

Processing the lamb carcase, from farm to plate

Animal = 100%



Fifth quarter = variety meats/offal/edible co-products/animal by-products = 52.56%

Product	Figures below are from a lamb of 40.05kg liveweight, average fatness R3L		
	kg	% of fifth quarter	% of liveweight
Fleece and pelt			
Fleece and pelt	4.42	21.00	11.04
Fat can be used directly with the meat²			
KKCF	0.65	3.09	1.62
Caul fat	0.70	3.33	1.75
Intestinal fat	0.54	2.57	1.35
Red offal normally sold for human consumption on home market			
Kidneys	1.10	0.48	0.25
Liver, gall bladder	0.69	1.27	1.72
Skirt	0.22	1.04	0.55
Heart	0.22	1.04	0.55
Edible co-products³			
Stomachs	1.08	5.13	2.70
Intestines	1.29	6.13	3.22
Feet	0.78	3.71	1.95
Variety meats fit for human consumption (tend to be exported)			
Tail	0.11	0.52	0.27
Reproductive organs	0.14	0.67	0.35
Head ⁴ incl. tongue	1.63	7.74	4.08
Lungs, trachea, sweetbreads	0.86	4.09	2.15
Tend to be despatched as Category 3⁵			
Blood	1.84	8.74	4.60
Pancreas	0.11	0.52	0.27
Trim	0.59	2.80	1.47
Have to be despatched as Category 2⁵			
Gut contents	4.86	23.08	12.13
Have to be despatched as Category 1⁵			
Illium	0.11	0.52	0.27
Spleen	0.11	0.52	0.27
Total	21.05	100.00	52.56

1. Fifth Quarter is the parts of the animals that are not the carcase and removed in the abattoir.
2. KKCF kidney knob and channel fat or can go for as an edible co-product to be rendered for human consumption, eg baking or frying or for the manufacture of petfood, soap, pharmaceuticals or biofuel.
3. Products that require further processing before they are fit for human consumption.
4. The skull, including the brain, eyes, tonsils and spinal cord of sheep over 12 months (or permanent incisor erupted) becomes SRM and has to be disposed of as Category 1.
5. See Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009 and gov.uk/dealing-with-animal-by-products.

Carcase = 47.44%



Bone/fat/drip loss = 12.20%*



Edible meat = 35.24%*



*Traditional lamb cuts. Average yield of prepared bone-in cuts and joints as a percentage of the lamb carcass. If more modern cuts are produced, yields may vary.

Source: AHDB