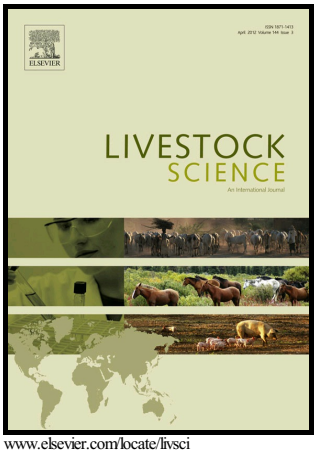

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Abstract

Yaks (*Bos grunniens*) and Qaidam yellow cattle (*Bos taurus*) are indigenous to the Qinghai-Tibetan Plateau and graze natural pasture all year. Yaks are raised at higher elevations than cattle and are not offered supplementary feed whereas cattle receive supplementary feed and are sheltered at night during winters. We hypothesized that