

Breeding better steak: Geneticists aim to streamline development of heat-tolerant cattle

For Raluca Mateescu, the battle against climate change involves an unusual task: breeding a better steak.

A researcher at the University of Florida, Mateescu is tweaking cattle genes to try to unlock one of the mysteries of Southern agriculture: developing a breed that can withstand the hot, humid weather that has become more pronounced due to climate change while still producing high-quality beef.

[Editor's note: This is part three in a three-part series. [Click here](#) for the first part and [here](#) for the second.]

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Mateescu's work, funded in part through grants from the Department of Agriculture, is one example of how climate science and agricultural science are coming together to help livestock and crops adjust to warmer conditions.

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Mateescu's work isn't gene-editing, in which researchers change the DNA sequence of an animal to achieve a specific trait. That's being done, in early stages, by companies such as Minnesota-based Acceligen But her work could help the process, by mapping out the genetic code so specifically that scientists know where to find a meat-quality trait, like toughness, and what to substitute in its place.

Read full, original article: [Beef cattle get a genetic makeover for a warming world](#)