



# Innovation in Agricultural Science

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<http://animalscience.ucdavis.edu/animalbiotech>

"Science is not finished  
until it is  
communicated,"

Mark Walport



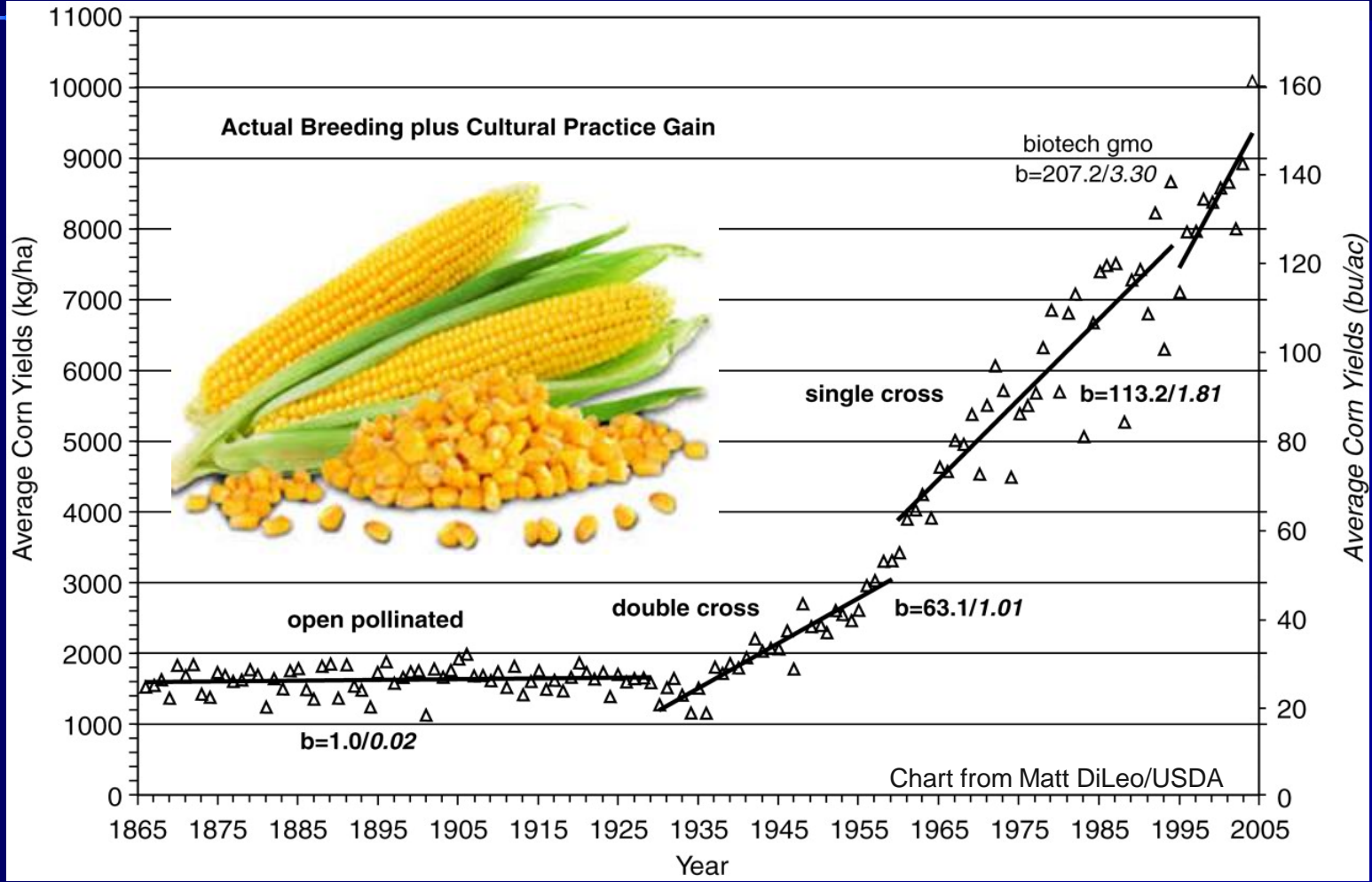
# Animal breeders have made remarkable genetic progress based solely on “conventional” selection







# Plant and animal breeders have perhaps the most compelling sustainability story of all time



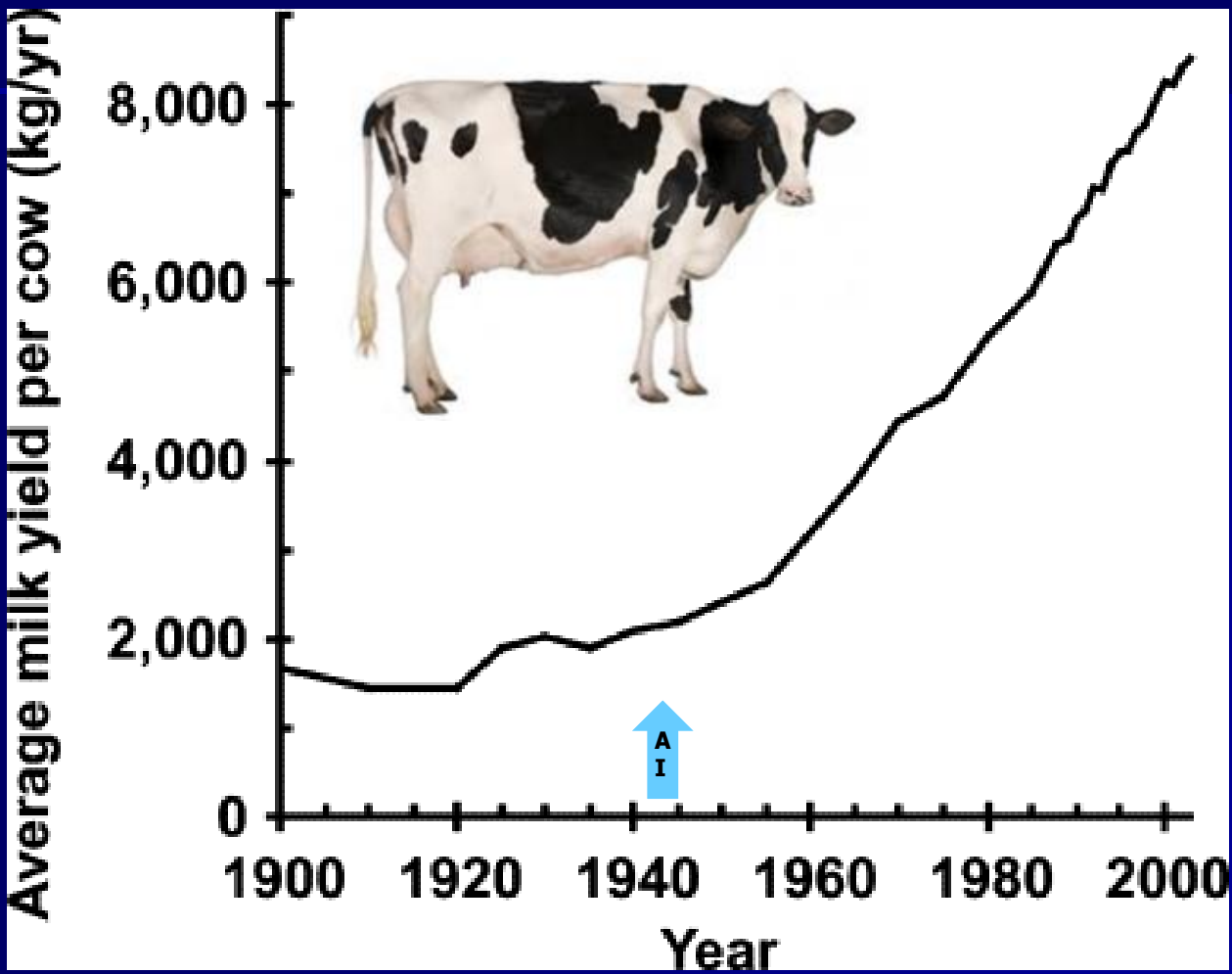
<https://grist.files.wordpress.com/2015/12/corn-hybrid-yields.jpeg>



**1944: 25.6 million animals; total annual milk production of 53.1 billion kg.**  
**1997: 9.2 million animals; total annual milk production of 84.2 billion kg.**



**About half of this 369% increase in production efficiency is attributable to genetic improvement enabled by AI**



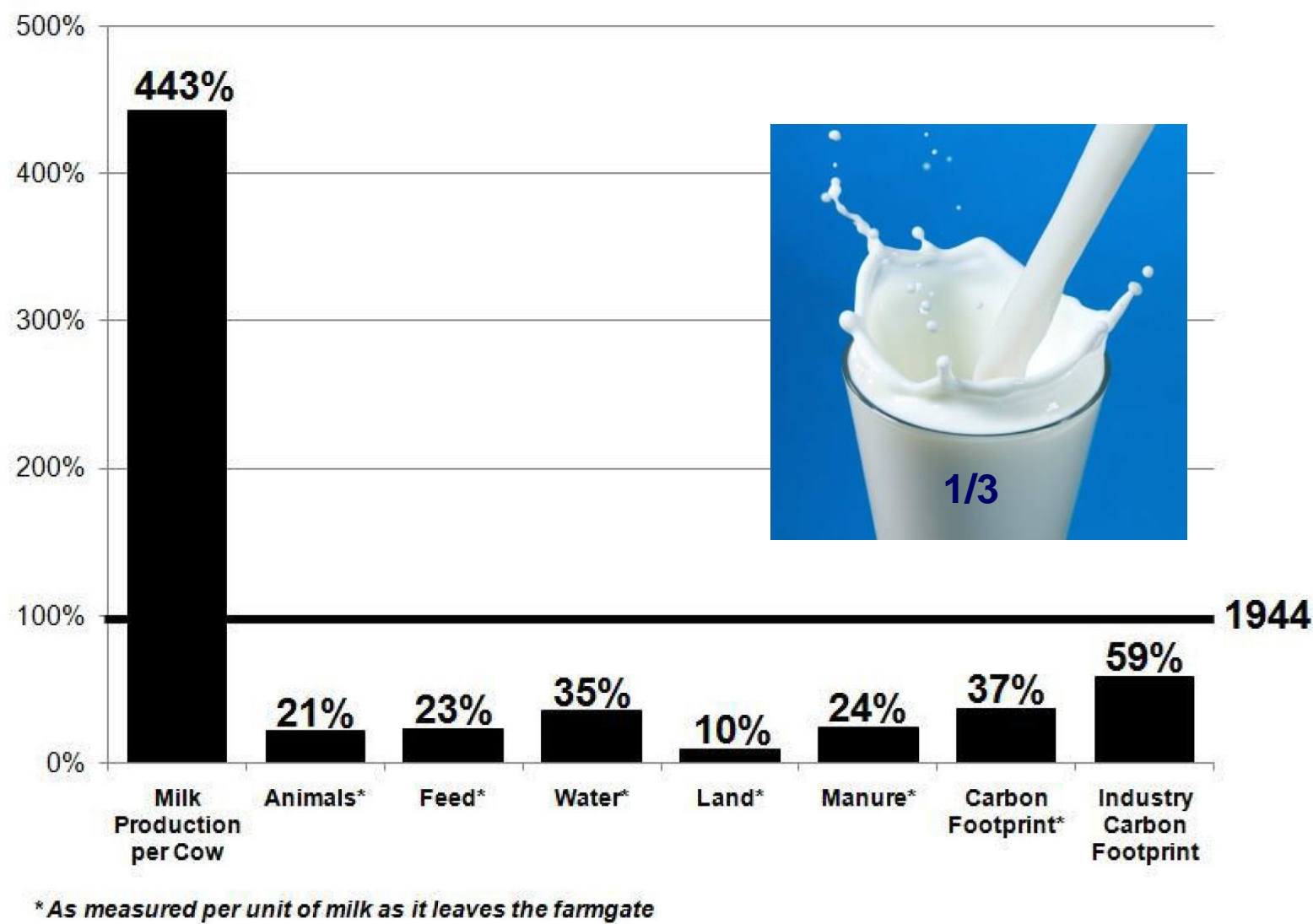
VandeHaar, M.J. and St-Pierre, N. (2006). **Major Advances in Nutrition: Relevance to the Sustainability of the Dairy Industry.** *Journal of Dairy Science* 89, 1280-1291.



# Artificial insemination was initially a controversial technology

*"In the initial stages of attempting to develop AI there were several obstacles. The general public was against research that had anything to do with sex. Associated with this was the fear that AI would lead to abnormalities. Finally, it was difficult to secure funds to support research because influential cattle breeders opposed AI, believing that this would destroy their bull market."*

Foote, R.H. 2002. The history of artificial insemination: Selected notes and notables. J. Anim. Sci., 80 (E. Suppl.) (2002), pp. E22–E32



**Figure 3.** The 2007 U.S. milk production, resource use and emissions expressed as a percentage of the 1944 dairy production system. Adapted from Capper et al. (2009).

Capper, JL and DE Bauman, 2013. The Role of Productivity in Improving the Environmental Sustainability of Ruminant Production Systems. Annual Review of Animal Biosciences. 1 pp. 9.1–9.21





# Concerns around breeding not new

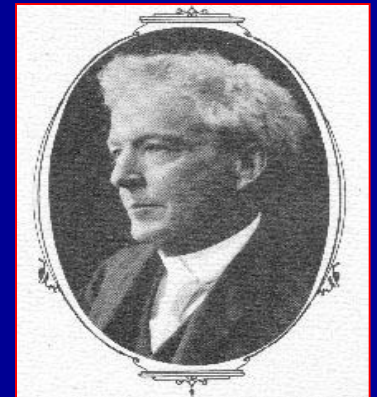
## Who said this? and when?

*"We have recently advanced our knowledge of genetics to the point where we can manipulate life in a way never intended by nature. We must proceed with the utmost caution in the application of this new found knowledge."*

**LUTHER BURBANK**

**Creator of over 800 new plant varieties through plant breeding**

**1906**





The 8-week old body weight of broiler (meat) chickens has increased from 0.81 kg to 3.14 kg over the period 1957 to 2001, and approximately 80% of this four-fold increase has been the result of genetic selection.

## 1957 vs. 2001 chickens

1957



2001



43

57

71

85 d.

Havenstein, G., et al. (2003). **Growth, livability, and feed conversion of 1957 versus 2001 broilers when fed representative 1957 and 2001 broiler diets.** *Poultry Science* 82, 1500-1508.





# POPULATION

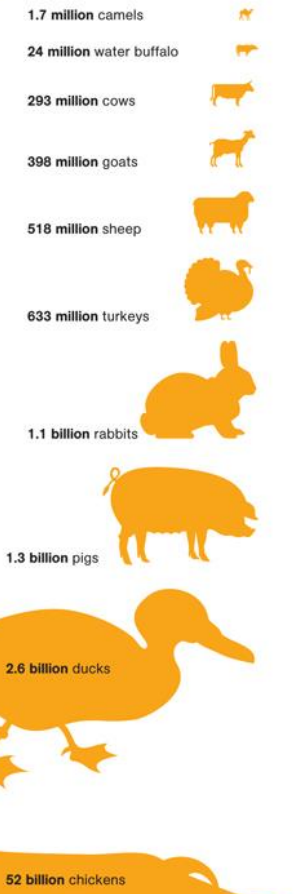
## Food for Thought

There will soon be seven billion humans on Earth, but how does that number compare to other species on the planet? We are certainly outnumbered by ants. Harvard biologist and ant expert Edward O. Wilson has estimated that there are a thousand trillion to ten thousand trillion ants at any one time.\* That would be about a million ants for every one of us. And doesn't it seem like that when they invade our kitchens?

Estimating animal populations, especially wild ones, is hard, but here's a look at one category of animals we can count: the ones we eat. —Nigel Holmes

**SEVEN BILLION**

## # animals killed for food 2009



\*And they're edible. Ants are a good source of protein and are considered a delicacy in many parts of the world.








# What if we had not genetically improved our food animals?

1.3 billion pigs

2.6 billion ducks

52 billion chickens

- 59 million tons eggs
- 90 million tons meat

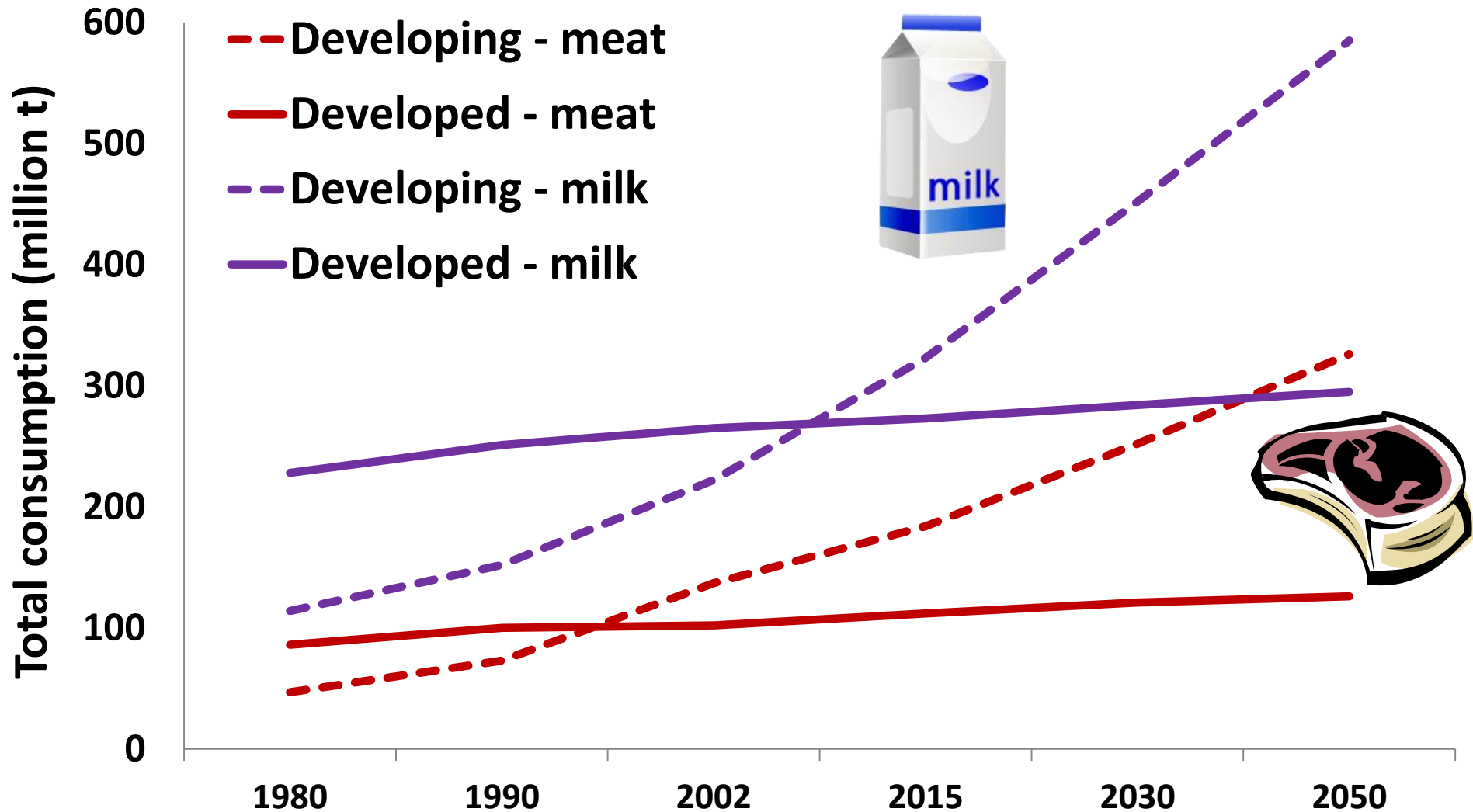
	<b>2014 total production</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>Amount needed at 1950s rate</b>	<b>Additional needed</b>
Soybeans 	3,927,090,000 BU (235,562,540,000 lb) (106,849,370,802 kg)	82,591,000 Acres (33,423,392 ha)	180,971,889 Acres (73,236,725 ha)	~ <b>98 million Acres</b>  (~40 million ha)
Corn 	14,215,532,000 BU (796,069,979,000 lb) (361,091,268,460 kg)	83,136,000 Acres (33,643,946 ha)	372,134,346 Acres (150,597,427 ha)	~ <b>289 million Acres</b>  (~120 million ha)
Dairy cattle 	206,046,000,000 lbs milk (93,460,893,469 kg)	9,257,166 head	38,774,181 head	~ <b>30 million head</b> 
Broilers 	51,373,100,000 lbs meat (23,302,446,000 kg)	8,544,100,000 head	16,679,545,455 head	~ <b>8 billion head</b> + an additional <b>81.5 billion lbs</b> feed due to less efficient FCR





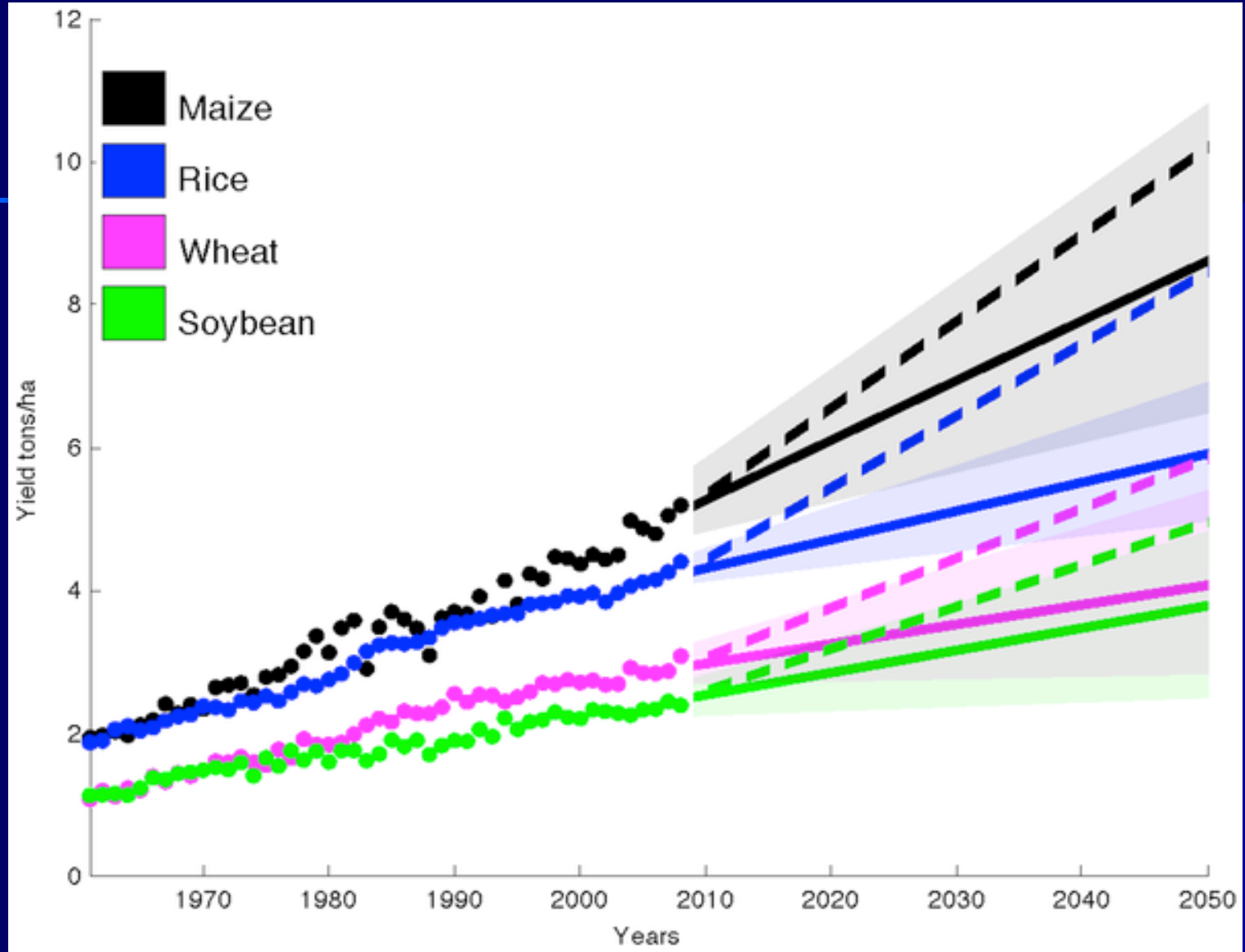
# Past and projected trends in consumption of meat and milk in developing and developed countries

(Thornton, P.K. 2010 Livestock production: recent trends, future prospects. Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences 365:2853-2867).





# Yield Trends Are Insufficient to Double Global Crop Production by 2050



Ray DK, Mueller ND, West PC, Foley JA (2013) Yield Trends Are Insufficient to Double Global Crop Production by 2050. PLoS ONE 8(6): e66428. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0066428 <http://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=info:doi/10.1371/journal.pone.0066428>

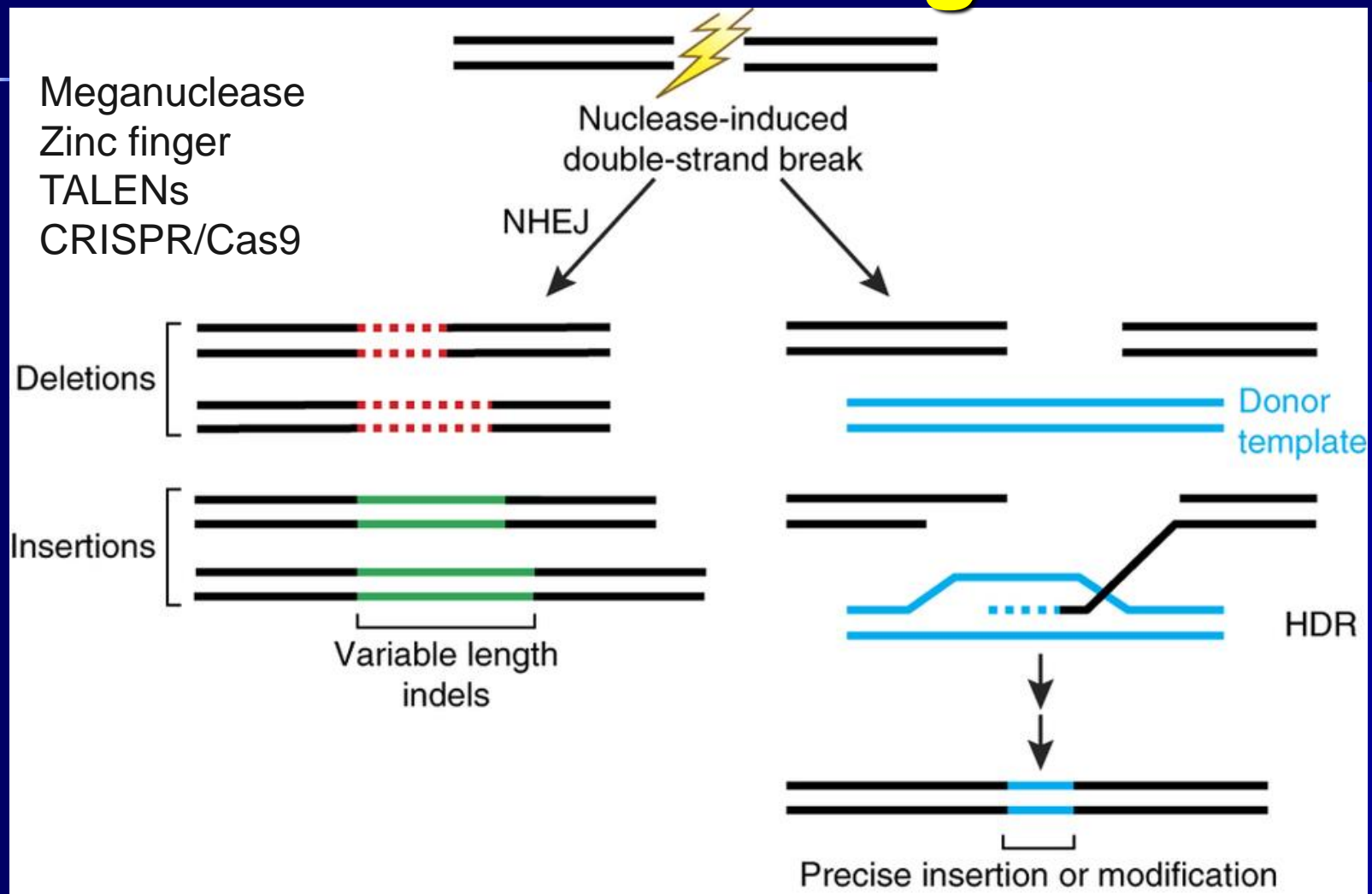
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Animal Genomics and Biotechnology Education



# Gene or Genome Editing

## What are we talking about?



Sander JD, Joung JK. CRISPR-Cas systems for editing, regulating and targeting genomes. *Nat Biotech* 2014;32:347-355.

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Animal Biotechnology and Genomics Education





# How might gene editing be used in animal breeding?



Species	Target	Targeted Trait/Goal	
<b>Cattle</b>	<b>POLLED allele from beef cows into dairy cows</b>	<b>No horns</b>	
	Myostatin gene knockout	30% increased muscle yield	
	Beta-lactoglobulin gene knockout	Elimination of milk allergen	
	Insertion of lysostaphin transgene	Disease resistance	
	Insertion of lysozyme transgene	Disease resistance	
	Insertion of SP110 transgene	Resistance to tuberculosis	
<b>Chicken</b>	Ovalbumin gene knockout	Elimination of ovalbumin in egg	
	Insertion of Immunoglobulin heavy chain locus	Germline gene editing	
<b>Goat</b>	Myostatin gene knockout Prion protein gene knockout Beta-lactoglobulin gene knockout	Increased muscle growth Elimination of prion protein Elimination of milk allergen	
	<b>Pig</b>	<b>CD163 gene knockout</b>	<b>PRRS Virus Resistance</b>
		Interspecies RELA allele substitution	African Swine Fever Resistance
<b>Sheep</b>	Myostatin gene knockout	Increased muscle yield	
	Myostatin gene knockout	Increased muscle yield	

Van Eenennaam, A. L. 2017. **Genetic Modification of Food Animals.** Current Opinion in Biotechnology. 44:27-34.



# The Telegraph

Home Video News World Sport **Finance** Comment Culture Travel Life Women Fa  
Companies Comment Personal Finance ISAs Economy Markets Property Enterprise F



When we work as one,  
the insight to achieve t  
athenahealth

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## Genus breeds first pigs resistant to major infection

The genetically-enhanced porkers are a "potential game-changer" for the industry

27 0 14 41 Email



Genus helps farmers breed high quality livestock by supplying them with semen from genetically superior animals Photo: EPA



- African Swine Fever
- Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRSV) virus

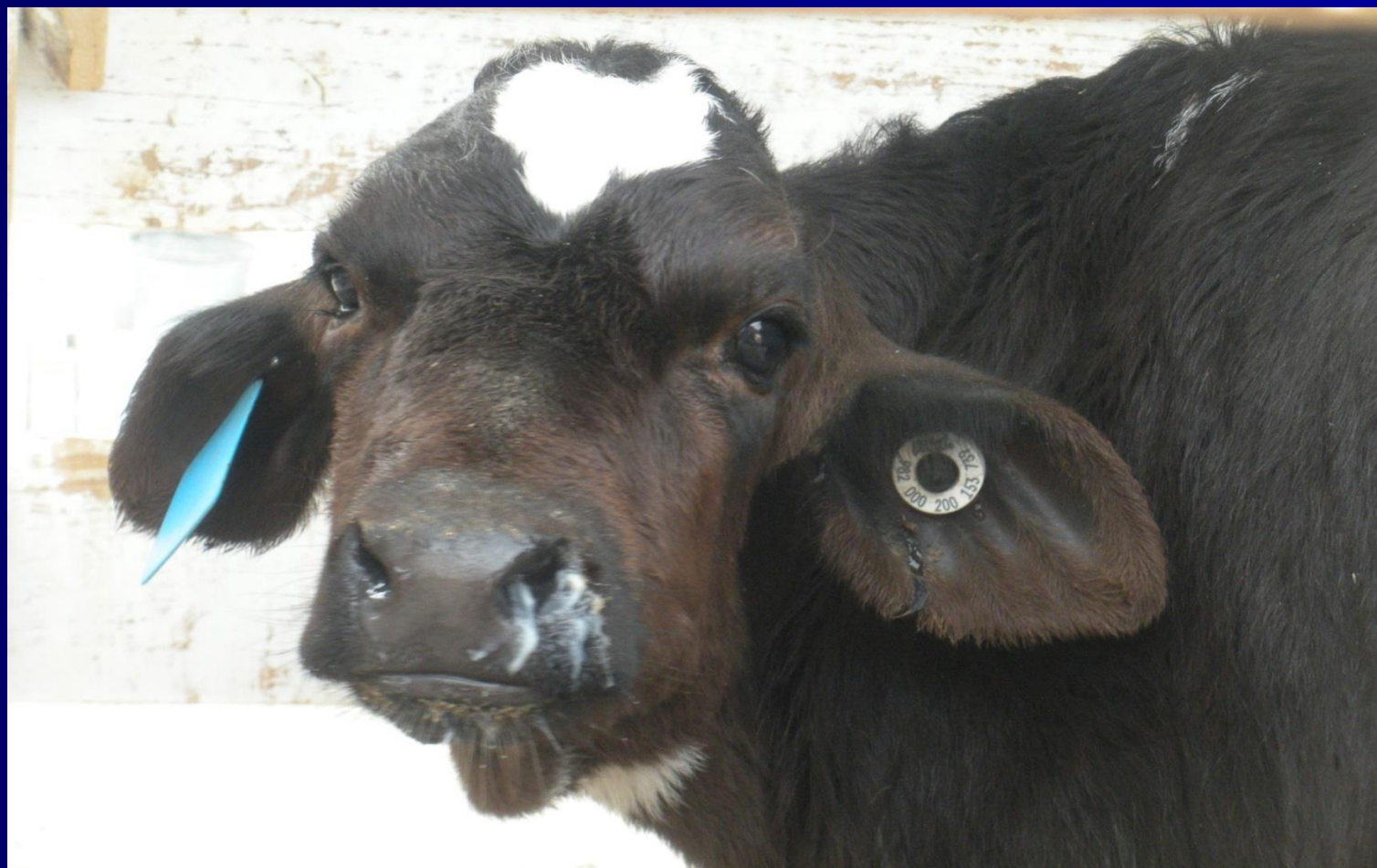
Lillico et al. 2016. **Mammalian interspecies substitution of immune modulatory alleles by genome editing.** Sci Rep 6:21645.

Whitworth et al. 2016. **Gene-edited pigs are protected from porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome virus (PRRSV).** Nature Biotechnology 34:20-22.





# Genetic improvement (permanent, cumulative) as a solution to animal disease rather than antibiotics/chemicals





# Gene Edited Polled Calves

Intraspecies allele substitution at polled locus



Carlson DF, Lancto CA, Zang B, Kim E-S, Walton M, et al. 2016. **Production of hornless dairy cattle from genome-edited cell lines.** Nat Biotech 34: 479-81

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Qks\\_LMmodw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Qks_LMmodw)



**Will breeders  
be able to use  
gene  
editing  
or will it go  
the way of  
genetic  
engineering  
(GE) aka GMOs?**





# GMOs

5 DANGERS + THE AUTISM/ALLERGY CONNECTION



**400% increase**  
in allergies since GMOs were introduced.



Coalition Powered by Green America  
**GMO INSIDE!**

#SimilacNoGMO



Will **Roundup** rob him of someday having babies of his own?

Gerber uses RoundUp Ready GMOs in its Good Starts for American babies. But a new study published in the journal *Free Radical Medicine & Biology* implicates Roundup in male infertility at concentration levels well within the EPA's "safe levels" for food.

**That's NOT a Good Start, Gerber!**

One New Apple Product Your Family Doesn't Need.

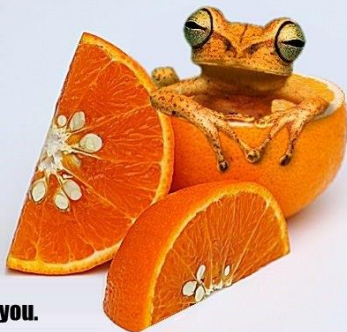


Just say "know" to genetically engineered apples.



Orange Juice May Soon Contain Pig Genes

Genetically Modified Oranges gene spliced with Frogs



Coming soon to a grocery store near you.

Pro-GMO organizations argue that in a world where food is scarce, they are helping to feed the hungry. Feeding people untested lab modified food (GMOs) is like one giant science experiment gone bad! You can feed rice mixed with a little rat poison to a starving African child each day and claim, "I am feeding this child!" The ability to stave off starvation does not counteract the poisonous side-effects!

homecuresthatwork.com

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**GMO FOOD IS DANGEROUS!**



United Nations Photo







# Name the technological innovation

*"It is unknown what long term health consequences may unfold. The studies are not adequate. Furthermore, this will likely not be available or cost effective for small farmers, it will decrease product acceptance and consumption."*

*Quote from the introduction of the  
Pasteurized Milk Ordinance*

*1924*

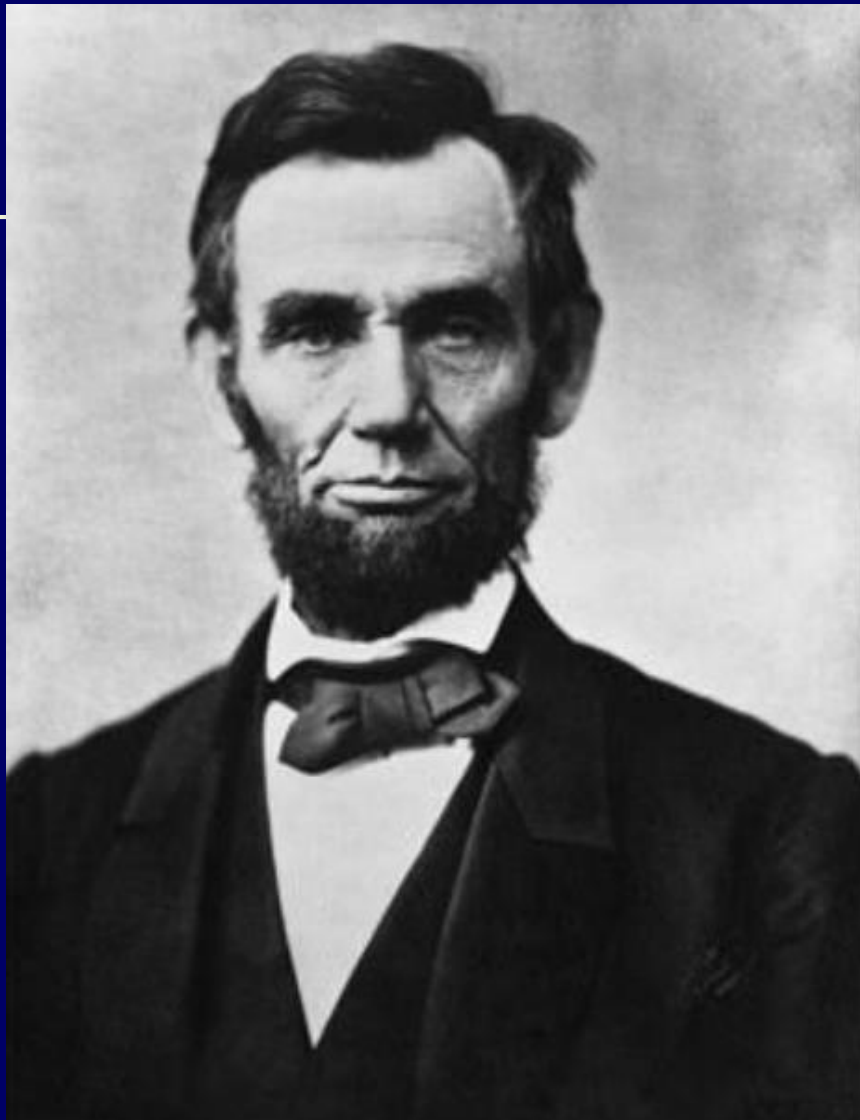




# There is a special place in hell reserved for the pandering marketers that developed these misleading “absence” labels



Gluten Free  
Non-GMO  
Water



**“Don’t believe everything you read on the Internet just because there’s a picture with a quote next to it.”**

**—Abraham Lincoln**

<http://weknowmemes.com/2012/07/dont-believe-everything-you-read-on-the-internet>





In 2016 185.1 million hectares of GE crops were planted by ~18 million farmers in 26 countries. ~110-fold increase since 1996. GE is the fastest adopted crop technology in the history of modern agriculture.



FIGURE 1. GLOBAL AREA OF BIOTECH CROPS, 1996 TO 2016 (MILLION HECTARES).

Source: ISAAA, 2016

Source: Clive James, 2016 ISAAA Brief Pocket K No. 16: Biotech Crop Highlights in 2016





# Why is this important? Because GE has facilitated huge reduction in environmental footprint of ag production



*“The adoption of GE insect resistant and herbicide tolerant technology has **reduced GLOBAL pesticide spraying by 618.7 million kg (~8.1%)** and, as a result, decreased the environmental impact associated with (less toxic) herbicide and insecticide use on these crops by 18.6%. The technology has also facilitated important **cuts in fuel use and tillage changes**, resulting in a significant reduction in the release of greenhouse gas emissions from the GE cropping area. In 2015, this was equivalent to **removing 11.9 million cars from the roads.**”*

Graham Brookes & Peter Barfoot (2017): Environmental impacts of genetically modified (GM) crop use 1996–2015: Impacts on pesticide use and carbon emissions.

GM Crops & Food, DOI: 10.1080/21645698.2017.1309490





# Food Evolution – foodevolutionmovie.com

## Showing TONIGHT, 9 pm Salon 2 & 3



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# Approved commercially-available Genetically Engineered (GE) food animals in the United States





# Genetically engineered fast growing AquAdvantage salmon – founder fish produced in 1989 – still not for US sale



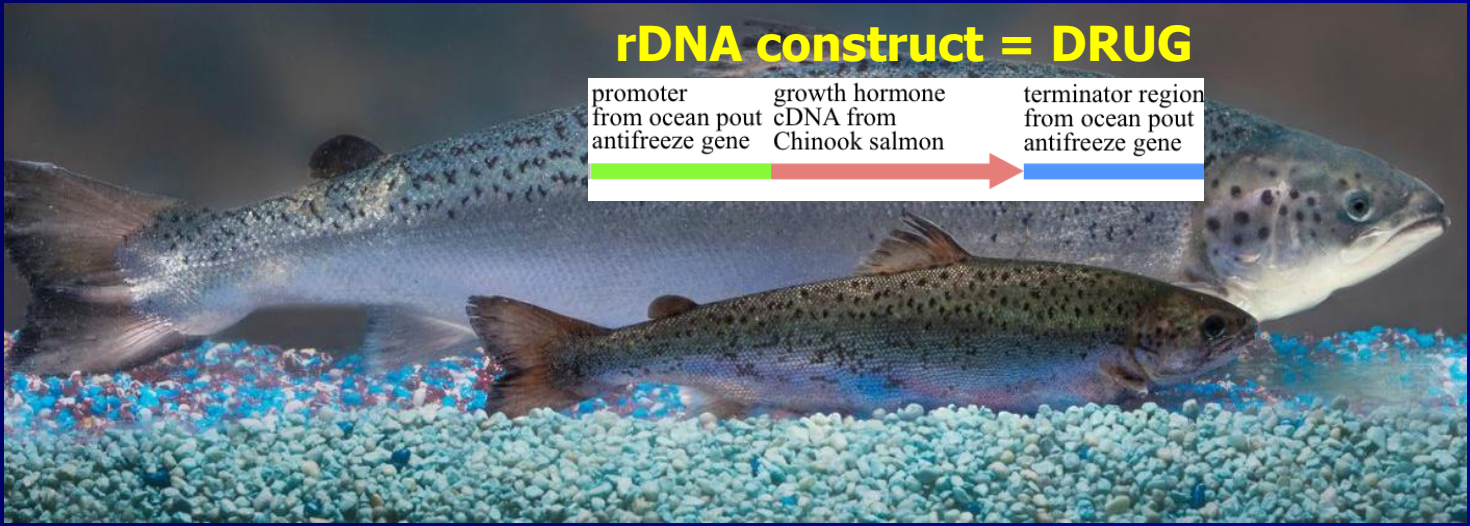
AquAdvantage salmon: Transgenic and conventional sibling at the same age

**Approved by FDA on November 19, 2015**



# The Food and Drug administration mandatory premarket evaluation of GE animals as new animal drugs

The Food and Drug Administration's Center for Veterinary Medicine evaluates GE animals under the new animal drug provisions of the Federal Food Drug and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA). The act defines drugs as "articles (other than food) intended to affect the structure or any function of the body of man or other animals." **The rDNA construct in the resulting GE animal is thus a regulated article that meets the drug definition**; the GE animal itself is not a drug.





# January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017 FDA draft guidance considers all animals whose genomes have been “altered intentionally” using modern molecular techniques to be drugs



Image by Aleksandra Domanović and Spencer Lowell

<http://www.fda.gov/downloads/AnimalVeterinary/GuidanceComplianceEnforcement/GuidanceforIndustry/UCM113903.pdf>

# Are Gene Edited Horn-less calves a drug?

Naturally-occurring bovine DNA sequence at Polled locus  
What is the "new animal drug" in this case?



I am not a  
drug

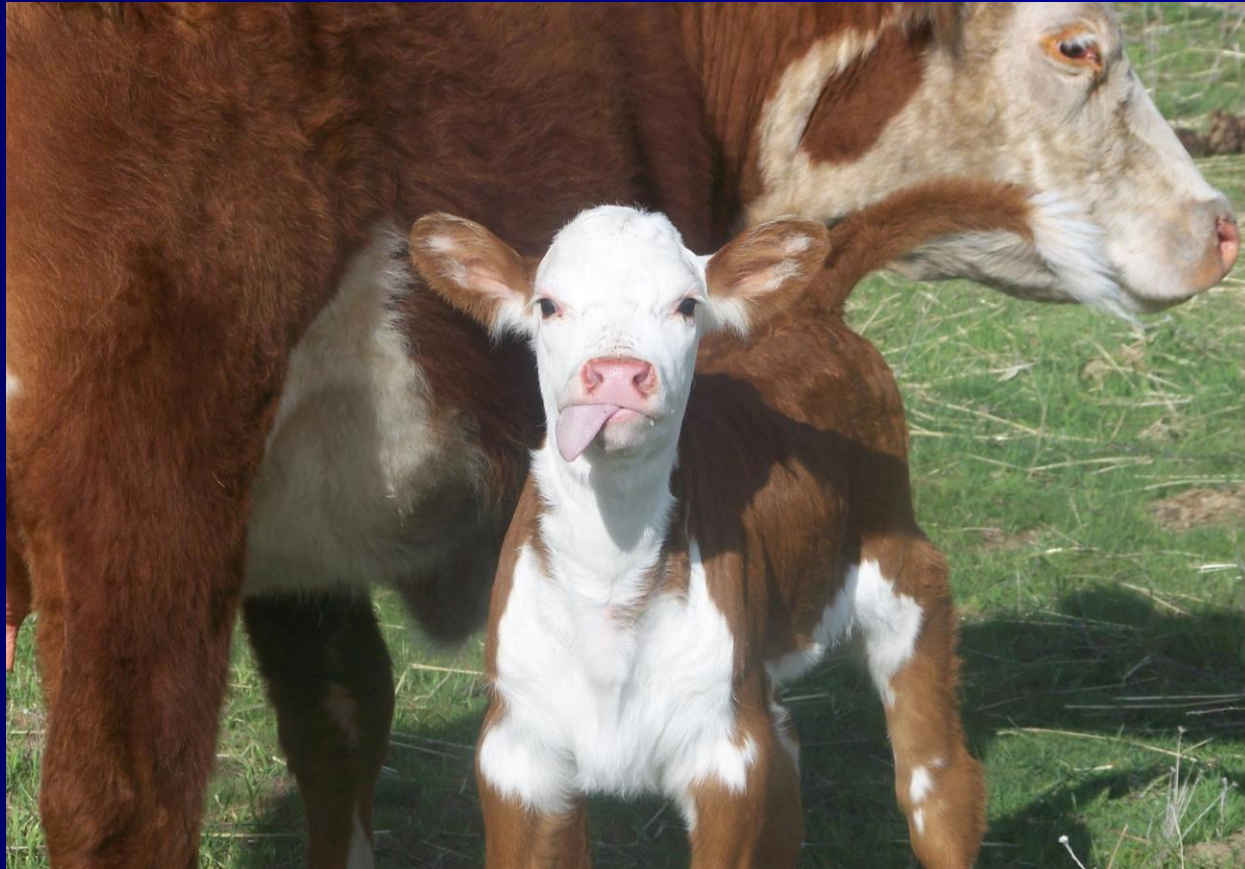
Animals were 20X sequenced to look for off target mutations and none were found - only the intended edit (where the polled allele replaced the horned allele) mapped to within 10 bp of any of the identified degenerate targets supporting the high specificity of TALENs for this locus.







# Does it really make sense to regulate polled dairy calves differently to polled (hornless) beef calves?



Carroll D, Van Eenennaam AL, Taylor JF, Seger J, Voytas DF. 2016. **Regulate genome-edited products, not genome editing itself.** *Nat Biotech* 34: 477-9 [rdcu.be/hUVn](http://rdcu.be/hUVn)



A. Van Eenennaam  
Laboratory

Prior Authorization and  
Training Required Before Using  
Any Equipment In This Lab





# Thanks for inviting me!

## UC DAVIS ANIMAL SCIENCE

My laboratory receives public funding support from the National Institute of Food and Agriculture and the Biotechnology Risk Assessment Grant (BRAG) program, U.S. Department of Agriculture, under award numbers 2011-68004-30367, 2013-68004-20364, 2015-67015-23316, 2015-33522-24106 and 2017-33522-27097.



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