

Livestock genetics at UniBE

News from the Institute of Genetics, Vetsuisse Bern

Cord Drögemüller, Institute of Genetics, Vetsuisse faculty, University of Bern

Swiss Animal Breeding Technology Platform, Zurich, 11th January 2024

u^b

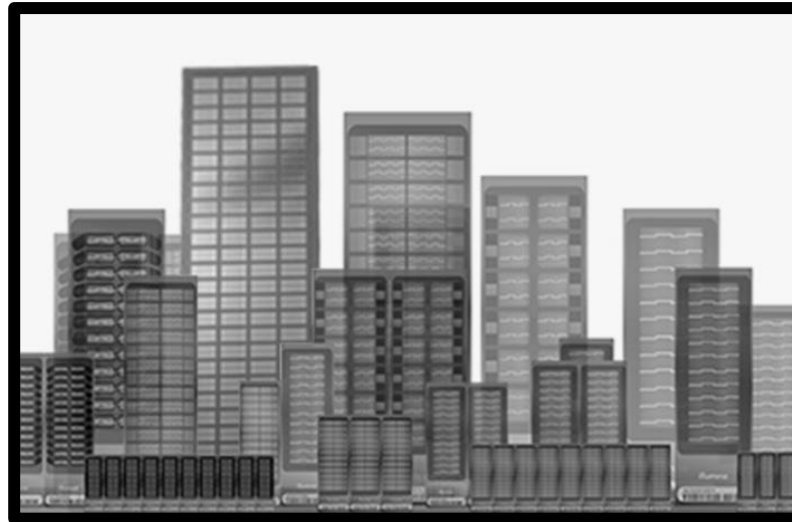
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DNA focused research

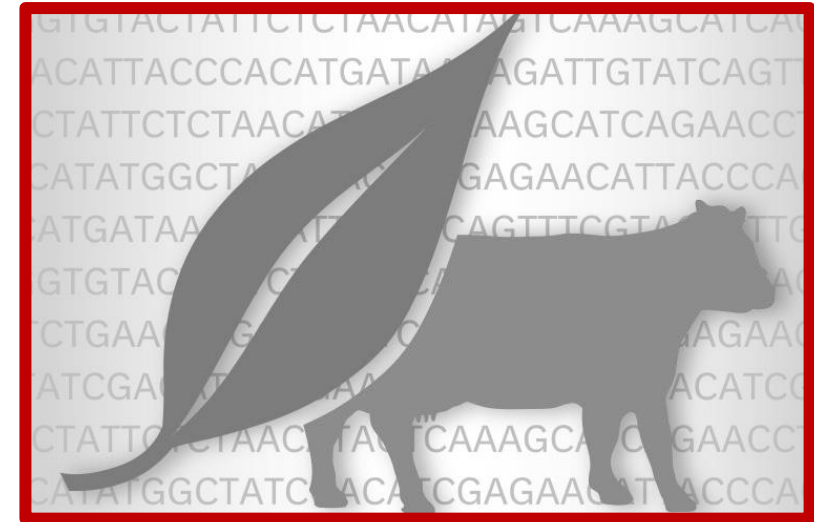
rare (visible/hidden) disorders – heritable (morphological/color) traits



phenotypes



SNP data



WGS data

WGS established as affordable approach

nature

Milestones | 10 February 2021

Milestones in Genomic Sequencing

Genomes go platinum

By Brooke LaFlamme

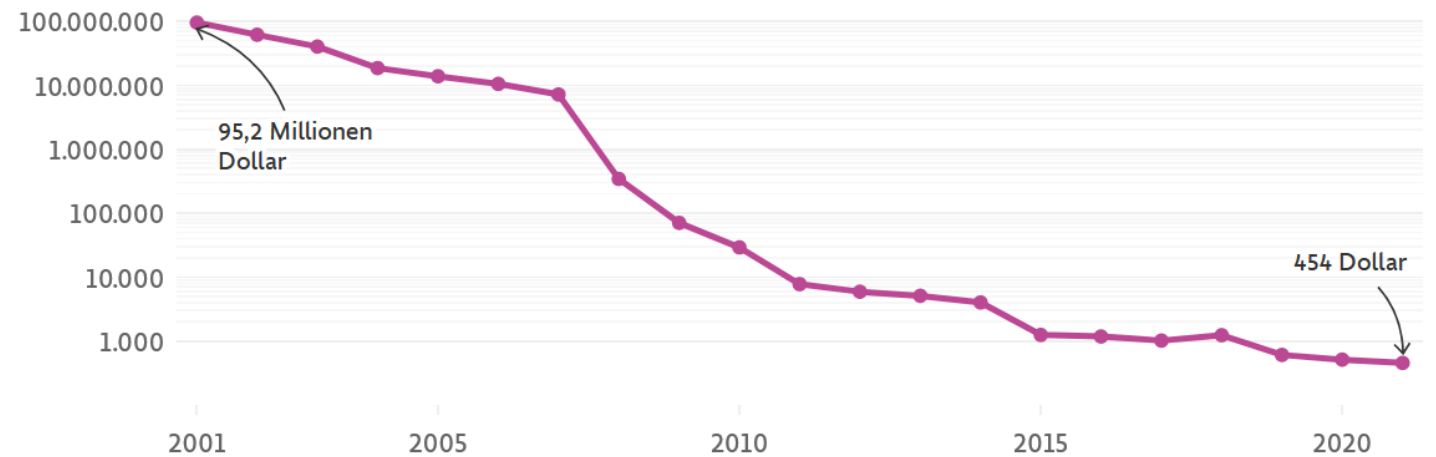


Credit: Ian M Butterfield (Concepts) / Alamy Stock Photo

Sequencing a vertebrate genome had almost become routine by 2017, but, with very few exceptions, assemblies of most diploid genomes remained highly fragmented and incomplete. The domestic goat genome ARS1 created a new standard for de novo assemblies of complex genomes.

3 Milliarden Basenpaare für weniger als 500 Dollar

Kosten für die Sequenzierung eines vollständigen menschlichen Genoms, in Dollar*



*) Daten bis 2021 und nicht inflationsbereinigt

Grafik: omer. / Quelle: Nationales Humangenom-Institut, Our World in Data

<https://www.nature.com/immersive/d42859-020-00099-0/index.html>

UniBE NGSP provides access to the latest technology

Method of the Year 2022: long-read sequencing

Nature Methods 20, 1 (2023) | [Cite this article](#)

34k Accesses | 11 Citations | 835 Altmetric | [Metrics](#)

Long-read sequencing powers a more complete reading of genomic information.



Long reads are a way for many labs to tackle gnarly genome sections such as complex genome rearrangements and the many types of repetitive elements. Credit: T. Phillips, Springer Nature

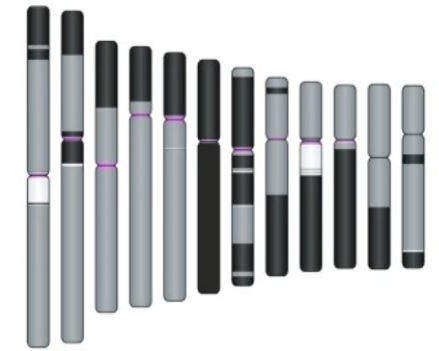


Credit: P. Morgan/Springer Nature Limited

C Telomere-to-telomere chromosome assemblies

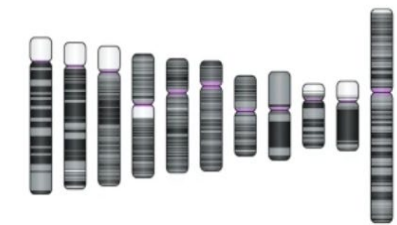
Human Genome Project assembly (2001)

T2T consortium assembly (2019)



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12



13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 X

13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 X

■ Different contigs □ Absent sequences ■ Centromeres

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41576-020-0236-x>

UniBE participates in global efforts



The Bovine Pangenome Consortium

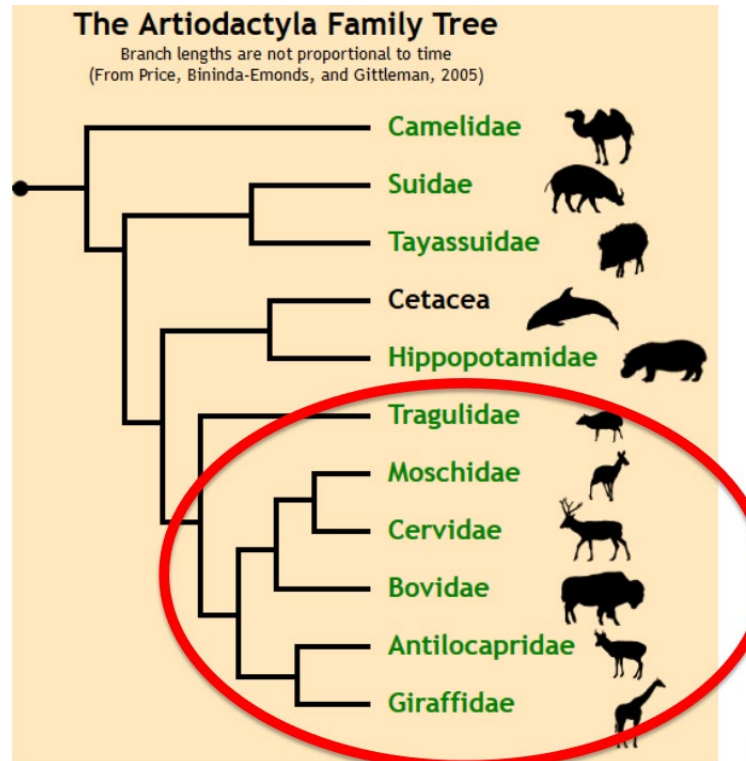
<https://bovinepangenome.github.io/>

The Ruminant T2T Consortium

Tim Smith, USDA – Brenda Murdoch, U. Idaho – Stephanie McKay, U. Missouri

Ben Rosen (ben.rosen@usda.gov)


Animal Genomics and Improvement Laboratory
USDA-ARS, Beltsville, MD



Increasing knowledge on inherited disorders

if we find a new causal variant, it will appear here





OMIA - ONLINE MENDELIAN INHERITANCE IN ANIMALS

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WELCOME TO OMIA


Online Mendelian Inheritance in Animals (OMIA) is a catalogue/compendium of inherited disorders, other (single-locus) traits, and associated genes and variants in 503 animal species (other than [human](#) and [mouse](#) and [rats](#) and [zebrafish](#) and [western clawed frog](#), which have their own resources) co-authored by [Professor Frank Nicholas](#) and [Associate Professor Imke Tammen](#) of the [University of Sydney](#), Australia, with help from [many people](#) over the years. OMIA information is stored in a database that contains textual information and references, as well as links to relevant [PubMed](#) and [Gene](#) records at the NCBI, to [OMIM](#), [Ensembl](#), [Mondo Disease Ontology](#), and the [Vertebrate Breed Ontology \(VBO\)](#).

OMIA is manually curated by a [team](#) of specialists. If you see an error or wish to submit an entry, please [contact us](#).

To join the OMIA Support Group, register at [OMIA Support Group](#).

From 1st September 2011, the OMIA ID is binomial. To better conform to global standards, in March 2023 the binomial format was changed slightly by replacing a space with a colon, i.e. OMIA:xxxxx-yyyy.., where xxxxx is the 6-digit number for a trait/disorder, and yyyy.. is the NCBI species taxonomy id (usually four digits, but sometimes longer).

 OMIA has been a free internet resource for over 25 years, with much of the crucial curation work done on a volunteer basis. Please consider [donating](#) to help pay for maintenance, upgrades and curation time.

 We have recently launched the [Pioneers of Mendelian Inheritance in Animals](#) project (PMIA), an exploration of the history of research into Mendelian inheritance in animals.

Summary

| | dog | taurine cattle | cat | pig | sheep | horse | chicken | rabbit | goat | Other | TOTAL |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-----|----------------|-----|-----|-------|-------|---------|--------|------|-------|-------|
| TOTAL TRAITS/DISORDERS | 923 | 670 | 431 | 383 | 317 | 281 | 256 | 131 | 124 | 1294 | 4913 |
| Mendelian trait/disorder | 418 | 304 | 142 | 138 | 125 | 62 | 137 | 78 | 26 | 397 | 1896 |
| Mendelian trait/disorder; likely causal variant(s) known | 355 | 209 | 110 | 69 | 62 | 49 | 59 | 21 | 18 | 230 | 1200 |
| Likely causal variants | 528 | 273 | 188 | 72 | 93 | 109 | 72 | 20 | 30 | 197 | 1601 |
| Potential models for human traits | 590 | 337 | 273 | 212 | 137 | 153 | 88 | 77 | 56 | 700 | 2671 |


RECENT NEWS

Giraffe with no spots: OMIA entry awaiting results!
Many OMIA users will have seen that the spotless giraffe born on 31 July in Brights Zoo, Tennessee, was yesterday given a name: Kipekee. Imke has created a new entry in OMIA for this phe in giraffes (<https://omia.org/OMIA000200/9894/>). We assume that someone somewhere is already investigating whether there is a likely causal variant for this phe. If there is, we look forward to entering it in OMIA. (posted 7 September 2023)

Reporting likely causal genotypes from sequencing data:
Boeykens et al. (BMC Bioinformatics (2023) 24:305) have created an R-package



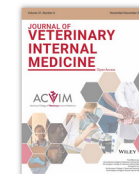
JOURNAL OF
VETERINARY INTERNAL MEDICINE
Open Access

CASE REPORT  





A missense variant in *DGKG* as a recessive functional variant for hepatic fibrinogen storage disease in Wagyu cattle

Joana G. P. Jacinto, Peter Wohlsein, Irene M. Häfliger, Michael Karl, Michael Pohlers, Lutz Plobner, Walter Grünberg, Cord Drögemüller 

First published: 08 September 2023 | <https://doi.org/10.1111/jvim.16865>



Volume 37, Issue 6
November/December 2023
Pages 2631-2637

   
Figures References Related Information

Recommended

Cattle genetics

A successful change has taken place: SWISScow genotyping since 2020



"Züchterische Förderung und Erhaltung der genetischen Variabilität und der Gesundheit des Rätischen Grauviehs"

BLW funded 2022-2025 including massive SNP genotyping

Partner in a collaboration of





WNT10B: A locus increasing risk of brachygnathia inferior in Brown Swiss cattle

Sarah Widmer,^{1,2} Franz R. Seefried,² Irene M. Häfliger,¹ Heidi Signer-Hasler,³ Christine Flury,³ and Cord Drögemüller^{1*}

¹Institute of Genetics, Vetsuisse Faculty, University of Bern, 3012 Bern, Switzerland

²Qualitas AG, 6300 Zug, Switzerland

³School of Agricultural, Forest and Food Sciences, Bern University of Applied Sciences, 3052 Zollikofen, Switzerland



21.5-fold increased risk of brachygnathia inferior in homozygous carriers of the *WNT10B* variant

Table 1. Overview of Brown Swiss study cohorts and genotyping results for the *WNT10B* variant (c.910dupC) in Swiss dairy cattle

| Group | Subgroup 1 | Subgroup 2 ¹ | Quantity | Genotype ² | | | |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------|-----------------------|---------|---------|-------|
| | | | | Ref/ref | Ref/var | Var/var | |
| Controls ³ | SNP data | | 509 | | | | |
| | | With WGS data (sharing ROH) | 10 (1) | | | | |
| Cases ³ | SNP data | | 145 | | | | |
| | | With WGS data (sharing ROH) | 12 (11) | | | | |
| Population | PCR validation | | 81 | 16 | 13 | 52 | |
| | Custom array data ⁴ | | 41,335 | | | | |
| | SWISScow Chip | Brown Swiss | | 16,617 | 7,063 | 7,663 | 1,891 |
| | | Original Braunvieh | | 2,837 | 2,834 | 3 | |
| | | Holstein | | 19,045 | 19,026 | 19 | |
| | | Simmental | | 2,836 | 2,835 | 1 | |
| Imputed genotypes Brown Swiss ⁵ | | 29,498 | | | | | |
| | | Affected ⁶ | 187 | 32 | 37 | 118 | |
| | | Unaffected ⁶ | 29,311 | 16,222 | 10,933 | 2,156 | |

MYH3-associated non-syndromic palatoschisis (cleft palate, CP) in Limousine cattle

Joana G. P. Jacinto, Eliana Schiavon, Irene M. Häfliger, Patrizio Comi, Franz R. Seefried, Cord Drögemüller

First published: 26 March 2023 | <https://doi.org/10.1002/ajpa.25000>

frequency of the variant MYH3 allele in 1167 genotyped LM cattle was 1.5%

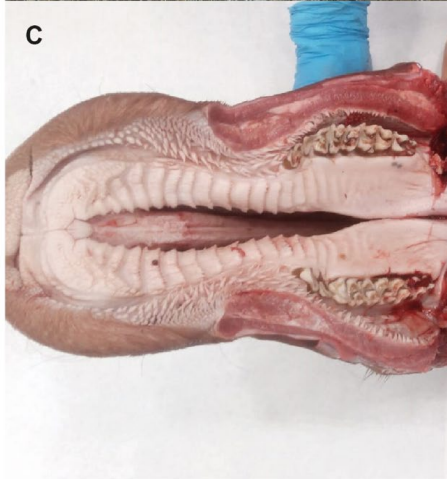


Figure S1. MYH3-associated non-syndromic Affected heifer; note the reduced body size. (C) palate involving both the soft and hard palates

| | MYH3 genotype | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | Homozygous reference (CPF) | Heterozygous carrier (CPC) | Homozygous variant (affected) (CPS) |
| <u>Palatoschisis</u> case from Italy | | | 1 |
| Swiss Limousine population control cohort ^a | 1133 | 34 | |
| Sequenced Limousine cattle ^{a,b} | 115 | 5 | 2 ^c |
| <u>Sequenced control</u> cattle from various breeds ^{a,b} | 5364 | | |
| Total (Limousine) | 6612 (1248) | 39 (39) | 3 (3) |

MOCOS-associated renal syndrome in a Brown Swiss cattleJoana G. P. Jacinto, Leonore Bettina K uchler, Laureen M. Peters, Elke Van der Vekens, Corinne Gurtner, Franz R. Seefried, Mireille Meylan, Cord Dr ogem uller First published: 07 September 2023 | <https://doi.org/10.1111/jvim.16856>

no other homozygotes were observed in > 24k BS and >4k OB cattle

frequency of the variant MOCOS allele: 0.7 % in BS and 0.2 % in OB

TABLE 1. Occurrence of the deleterious MOCOS allele in Swiss dairy cattle.

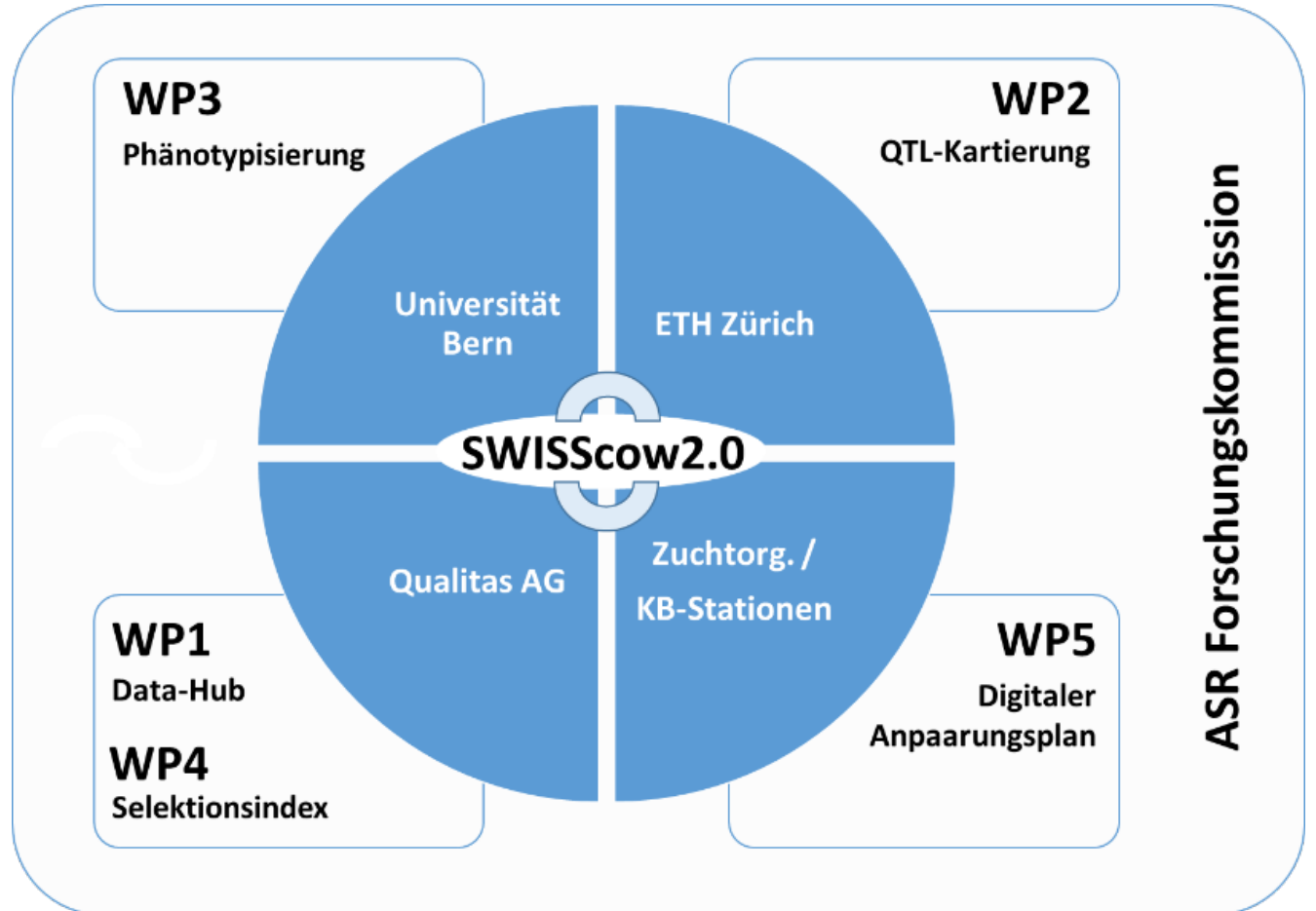
| | MOCOS genotype | |
|--------------------|----------------|------------------|
| | Ref/ref | Ref/var |
| Brown Swiss | 23 995 | 342 ^a |
| Original Braunvieh | 4085 | 19 |
| Grauvieh | 806 | 8 |
| Simmental | 3926 | 0 |
| Swiss Fleckvieh | 4035 | 0 |
| Holstein | 28 227 | 0 |
| Total | 65 074 | 369 |

SWISScow2.0 - an exciting joining of forces

Optimierung von Aufzucht und
Reproduktion unter Berücksichtigung
genetischer Besonderheiten

2022 - 2026

ASR & BLW funded



SWISScow2.0

WP3: Präzise Phänotypisierung und gezielte Sequenzierung genetischer Besonderheiten

BLIRD (Bovine Lymphocyte Intestinal Retention Defect) in Holsteins

frequency of the variant *ITGB7* allele in >90k genotyped Swiss HO cattle is 3.0%

homozygotes for the variant allele (in most cases) show chronic diarrhoea and significant changes in haematological parameters, resulting in a reduced life expectancy

SWISScow2.0

WP3: Präzise Phänotypisierung und gezielte Sequenzierung genetischer Besonderheiten

04.03.2023

KALB DER WOCHE

«Die Druckerfarbe ist ausgegangen»

Ja, da staunt man nicht schlecht, wenn plötzlich ein schneeweisses Kalb hervorguckt», sagt Peter Küng über die Geburt seines Simmentaler-Munis Astor. Das Kalb, das am 9. Januar 2023 zur Welt gekommen ist, ist ein waschechter Albino – etwas, das man nicht alle Tage sieht. «Also ich sehe das täglich, schliesslich steht Astor bei mir im Stall», witzelt Züchter Küng. Seine Simmentaler-Mutterkühe sind allesamt hornlos, das hat er durch das Einkreuzen von Deutschem Fleckvieh erreicht. Astors Mutter Edelweiss ist trotz ihres stolzen Alters noch gut «zwäg»; sie ist 18 Jahre alt und hat in dieser Zeit ebenso viele Kälber geboren, zweimal waren es Zwillinge. «Edelweiss hat jedes Jahr gekalbt, ihre Zwischenkalbezeit beträgt 368 Tage. Bei Astor ist es nun vermutlich so, dass ihr einfach die Druckerfarbe ausgegangen ist», meint Peter Küng und lacht herzlich. Astors Geburt habe Edelweiss etwas mitgenommen, meint er dann, «wie es bei so alten Kühen eben ist». Sie erhole sich aber gut und könne im Sommer wohl mit allen anderen Kühen ganz normal zAlp. «Wir alpen am Nüegg hier im Diemtigtal», erzählt Peter Küng. Auch Astor wird dann mit von der Partie sein. Der Muni wurde bereits kastriert; Küng hofft, dass der kleine Ochse künftig ein waschechtes Hofmaskottchen wird. «Wenn er denn die Sonne erträgt, denn er ist wirklich tauhell. Aber wir sind zuversichtlich und freuen uns über unseren Astor», schliesst Peter Küng und schmunzelt noch immer. lja



Der schneeweisse Albino-Simmentaler Astor ist ein Kalb mit Seltenheitswert.

A novel tyrosinase(TYR)-related form of albinism in Original Simmental

monogenic recessive missense variant detected by WGS in a single case

population prevalence will be assessed with the next version of the SWISScow LD routine array (expected for Q2/2024)

New group member (starting Feb 2024): Joana Jacinto, DVM, PhD, Dip. ECBHM

Habilitationsstelle at Nutztierklinik & Institut für Genetik,
funded by "Faculty Clinical Research Platform"



Hoof health **improvement** through **breeding**





Bovine hoof disease and genetics

Lameness prevalence: small changes between 1989 and 2020

Mean prevalence: at cow-level 23 %



15 %



at herd-level from 0 % to 88 %

81 %

Digital dermatitis (DD)



© Kofler, AUT

$h^2 = 0.1$ to 0.4

White line disease (WL)



© Fjeldaas, NOR

$h^2 = 0.24$ to 0.30

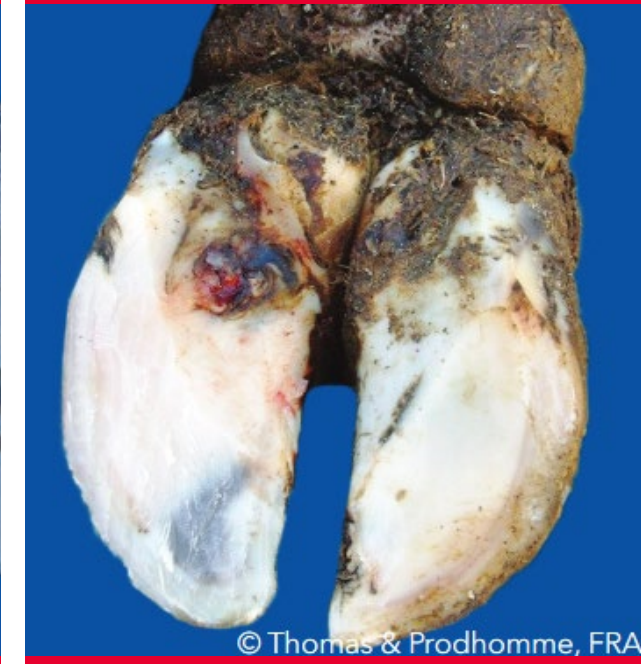
Sole hemorrhage (SH)



© Kofler, AUT

$h^2 = 0.12$ to 0.27

Sole ulcer (SU)



© Thomas & Prodhomme, FRA

$h^2 = 0.1$ to 0.30

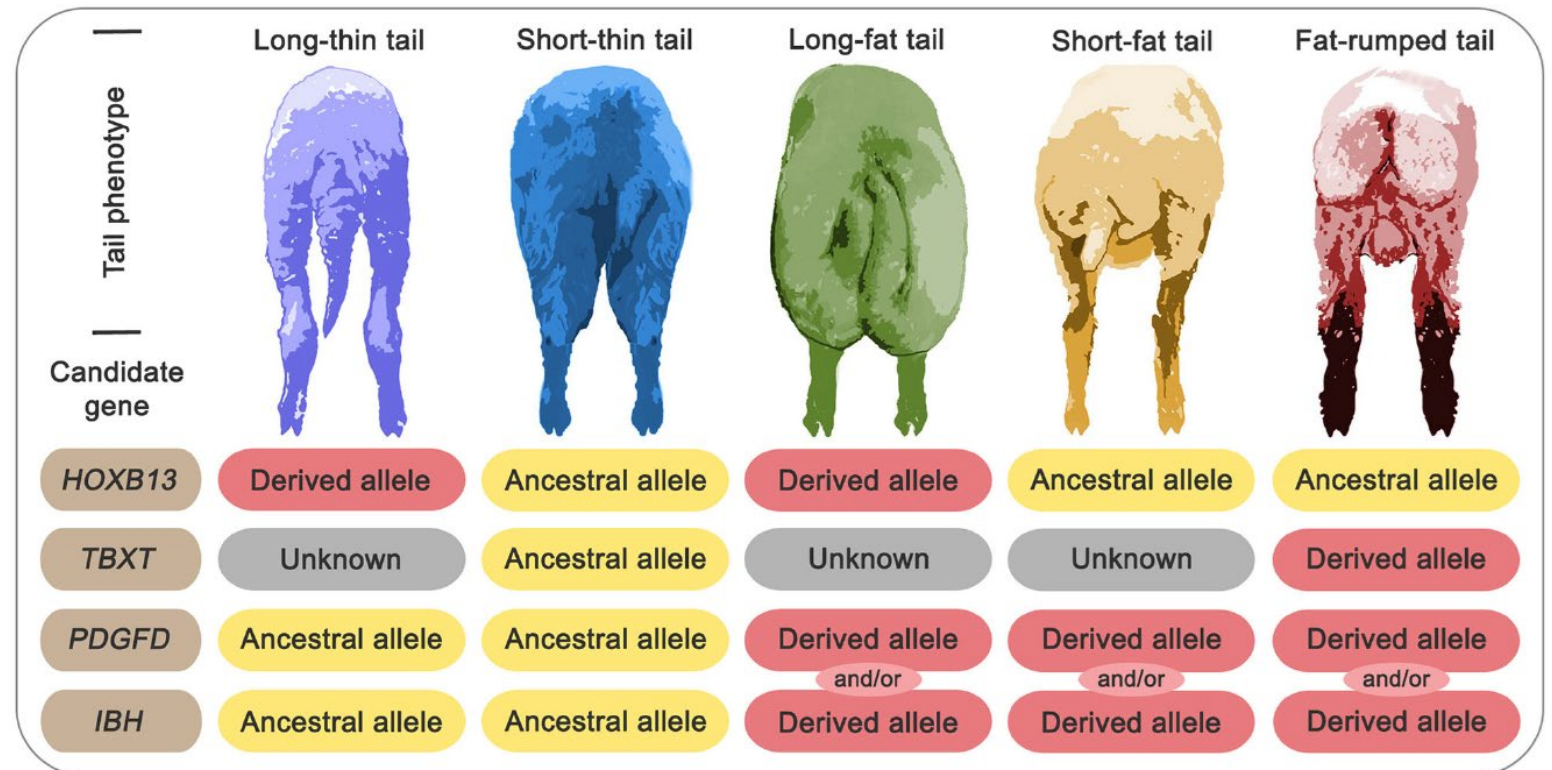
Sheep genetics

Breeding for shorter tails: evaluation of a *HOXB13* variant

Does the ancestral allele occur in Swiss sheep populations?



Fig. 4 Natural tail length variation in Merinolandschaf. Photo of a short-tailed (a) and a long-tailed (b) lamb, both lambs were ~5 weeks old and not docked.



Goat genetics

SNP genotyping of Swiss goats successfully implemented



Eiweissvarianten in der Ziegenmilch: ein Update

Heidi Signer-Hasler / Stefanie Rohn /
Erika Bangerter / Cord Drögemüller









| Alpha-S1-Kasein-Genotypenkategorie Catégorie de génotype de caséine alpha-S1 | Mittelwert Eiweissgehalt Teneur moyenne en protéine | Anzahl Tiere Nombre d'animaux | Mittelwert Eiweisszuchtwert Valeur d'élevage moyenne pour la protéine | Anzahl Tiere Nombre d'animaux |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ++ | 3.20 | 15 | 102 | 17 |
| +- | 3.17 | 47 | 101 | 53 |
| -- | 2.94 | 476 | 92 | 489 |

collaboration with Heidi Signer-Hasler
and Erika Bangerter



Swine genetics

Melanoma in Duroc

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Oberfläche (flach/ erhaben) |  Flach |  Erhaben |  Erhaben |
| Ulzeration/ Blutung (Ja/Nein) |  Nein |  Ja |  Ja |

Sample collection ongoing

GWAS planned

Partner in a collaboration of

Universität Bern | Universität Zürich
vetsuisse-fakultät



Swine genetics

Reducing losses of pigs due to Haemorrhagic Intestinal Syndrome (HIS)

Holenweger et al. *Porcine Health Management* (2023) 9:44
<https://doi.org/10.1186/s40813-023-00340-y>

Porcine Health Management

RESEARCH

Open Access

Housing and management factors and breed predisposition for haemorrhagic bowel syndrome in swine



Fabienne Holenweger¹, Gertraud Schüpbach², Andreas Hofer³, Xaver Sidler⁴ and Alexander Grahofer^{1*}



Partner in a collaboration of

ETH zürich

Universität Bern | Universität Zürich

vetsuisse-fakultät





Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF
CAMELIDS

2024

Camelid genetics

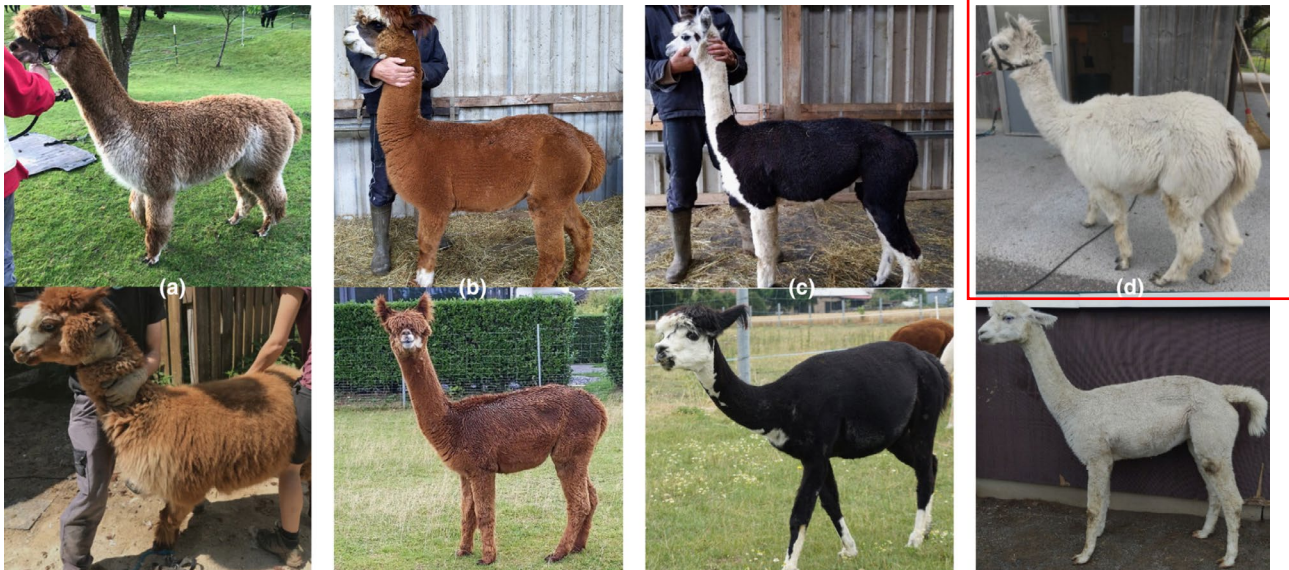


BRIEF REPORT | [Open Access](#) | 

The *KIT:c.376G>A* variant in German and Swiss alpacas (*Vicugna pacos*) with different coat colors

Kirsty Tan, Mia Roy, Eberhard Manz, Henrik Wagner, Patrik Zanolari, Cord Drögemüller, Gesine Lühken 

First published: 24 June 2022 | <https://doi.org/10.1111/age.13231> | Citations: 2



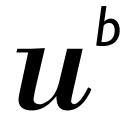
GWAS for blue-eyed white (BEW) planned

absence of the *KIT* c.376 A allele in an alpaca with proven BEW phenotype opens questions

Partner in a collaboration of



Thanks for listening



^b
UNIVERSITÄT
BERN

Cord Drögemüller, Institute of Genetics, Vetsuisse faculty, University of Bern

Swiss Animal Breeding Technology Platform, Zurich, 11th January 2024