QTL detection for traits of interest for the dairy goat industry

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This presentation focuses on the first QTL detection in dairy goats with the recent released international 50k goat chip

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QTL design and international goat chip



QTL detection methods



Some important QTL results

The EU "3SR" and French "PhénoFinLait" programs permit the development of a large French QTL design

Daughter QTL design

✓ 2 breeds ; 170 herds
✓ ≈ 115 daughters/sire
✓ 2 246 phenotyped and genotyped females





- Production (Milk, PC, PY, FC, FY, LSCS)
- Morphology (11 traits)
- Fatty acids: 20 individuals or groups in 2 units (/100g milk fat; /100g milk)

BLUP genetic evaluation

Yield deviations performances adjusted for fixed effects

49 663 SNP of the Illumina goat beadchip validated by the marker quality control

Marker quality control

Illumina goat chip : 53 347 SNPs
Mapped on 29 chromosomes

53 347 SNP

Call frequency (< 0.99)	1 964
Hardy Weinberg (5%)	532
Minor allele frequency (<1%)	1 337

→ 49 663 SNP (3 684 SNP removed)

Linkage analyses and linkage desequilibrium were applied on yield deviations of 57 traits

Linkage Analysis (LA)

interval mapping
within-sire linear regression
(Elsen et al., 1999)

Linkage Desequilibrium (LD)

 haplotypes of 4 consecutive SNP
regression analysis of the phenotypes on founders' haplotypes
(Legarra et Fernando 2009)

Likelihood Ratio Test : LRT=2[log(L1)-log(L0)]

L1= likelihood under H1 (QTL effect) L0= likelihood under H0 (no QTL effect)

→ Chromosome- and genome-wise significance thresholds

Permutation tests

Simulation tests

Bonferroni correction : p_{exp}=1-(1-p_{value})ⁿ

n=(18 independent traits*29 chromosomes)

QTLmap software

2 QTL of major effect were found in regions of Caseins and DGAT1



LD ✓ Confidence interval of 200Kb

Important QTL cluster of 15Mb for different production and morphology traits on CHI19



✓ Traits : heart girth, FY, PY, udder floor position, MY, Rear udder attachement, Udder profil, Teat length, LSCS

- QTL substitution effect from 0.36 to 0.53
- 2/3 significant families

Orthology with LSCS QTL on OAR11 in ovine

LA

FA QTLs seemed to be breed-specific in both units



In summary, many regions of the genome controlling traits of interest in dairy goat were detected with some evidence of major genes for protein and fat yield

✓ 1st QTL results in dairy goats with the 50K SNP beadchip

✓ Lots of QTL detected

Known region and new regions of interest

Apparent breed specificities

On going researches: -Fine mapping and characterisation of DGAT1





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