

DEPARTMENT OF

**ANIMAL & AVIAN SCIENCES**



UNIVERSITY OF  
MARYLAND

*College of Agriculture and Natural Resources*

# Engineering Welfare Traits in livestock

Bhanu Telugu

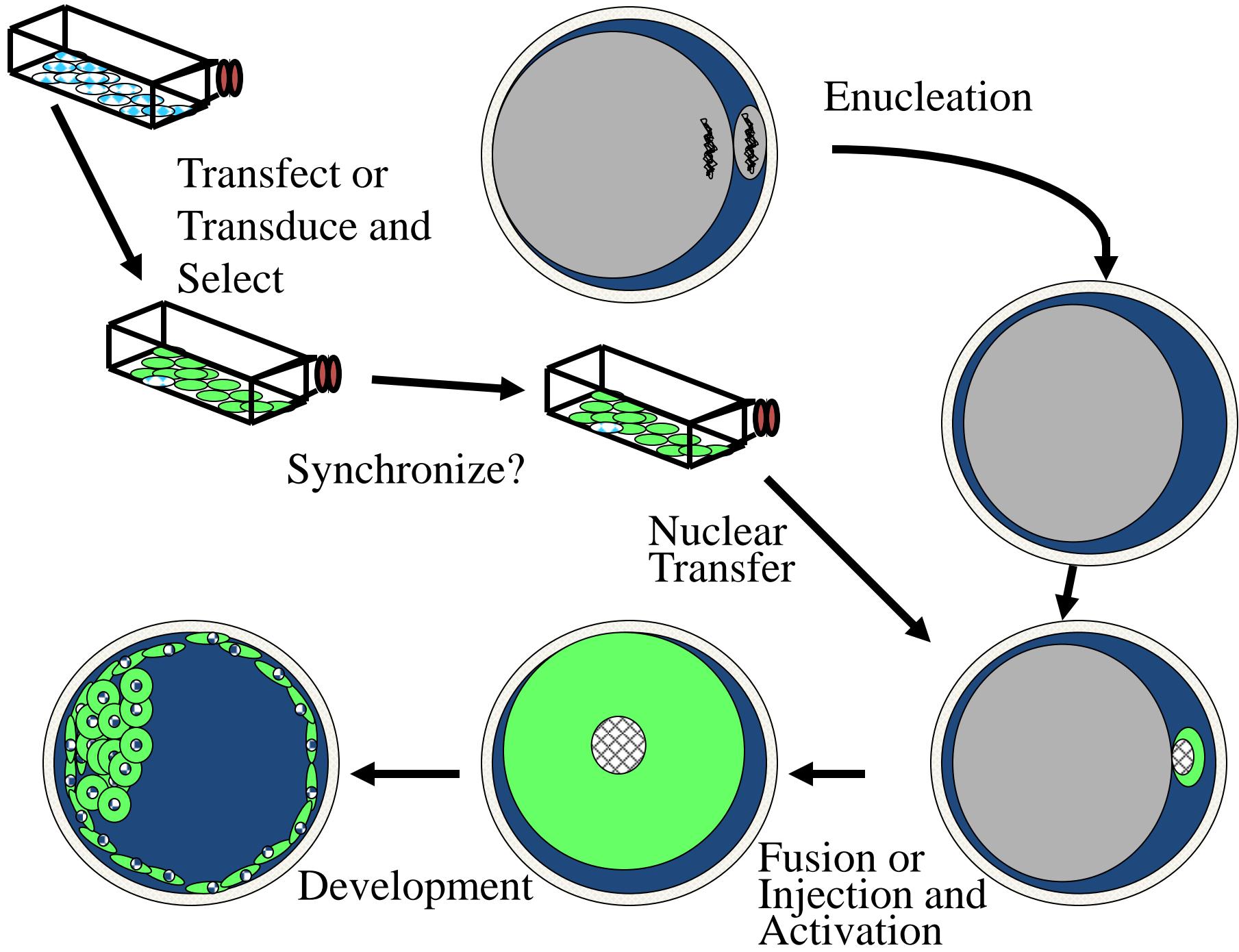


# Canonical problem

## (length of pregnancy)

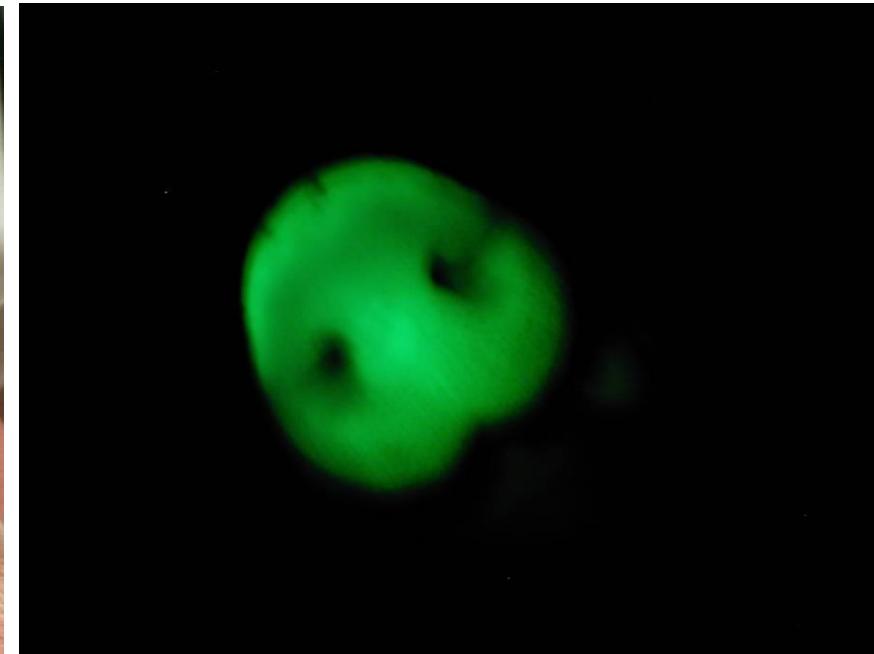
| Species      | Gestation Length                         |
|--------------|--|
| Mouse        | 21 days                                  |
| Rabbit       | 1 mo                                     |
| Bitch, Queen | 63 days                                  |
| Sow          | 3 mos, 3 wks, 3 days (3.8 mos; 114 days) |
| Ewe, Doe     | 5 mos (145 days)                         |
| Cow          | 9 mos                                    |
| Mare         | 11 mos                                   |

**Somatic cell nuclear transfer (SCNT)/  
cloning is the most popular approach**



# SCNT as a means for generating GE pigs

---

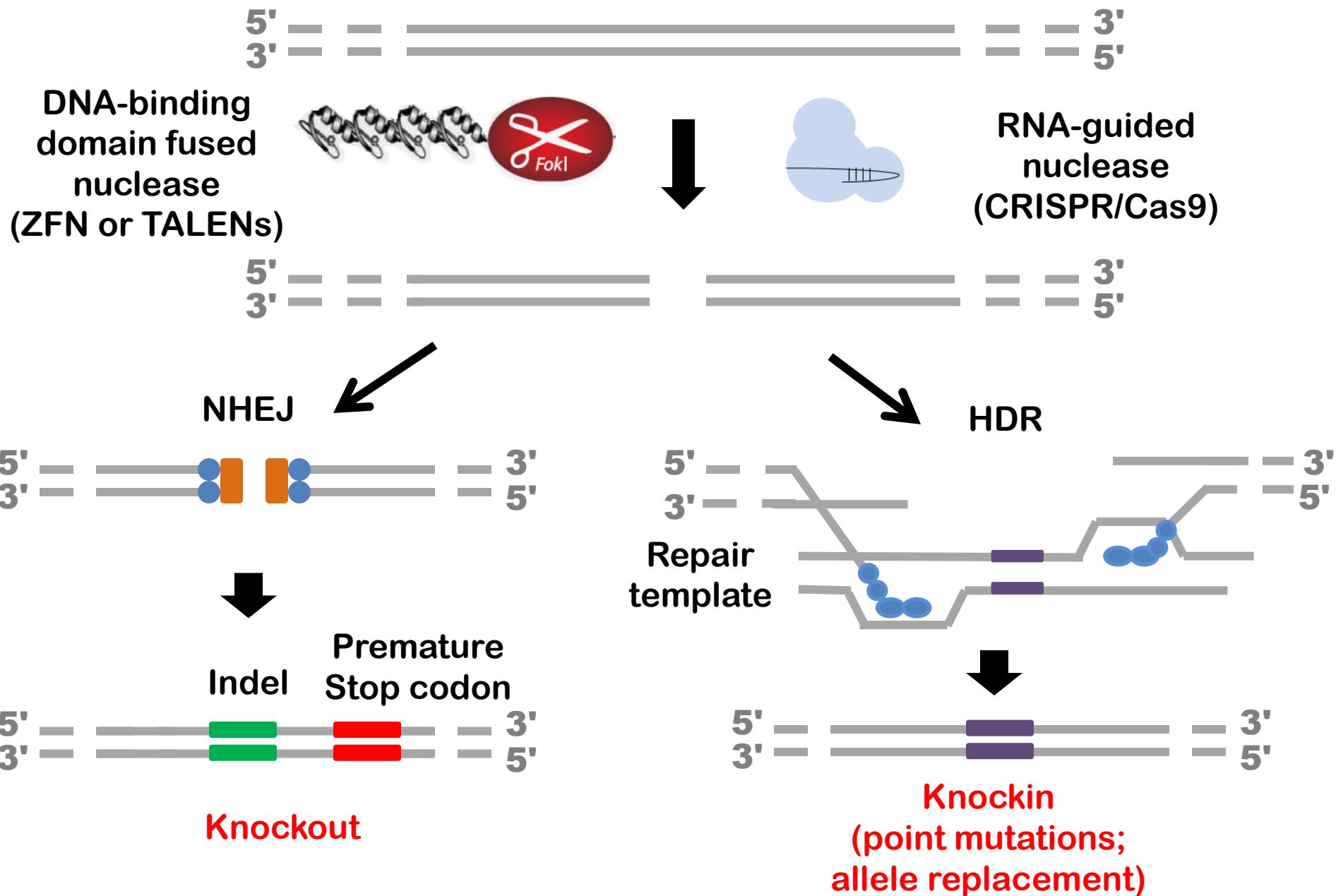


Courtesy: NSRRC, University of Missouri

# Genome editing in the CRISPR era



CRISPR era



# **Introducing site specific modifications**

## **Project: Eliminating boar taint**

# Boar taint

---

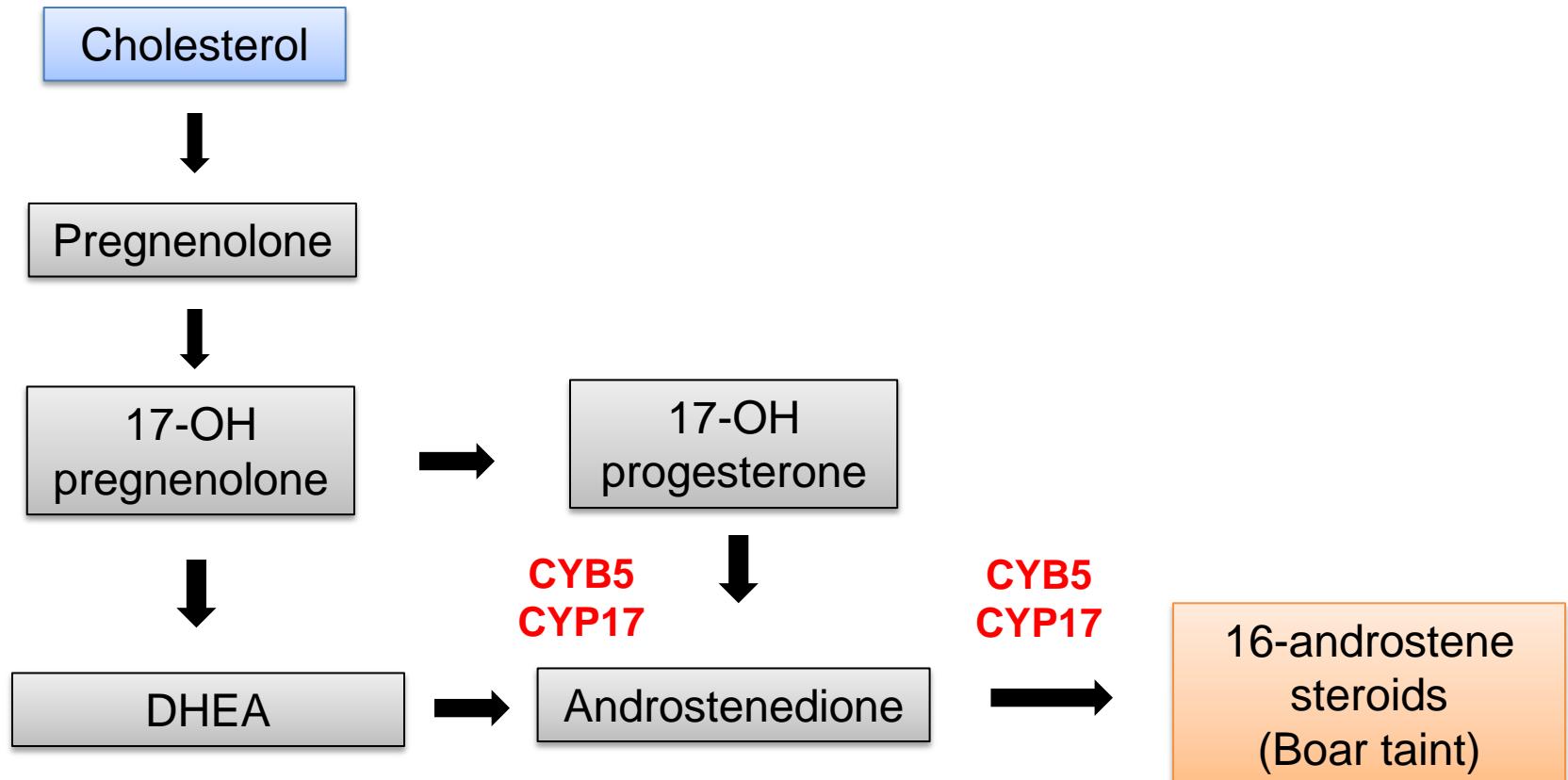
- Boar taint is an offensive off order and taste found in uncastrated male pigs.
- The major compounds responsible for boar tainted pork are **androstenedione** and skatole, and both compounds are accumulated in fat.
- The only effective method of eliminating boar taint is 1) by castration of male pigs, (2) pre-pubertal slaughter, and/or (3) administration of the boar taint vaccine Improvac (Pfizer).

# QTL analysis

---

- A rare polymorphism in the porcine **CYB5** gene just upstream of the translational start site results in **decreased** production of CYB5 and decreased synthesis of androstenone (Peacock et al., 2008).
- A **CYB5** knockout mouse model has a dramatically low levels of testicular androgens (McLaughlin et al., 2010). Therefore, totaling eliminating the expression of CYB5 is not an option.

# Boar taint etiology



# Comparative genomics

---

## Steroid binding pocket of CYB5A

1

11

21

31

41

|            |            |            |                             |            |            |
|------------|------------|------------|-----------------------------|------------|------------|
| Rat CYB5   | MAEQSDKDVK | YYTLEEIQKH | <b>K</b> DSKSTW <b>V</b> IL | HHKVYDLTKF | LEEHPGGEEV |
| human CYB5 | MAEQSDEAVK | YYTLEEIQKH | <b>N</b> HSKSTW <b>L</b> IL | HHKVYDLTKF | LEEHPGGEEV |
| pig CYB5   | MAEQSDKAVK | YYTLEEIQKH | <b>NN</b> SKSTW <b>L</b> IL | HHKVYDLTKF | LEEHPGGEEV |

## Steroid binding pocket of CYP17A1

80

90

100

110

120

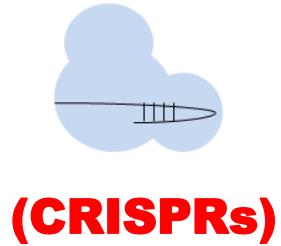
|       |            |            |  |                     |                                    |
|-------|------------|------------|--|---------------------|------------------------------------|
| Human | QLAKEVLIKK | GKDFSGRPQM | A <b>T</b> <b>L</b> DIAS <b>S</b> NNR  | K <b>GIAFAD</b> SGA | HWQL                               |
| Pig   | QLAKEVLLKK | GKEFSGRPRV | M <b>T</b> <b>L</b> DIL <b>S</b> DNQ   | K <b>GIAFAD</b> HGT | SWQL                               |
| Rat   | QLAREVLIKK | GKEFSGRPQM | V <b>T</b> <u><b>Q</b></u> <u><b>S</b></u> <u><b>L</b></u> <u><b>S</b></u> <u><b>D</b></u> <u><b>Q</b></u> | K <b>GVAFAD</b> AGS | SW <u><b>H</b></u> <u><b>L</b></u> |

# In vitro mutagenesis screen

## CYB5 mutations with CYP17

## 16A/DHEA

| mutations  | 17OHP        | DHEA         | 16A          | ratio        |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| R52M +L102Q  | 1.174        | 0.699        | 0.607        | 1.032        |
| R52M +I112V  | 1.257        | 0.566        | 0.282        | 0.567        |
| R52M +L102Q/I112V  | 1.500        | 1.162        | 0.750        | 0.282        |
| R52M/D103S   | 1.282        | 0.761        | 0.457        | 0.600        |
| R52M/S106A   | 1.484        | 0.529        | 0.616        | 1.167        |
| R52M/NQ108QG   | 1.176        | 0.861        | 0.563        | 0.653        |
| N62S + D103S   | 0.897        | 1.166        | 0.912        | 0.787        |
| N62S + 104L  | 0.904        | 1.317        | 1.760        | 1.484        |
| N62S + S106D   | 1.252        | 0.071        | 0.399        | 2.042        |
| N62S +L102Q/I112V  | 1.032        | 0.963        | 0.748        | 0.765        |
| <b>R52M+N62S/D103S</b>                                   | <b>1.195</b> | <b>0.827</b> | <b>0.534</b> | <b>0.645</b> |
| R52M+N62S/S106A  | 1.437        | 0.546        | 0.799        | 1.462        |
| R52M+N62S/NQ108QG  | 1.130        | 0.877        | 0.771        | 0.881        |
| R52M+N62S + L102Q/D103S/I112V                            | 1.130        | 0.839        | 0.333        | 0.426        |
| R52M/G57R/N62S/T70S +<br>L102Q/D103S/I104L/NQ108QG/I112V | 1.536        | 0.257        | 0.503        | 1.979        |
| G57R + D103S   | 0.950        | 1.085        | 0.905        | 0.836        |
| G57R + NQ108QG   | 0.833        | 1.255        | 1.231        | 0.983        |
| T70S + D103S   | 0.947        | 1.087        | 0.937        | 0.863        |
| T70S + NQ108QG   | 0.855        | 1.221        | 1.201        | 1.180        |
| N21K + D103S   | 1.132        | 0.835        | 0.490        | 0.585        |
| L28V + D103S   | 1.068        | 0.924        | 0.643        | 0.693        |
| N21K/L28V + D103S  | 1.110        | 0.867        | 0.588        | 0.677        |

**A**

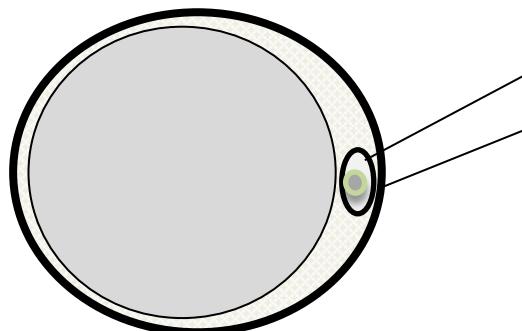
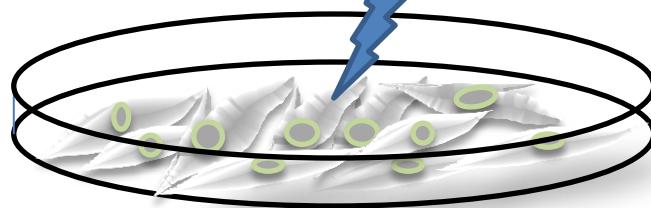
**Somatic cell nuclear transfer**



**(single stranded DNA)**  
**(OR)**



**(double stranded DNA)**

**B**

**Genome edited animal**

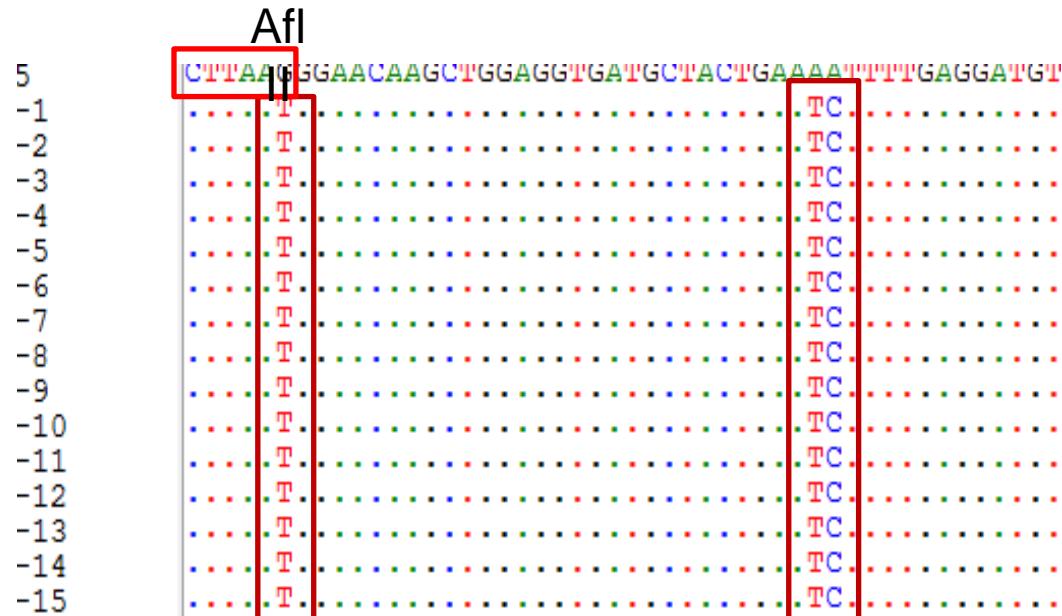
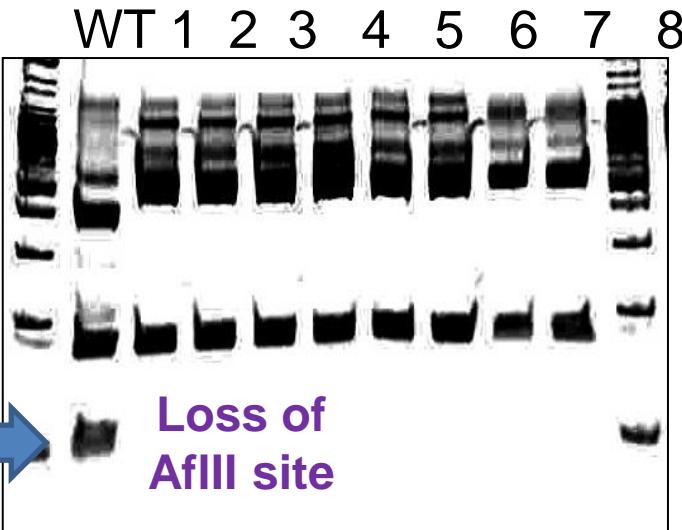


# Rationale for Genome editing

## 2) Gene modification- altering SNPs/QTNs

Targeting results in the loss  
of AfIII site

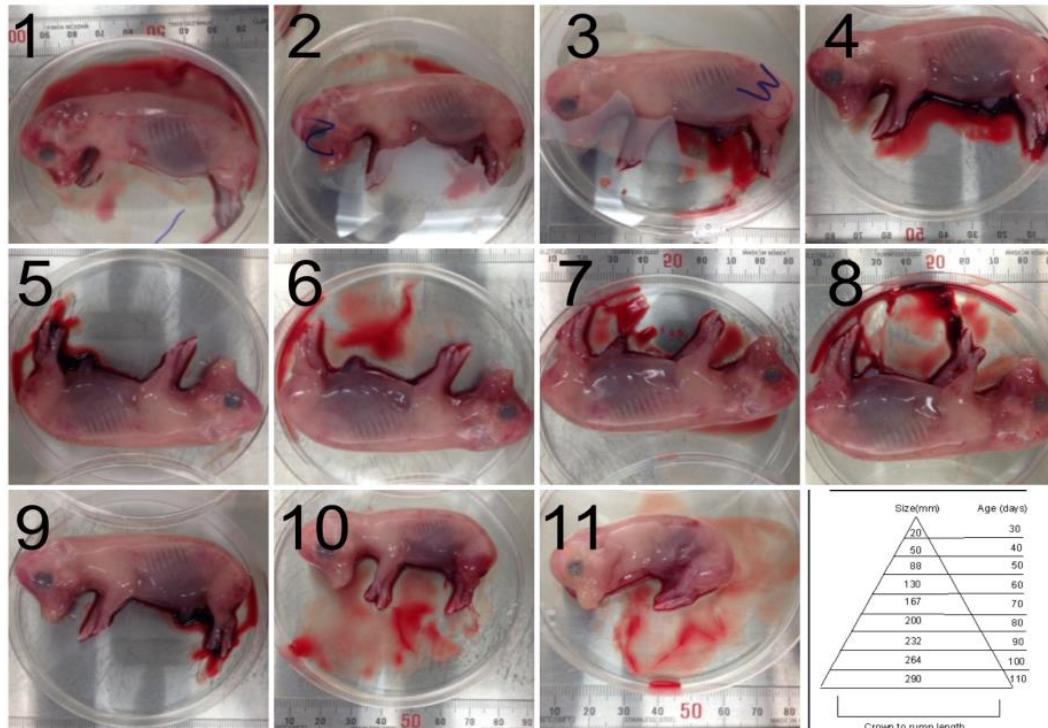
|       |           |  |           |
|-------|-----------|--|-----------|
| Query | 481       | CCAACAGCATCCTGGTGGGAAGAAGTCTTAATGGAAACAAGCTGGAGGTGATGCTACTGA | 540       |
| Sbjct | 165928001 | CCAACAGCATCCTGGTGGGAAGAAGTCTTAAGGGAAACAAGCTGGAGGTGATGCTACTGA | 165928060 |
| Query | 541       | ATCTTTGAGGATGTTGGACACTCCACAGATGCTCGAGAGTTGTCCAAAACGTTCATCAT  | 600       |
| Sbjct | 165928061 | AAATTGGAGGATGTTGGACACTCCACAGATGCTCGAGAGTTGTCCAAAACGTTCATCAT  | 165928120 |



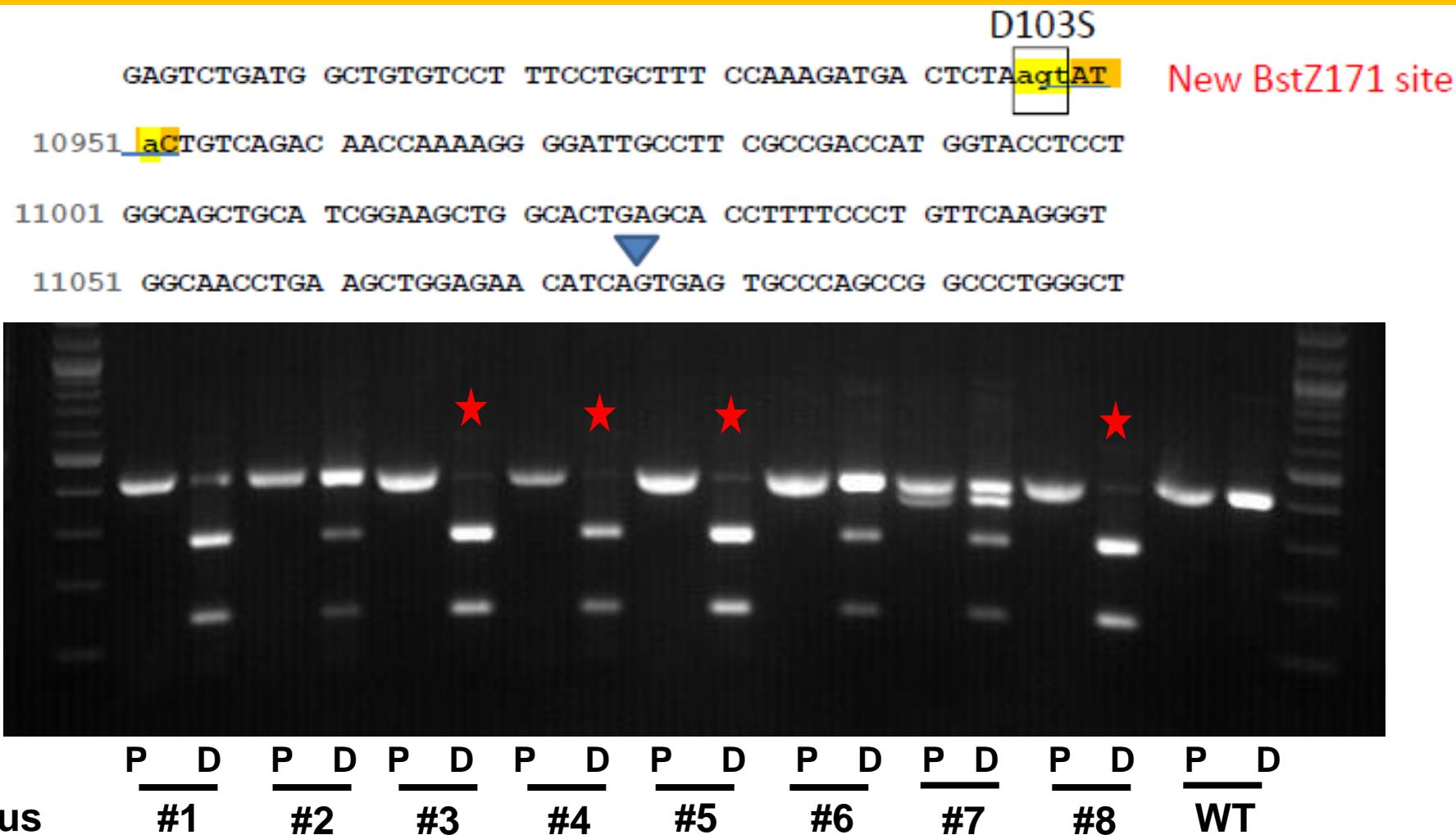
# Efficiency of generating genetically engineered pigs by SCNT and CRISPR/Cas9 system

| Cell sources | No. recipients | No. pregnancy | No. delivered | No. piglets (fetuses) |
|--------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| KI-CYP17a1   | 1              | 1/1 (100)     | -             | (11)                  |

\* Cloning efficiency that was obtained by total no. fetus / total no. transferred embryos



# Screening of CYP17A1 targeted fetuses by BstZ17I digestion



P: PCR product

D: Digest with BstZ17I

# Boar taint project Summary

---

- Edit *CYB5* locus on *CYP17<sup>mut</sup>* background.
- Perform NT with the *CYB5* and *CYP17* double mutants and Wild type controls
- Screen for steroid profile at weaning and at puberty

# Questions?