

## Next-gen food: Pigs, fish and other CRISPR gene edited animals will be bigger and healthier

Of course, farmers have used selective breeding to try to make animals big, muscular, docile, and easy to rear for generations. But gene-editing tools like CRISPR should allow them to fast-forward the process.

CRISPR offers a major advance over previous gene-editing tools. For a start, it's relatively cheap, quick, and easy to use. Newer forms of CRISPR allow scientists to do more to a genome, too. Some forms allow us to change the base letters of DNA, such as swapping a C for a T. Others let us insert entirely new genes.

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So perhaps it's no surprise that scientists have started experimenting with CRISPR in farm animals. One popular target is a gene called myostatin, which codes for a protein that controls muscle growth. Interfering with this gene can lead to muscle overgrowth. In other words, you end up with big, muscly animals. And, eventually, more meat.

Scientists have already experimented with using CRISPR to generate super-muscly [cattle](#), [pigs](#), [sheep](#), [rabbits](#), and [goats](#). These studies have not had perfect results. Many of the animals didn't survive infancy. And a lot of them had weirdly large tongues.

[\*\*This is an excerpt. Read the original post here\*\*](#)