

Table I. *Number of samples taken at slaughterhouse.*

Month of sampling	Season	N. of animals	N. of caeca	N. of samples taken after the slaughtering stages					Total n. of samples
				Bleeding	Defeathering	Evisceration	Washing	Chilling	
Dec-Feb	Winter	46	46	46	46	46	46	45	275
Apr-May	Spring	60	55	55	56	55	59	55	335
Jun-July	Summer	68	68	68	63	63	63	62	387
Sep-Nov	Autumn	56	56	56	56	56	56	56	336
Total		230	225	225	221	220	224	218	1,333