

臺灣水牛之現況與分子選育

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臺灣地區水牛飼養頭數於 1956 年達顛峰為 32.98 萬，但由於農業機械化日益普及，水牛逐漸失去原有之役用功能，頭數急遽減少，自 2010 年成功命名為臺灣水牛以來，頭數從 3,627 下降至今年的 2,070 頭，和全盛時期相較，實在是大幅縮減。臺灣水牛為粗放型動物，其環境適應力強，且具抗病性，對芻料與農副產品之利用效率佳，生產成本相對較低。此外，水牛經肥育後在適齡屠宰時，其肉質之官能品評不亞於牛肉，加上，水牛肉之健康性與安全性較牛肉佳，較符合現代人的飲食要求。總而言之，臺灣水牛確實潛力無窮，因此，花蓮種畜繁殖場對於臺灣水牛的保種及推廣一直不遺餘力。

關鍵語：臺灣水牛、保種、分子標幟選拔

The Current Situation And The Marker-assisted Selection Of Taiwan Swamp Buffalo

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In 1956, the domesticated water buffalo in Taiwan was 329.8 thousand heads and the number reached its peak. After the agricultural machinery became popular, the functions of water buffaloes were replaced and the number of water buffaloes declined rapidly. When “Taiwan swamp buffalo” was named successfully in 2010, the number of water buffaloes was 3,627 at that time and then it dropped to 2,070 in 2018 dramatically. Taiwan swamp buffalo is a kind of highly rough-tolerance livestock. They have the outstanding ability to adapt to the extreme environment and the resistance to disease. Furthermore, water buffaloes can utilize forage and agricultural by-products efficiency for decreasing the cost of production. Besides, in the optimal slaughter ages, the meat quality of fattened water buffalo is keeping up with the beef. Additionally, the health and safety of water buffalo meat are better than the beef and fit the requirement of dietary for the modern consumers. In general, Taiwan swamp buffaloes have the endless potential. Therefore, Hualien Animal Propagation Station committed to the preservation and promotion for Taiwan swamp buffalo with dedications.

Key Words: Taiwan swamp buffalo, Preservation, Marker-assisted selection