



# A critical analysis of production-associated DNA polymorphisms in the genes of cattle, goat, sheep, and pig

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Article  
First Online: 04 October 2008

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## Abstract

Increasing productivity is one of the main objectives in animal production. Traditional breeding methods have led to increased gains in some traits but gains are not easily attainable in traits with low heritabilities. Exploiting the genetic variations underlying desired phenotypes is the goal of today's animal producers. Such positive genetic variants must, however, be known before possible application. Consequently, candidate genes of traits of interest have been searched for possible relationships with such traits or to explain reported quantitative trait loci (QTL) for such traits. DNA variants or polymorphisms have been identified in many such genes and their relationships with production traits determined. However, only a few genes have been evaluated, given the wealth of information on reported QTL for production traits, and in most

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