



Genetics and Breeding of Ruminant

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Message from the Guest Editors

Animal breeding exploits natural genetic variation between individuals to increase traits of economic value. At the beginning of this century, breeding programs mostly relied on marker-assisted selection in young males based on some genetic markers and pedigree information. This strategy overcame the limitation of traditional progeny test programs, which required years for the first data on the sire's daughters to be available. Then, thanks to the introduction of high-density SNP chips and the progressive decrease in genotyping costs, the number of genotyped individuals started to increase, providing new data for computing genomic evaluations. The implementation of genomic selection in the breeding programs of many countries had introduced significant advances in the selection of ruminants, increasing rates of genetic gain. In addition, a future challenge will be inclusion in the selection goals of novel traits. The special issue will cover all aspects of ruminants' genetics and genomics, including studies on genetics of complex and/or novel traits, genomic technologies, and statistical approaches for genomic data analysis.





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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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