



Ovine Genetics: Utilizing OMIC Tools to Design Ovine Breeds for the Future

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Message from the Guest Editor

Over the last decade, the overall amount of sheep production has grown worldwide. To improve the sustainability and competitiveness of sheep livestock systems through breeding, new phenotypes linked to sustainable animal productivity can be developed and integrated into breeding schemes to allow for the selection of animals that are resilient and adaptable to current and future environmental challenges. In the last few decades, novel measures targeting economically important traits through phenotypes linked to physiological processes of animals such as body reserve utilization, feed efficiency, metabolic diseases, thermo-tolerance, methane emissions, disease resistance, and reproductive efficiency have been developed. These new phenotypes are costly and difficult to collect and generally have low heritability. Current genomic tools may help to provide information about genetic loci involved in the phenotypic variation of these complex traits and may be integrated into traditional breeding programs in order to improve their ability to cope with new selection objectives.





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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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