Special Issue

A Perspective on the Past and Future of Genetic Evaluations for Economically Important Traits in Cattle

Message from the Guest Editor

Over the last half-century, genetic evaluations have undergone steady progress in animal breeding programs. With the introduction of high-density SNP chips and the use of genomic information, breeding schemes are undergoing major restructuring worldwide. Additionally, the application of genomic evaluation has led to the inclusion of more traits in the selection indices so that there is growing interest in the introduction of novel traits. Therefore, the possibilities of recording phenotypic performance, breeding goals, and breeding programs need to be reassessed. Further, more studies are necessary to determine whether the genetic architecture of the traits of interest and the population structure can be influenced to improve genomic prediction accuracy. In this issue, we will describe the application of genetic evaluation when a trait in a population is evaluated for the first time; for this, it is important to compare the accuracy of predictions from several genomic models to those obtained with a pedigree-based model, and how these changes will affect the future of the cattle industry.

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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