111 During transport of cattle, not only does weight loss occur due to transport stress (Deng *et*
112 *al.*, 2017), but meat quality also deteriorates due to changes in meat color (Lister *et al.*, 1989;
113 Sun *et al.*, 2017). Hence, stress generated during transportation causes economic loss for
114 livestock farms (He *et al.*, 2010).

115 A recent study on transport loss have shown that the average transport loss is about 3–10%
116 of body weight, and young cattle have a greater transport loss compared to older cattle or
117 those with high body fat accumulation (González *et al.*, 2012). Various factors such as breed,
118 season, climatic conditions (González *et al.*, 2012; Schaefer *et al.*, 1997), age, weight,
119 transport density, transport distance (Jacobsen *et al.*, 1993), transport speed (Warriss *et al.*,
120 1990; Phillips *et al.*, 1981), and pre-transport feed affect the transport loss (Schaefer *et al.*,
121 1997). In addition, transport stress has been reported to affect meat pH, color, texture, and
122 water content, resulting in dark meat and deteriorating meat quality (Lister *et al.*, 1989; Price
123 *et al.*, 1981). It has been reported that minimizing stress in pre-slaughter operations, including

124 transport and handling, is a way to minimize transport loss (Haurez *et al.*, 1986).
125 The autonomic nervous system of livestock is activated when faced with stress such as
126 transportation, causing cations such as sodium and potassium to increase and anions such as
127 chloride to decrease. It is known that the resulting excitement of the nervous system and
128 imbalance in the concentration of ions in the body cause stress in the body (Schaefer *et al.*,
129 1990). To prevent this, a previous study reported that the transport loss of Holstein steers
130 administered alcohol was reduced by approximately 9 kg (Choi *et al.*, 2002), and many
131 studies reported the effect of administering cations such as potassium on reducing transport
132 weight loss. (Schaefer *et al.*, 1990; Haurez *et al.*, 1968; Tarrant *et al.*, 1988; Warner *et al.*,
133 1989). Vitamin E (as an antioxidant) is known to prevent changes in meat color. Schaefer *et*
134 *al.* (1997) found that when vitamin E was fed before the end of fattening, it was possible to
135 prevent economic loss caused by changes in meat color. In a study of Holstein beef cattle,
136 91% of consumer preferences for meat color and fat distribution were in the vitamin E-fed
137 group (Sanders *et al.* 1997). Because transport stress is not only a weight loss factor but is
138 also a cause of deterioration in meat color and meat quality, it is necessary to take appropriate
139 steps before transportation to prevent meat quality deterioration. So far, studies have been
140 conducted to reduce transport stress by feeding various substances such as electrolytes
141 (Schaefer *et al.*, 1990; Schaefer *et al.*, 1997; Haurez *et al.*, 1968; Tarrant *et al.*, 1988; Warner
142 *et al.*, 1989) and vitamin E (Sanders *et al.* 1997) before transport.
143 Therefore, the purpose of this study was to investigate the effect of vitamin E, potassium,
144 and alcohol-fermented feed supplementation before transport on body weight, carcass
145 characteristics, and meat color of Hanwoo steers.

146

147 **Materials and methods**

148 *Ethical considerations*

149 All procedures on animals were carried out in compliance with the South Korea regulations
150 (Animal and Plant Quarantine Agency · Ministry of Food and Drug Safety Joint Animal
151 Testing and/or Laboratory Animal Related Committee (IACUC; 2020) Standard Operating
152 Guidelines).

153

154 *Location of the experiment*

155 This experiment was conducted in Hanwoo Farm, Hongcheon-gun, Gangwon-do, Korea
156 (37°40'45"N, 127°55'56"E, 159 masl).

157

158 *Animals, management and treatments*

159 This study was conducted using forty Hanwoo steers (average body weight: 572.2kg) six
160 months before transport were randomly assigned to one of four dietary treatment: no
161 treatment (Control), alcohol-fermented feed treatment (T1), potassium treatment (T2), and
162 vitamin E treatment (T3). The alcohol-fermented feed was fed at 1.58 kg/head/day, vitamin
163 E was fed at 500 IU/head/day for six months prior to transport, and potassium was dissolved
164 orally in 1.45% of the daily feed amount, and administered orally one day before
165 transportation. Alcohol-fermented feed used in this study was prepared by mixing corn grit
166 and brewers grain in a 50:50 ratio and molasses and yeast was added before fermentation for
167 48 hours at about 30 °C under anaerobic conditions (Table 1).

168

169 **Table 1.** Chemical composition of the experimental diets.

Ingredients	Commercial feed	Fermented diet	Rice straw
Dry matter (%)	96.33±0.09	66.09±0.59	89.56±0.30
Crude protein (% of dry matter)	12.39±0.37	11.69±0.44	5.66±0.16
Ether extract (% of dry matter)	4.05±0.33	6.81±0.11	4.51±0.21
Crude ash (% of dry matter)	6.89±0.01	3.80±0.11	8.44±0.03
NDF (% of dry matter)	30.71±0.24	17.79±0.08	53.36±0.37
ADF (% of dry matter)	10.77±0.74	3.98±0.20	29.78±1.90

170 NDF: Neutral detergent fiber. ADF: Acid detergent fiber.

171

172 *Transportation loss*

173 The transport of the experimental animals was by truck with a capacity of 8,000 kg, with an
174 average transport density of 5 cattle per vehicle. Duration of transportation is approximately
175 2 hours, and transportation loss was calculated from the weight at the time of transport
176 (weight before transportation) and the weight upon arrival at the slaughterhouse after
177 transport (weight after transportation).

178

179 *Carcass characteristics*

180 Feed was withdrawn from animals at the farm 24 hours before slaughter and cattle continued
181 to receive water. For the evaluation of refrigeration for 24 hours after slaughter, items such
182 as carcass ratio, meat quantity index, back fat thickness, rib-eye area, marbling score, meat
183 color, fat color, and meat quality grade were evaluated based on the national carcass grading
184 standards (MAFRA, 2018).

185

186 *Surface meat color*

187 Color measurement was performed using a color difference meter (CR-310, Minolta Co.,
188 Japan), where CIE L* (lightness), a* (redness), b* (yellowness), and chroma value were
189 measured. Chromaticity values of the standard white plate were Y = 93.7, x = 0.3129, and y
190 = 0.3194. As the spectrophotometer was equipped with a reflectance attachment (UV-
191 2410PC, Shimadzu, Japan), the reflectance of 630 nm and 580 nm was measured to calculate
192 the value of R₆₃₀-R₅₈₀ (Strange *et al.*, 1974).

193

194 *Statistical analysis*

195 Generalized linear models were used for statistical inferences. After the linear model fitting,
196 Duncan's Multiple Range test was applied to determine the statistical significance of the
197 difference between the variables. SPSS v.8.01 package program (2000) was used for
198 statistical analysis. For weight, carcass characteristics and meat color, the following
199 statistical model was adopted:

200
$$Y_{ijk} = \mu + T_i + C_{ij} + e_{ijk}$$

201 in which Y_{ijk} is the dependent variable, μ is the general average, T_i is the effect of diets, C_{ij}
202 is the effect of the covariate, and e_{ijk} is the experimental error.

203

204 **Results**

205 *Transportation loss*

206 The pre-transport body weight of the control, alcohol-fermented feed, potassium, and vitamin
207 E treatments were 652.0, 688.9, 677.5, and 745.7 kg, respectively (Table 2). The pre-
208 transport body weight was higher in the treatment groups than the control group. The weight
209 after arrival at the slaughter house was also higher in the treatments than in the control

210 (control, alcohol-fermented feed, potassium and vitamin E; 626.0, 670.0, 660.0, and 725.0
211 kg, respectively).

212 The transport loss of the control, alcohol-fermented feed, potassium, and vitamin E
213 treatments was 26.0, 18.9, 17.5, and 20.7 kg, respectively, indicating that the transport loss
214 was lower in the treatments than in the control ($p < 0.05$). In addition, the transport loss of the
215 test groups was shown in the following order: control group > vitamin E group > alcohol-
216 fermented feed group > potassium group. Compared to the control and vitamin E, alcohol-
217 fermented feed and potassium were found to be significantly effective in controlling transport
218 loss. Transport loss occurred in both the control and treatment groups in this experiment, but
219 transport loss was significantly reduced in the treatment groups compared to the control
220 group.

221

222 **Table 2.** Effect of the alcohol-fermented diet, potassium and vitamin E shrinkage in
223 Hanwoo steers.

Items	Control	T1 ¹	T2 ²	T3 ³
SW ⁴ (kg)	652.0±66.76 ^b	688.9±31.89 ^a	677.5±18.87 ^a	745.7±28.33 ^a
LW ⁵ (kg)	626.0±67.08 ^b	670.0±28.28 ^a	660.0±18.71 ^a	725.0±35.00 ^a
Shrinkage (kg)	26.0±4.06 ^a	18.9±4.15 ^b	17.5±1.12 ^b	20.7±8.67 ^b

224 ¹T1: group fed alcohol-fermented feed; ²T2: fed potassium before transportation; ³T3: fed vitamin E before
225 transportation; ⁴SW: farm shipping weight; ⁵LW: slaughterhouse live weight.

226 ^{a, b} Means in same row with different superscripts differ ($p < 0.05$).

227

228 *Carcass characteristics*

229 The meat color of the control, alcohol-fermented feed, potassium, and vitamin E
230 treatments was 5.50, 5.00, 5.25 and 4.25, respectively (Table 3), and the results were lower
231 in the treatments, except the potassium treatment ($p < 0.05$). Among treatments, meat color
232 in the vitamin E treatment was significantly lower ($p < 0.05$) than in the alcohol-fermented
233 feed and potassium treatments.

234 In the case of fat color, there was no difference ($p > 0.05$) between treatments. In the
235 case of marbling score, compared to the control group, the alcohol-fermented feed, potassium
236 and vitamin E groups showed a higher tendency, but statistical significance was not
237 recognized ($p > 0.05$).

238 Among the factors determining the quantity of meat, there was no difference ($p > 0.05$)
 239 among treatments in the case of back fat thickness, carcass percentage, and meat production
 240 index, but in the case of the rib-eye area, there was an increased result in the treatment groups
 241 compared to the control ($p < 0.05$). On the other hand, meat color was improved in each
 242 treatment group (alcohol-fermented feed, potassium, and vitamin E treatment) compared to
 243 the control, and the vitamin E treatment improved meat color compared to the alcohol-
 244 fermented feed and potassium treatments.

245 Therefore, if Hanwoo steers are fed alcohol-fermented feed, potassium, and vitamin E
 246 for a certain period of time before transportation or at a specific point in time, it is thought
 247 that the stress generated during transportation can be suppressed to improve meat color and
 248 marbling score. In particular, if vitamin E is supplied for a certain period of time before
 249 shipping, it is thought that the deterioration of meat color due to transportation stress can be
 250 effectively controlled.

251

252 **Table 3.** Effects of fermented diet, potassium and vitamin E on carcass characteristics in
 253 Hanwoo steers.

Items	Treatment			
	Control	T1	T2	T3
<i>Quality traits</i>				
Meat color	5.50±0.58 ^a	5.00±0.00 ^b	5.25±0.50 ^{ab}	4.25±0.50 ^c
Fat color	3.00±0.00	3.00±0.00	3.00±0.00	3.00±0.00
Marbling score	3.25±1.26	4.50±1.29	4.50±1.29	3.55±1.89
Quality grade	2.00±0.82	2.00±0.82	1.50±0.58	2.50±1.00
<i>Quantity traits</i>				
Back fat thickness (mm)	10.00±4.08	6.50±1.73	7.75±0.50	8.75±3.50
Rib-eye area (cm ²)	81.25±5.19 ^b	88.75±2.36 ^{ab}	96.75±7.41 ^a	92.25±4.35 ^a
Carcass percent (%)	59.43±5.49	55.89±0.92	59.71±0.50	58.72±2.03

Meat yield index score	68.12±1.72	70.10±0.59	70.16±0.72	69.11±1.13
------------------------	------------	------------	------------	------------

254 ¹T1: group fed alcohol-fermented feed; ²T2: fed potassium before transportation; ³T3: fed vitamin E before
255 transportation;

256 ^{a, b, c} Means in same row with different superscripts differ (p< 0.05).

257

258 *Meat surface color*

259 Meat color reacts very sensitively to nutrient specifications and transportation stress
260 (Table 4). The lightness (L*) of the meat in the control, alcohol-fermented feed, potassium,
261 and vitamin E treatments was 34.93, 35.13, 38.15 and 37.64, respectively, and was higher in
262 the potassium and vitamin E treatments than in the control (p< 0.05). Although statistical
263 significance was not obtained, the alcohol-fermented feed treatment tended to produce
264 brighter meat than the control.

265 Redness is known to be the most important factor in determining meat color, it was
266 20.48, 22.97, 23.63, and 25.66, in the control, alcohol-fermented feed, potassium, and
267 vitamin E treatments, respectively, and the redness of the treatments (especially vitamin E)
268 was higher than in the control (p< 0.05). In the case of clarity (chroma value), which is an
269 indicator of red strength, the control, alcohol-fermented feed, potassium, and vitamin E
270 treatments were 21.94, 24.69, 25.61, and 27.81, respectively, and the treatments were higher
271 than the control (p< 0.05).

272 For hue angle, which is an indicator of the degree of brownness of meat, the control,
273 alcohol-fermented feed, potassium, and vitamin E treatments were 22.63, 21.41, 22.67, and
274 20.98, respectively, and the color of the vitamin E treatment was significantly lower than the
275 control (p< 0.05). Although statistical significance was not obtained, the color of the alcohol-
276 fermented feed treatment also showed lower results than the control. Alcohol-fermented feed
277 and vitamin E can therefore maintain the stability of meat color by suppressing the
278 phenomenon where meat color becomes brown.

279 For yellowness, which affects the fat color of meat and is a factor that decreases meat
280 quality, the control, alcohol-fermented feed, potassium, and vitamin E treatments were 10.73,
281 9.05, 9.89, and 7.86, respectively, and the yellowness of the treatments was lower than that
282 of the control (p< 0.05). Within the treatment groups, the yellowness of the fermented and
283 vitamin E treatments was lower than that of the potassium treatment (p< 0.05), such that

284 fermented and vitamin E were effective in improving the yellowness of Hanwoo steers meat.
 285 Therefore, in this experiment, the brightness, redness, clarity, and yellowness of the
 286 treatments were superior to those of the control.

287

288 **Table 4.** Effect of the fermented diet, potassium and vitamin E on meat color in Hanwoo
 289 steers.

Items	Control	T1	T2	T3
Lightness	34.93±0.98 ^b	35.13±1.90 ^b	38.15±1.65 ^a	37.64±1.43 ^a
Redness	20.48±1.98 ^c	22.97±0.54 ^{bc}	23.63±2.20 ^{ab}	25.66±1.15 ^a
Chroma value	21.94±1.98 ^c	24.69±0.66 ^b	25.61±2.28 ^{ab}	27.81±1.36 ^a
Hue angle	22.63±0.91 ^a	21.41±1.47 ^{ab}	22.67±0.96 ^a	20.98±0.89 ^b
Yellowness	10.73±0.83 ^a	9.05±0.74 ^b	9.89±0.73 ^{ab}	7.86±0.39 ^c

290 ¹T1: group fed alcohol-fermented feed; ²T2: fed potassium before transportation; ³T3: fed vitamin E before
 291 transportation;

292 ^{a, b, c} Means in same row with different superscripts differ (p< 0.05).

293

294

295

296 **Discussion**

297 *Transportation loss*

298 In this experiment, some manifestations of stress on meat quality appeared to be
299 ameliorated by the alcohol, potassium, and vitamin E treatments and balancing the
300 electrolytes in the body. Alcohol-fermented feed and potassium supplementation for Hanwoo
301 steers were found to suppress weight loss caused by transport stress, and vitamin E treatment
302 was less than alcohol-fermented feed and potassium, but nonetheless effective in controlling
303 weight loss in transport compared to the control group. In this study, body weight before
304 transport was not consistent for each treatment group, However, in the study by Jacobsen *et*
305 *al.* (1993), it was reported that the transport loss increased in proportion to the weight before
306 transport, but in this study, the transport loss decreased in the treatment groups with higher
307 weights compared to the control group with the lowest weight before transport. Potassium
308 supplementation was the most effective in the reduction of the effects of transportation on
309 beef cattle, and the alcohol-fermented feed also demonstrated a positive result. It is thought
310 that potassium supplementation improves the buffering ability of livestock, maintains
311 electrolyte balance, and prevents acidification of body tissues. Schaefer *et al.* (1997) reported
312 that weight loss in beef cattle during long haul transportation was reduced approximately 7%
313 by electrolyte supplementation, supporting the results of the current study. According to a
314 study by Lee *et al.* (2013), long-term administration of alcohol has a sedative effect for stress
315 reduction, and the effect lasts for several hours. In particular, the sedative effect increases
316 depending on the level of alcohol administration, and in an experiment using Holstein steers,
317 the weight loss during transport was reduced by approximately 9 kg in the alcohol
318 administration group (Choi *et al.*, 2002).

319 Therefore, potassium supplementation and alcohol-fermented feed for Hanwoo steers
320 can reduce losses associated with transport, thereby reducing the economic loss for farmers
321 due to the weight loss during the transportation process.

322

323 *Carcass characteristics*

324 Meat color does not reflect the nutrient, flavor or functional characteristics of meat, but
325 it is an important quality factor that actually determines the consumer's preferences (Lee *et*
326 *al.*, 2001). Meat color was significantly lower in treatment groups compared to the control

327 and that of the vitamin E supplemented group was highly improved. Liu *et al.* (1996) reported
328 improved meat color due to vitamin E supplementation and a reduction in deterioration of
329 meat quality. In a vitamin E feeding experiment with Hanwoo steers, various meat quality
330 improvements, such as the preservation of meat surface color and suppression of lipid
331 oxidation, were observed (Chu *et al.*, 2004). Alcohol has also been reported to have an effect
332 on preventing meat color deterioration. Han *et al.* (2014) reported that the supplementation
333 of alcohol was effective in preventing deterioration of meat color (redness) during storage.

334 Baker (1988) reported that feeding electrolytes to beef cattle before transportation can
335 improve the buffering capacity of electrolytes in the body, thereby reducing side effects
336 caused by transport stress. Although not statistically different, the results of this experiment
337 indicated a tendency to improve the color of the meat in the potassium-treated group
338 compared to the control, and potassium was also considered to improve the color of meat
339 indirectly by suppressing the transport stress of beef cattle.

340 As discussed above, alcohol-fermented feed, potassium, and vitamin E have been shown
341 to numerically improve meat color of Hanwoo steers.

342

343 *Surface meat color*

344 Liu *et al.* (1996) reported improved brightness in meat due to the supplementation with
345 vitamin E, and Schaefer *et al.* (1997) changed the color of meat due to stress by
346 administration of electrolytes to beef cattle. In the current study, it was presumed that the
347 brightness of meat from cattle in the treatment groups was improved compared to the control
348 group by stress suppression (anti-oxidants and electrolytes) due to supplementation with
349 alcohol-fermented feed, potassium, and vitamin E.

350 It has been reported that as the marbling score and fat content increase, the brightness
351 of meat increases (Mitsumoto *et al.*, 1993; Demos *et al.*, 1996). It is thought that there is a
352 cause for the intramuscular fat of the treatments being higher than the control.

353 The current study shows that the chroma value of the treatment groups was significantly
354 higher than the control group. Sherbeck *et al.* (1995) reported that as a result of feeding
355 vitamin E to beef cattle, the preference of consumers was increased because the clarity was
356 maintained longer than that of the non-supplemented group. Matter *et al.* (1986) reported that
357 meat coloration was stabilized due to a decrease in stress when feeding electrolytes to beef

358 cattle.

359 However, it has been reported that supplementation with vitamin E, antioxidants, or
360 electrolytes, including potassium, improves meat coloration and inhibits fatty acid oxidation
361 (Monahan *et al.*, 1989; Sherbeck *et al.*, 1995; Marusich *et al.*, 1975). When vitamin E is
362 added to feed for beef cattle, the stability of redness and meat coloration is not only
363 maintained, but yellowness is also lowered (Liu *et al.*, 1996). Gatellier *et al.* (2001) also
364 reported the effects of dietary vitamin E supplementation on color stability and lipid
365 oxidation of beef, supporting the results of this study.

366 In conclusion, alcohol-fermented feed, potassium, and vitamin E supplementation are
367 thought to have positive effects on transport loss and meat color. However, further studies
368 with a larger number of experimental animals are needed to demonstrate the effects of various
369 substances on stress in livestock.

370

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372

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376

377 *Conflicts of interest*

378 The authors declare they have no conflicts of interest regarding the work presented in this
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380

381 *Author contributions*

382 This study was designed and directed by Jongsuh Shin and Byungki Park. Overall paper was
383 written and edited by Gihwal Son. All co-authors were closely involved in the collection,
384 analysis and interpretation of data as well as in the writing and decision to submit the work
385 for publication.

386

387 *Use of artificial intelligence (AI)*

388 No AI or AI-assisted technologies were used during the preparation of this work.

389

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