

Canadian Journal of Animal Science – 2008, Volume 88

Report to the annual meeting of CSAS

July, 2009 (Montréal, QC)

Editorial Board:

Volume 88 (2008) was produced by an Editorial Board of 22 Associate Editors and myself as Editor-in-chief. Four Associate Editors completed their first terms in December 2008 and were appointed to a second 3-year mandate, they were C. Gariépy, A. Shah, K. Stanford, and R. Zijlstra. Four Associate Editors finished their second mandate, namely C. Benchaar, L. Goonewardene, C. Pomar, and G. Tremblay. Three of these positions were filled by incoming Associate Editors in January 2009, namely, L. Adeola (Non-Ruminant Nutrition), M. Oba (Ruminant Nutrition) and J.E. Santos (Ruminant Nutrition). The position of L. Goonewardene, who acted as statistical consultant, was not refilled but instead a list of five people who agreed to act as statistical consultants was provided to all Associate Editors, these are R. Cue, S. Méthot, A. Shah, R. Tempelman and Z. Wang. S. Moore also announced that he would be unable to finish the last year of his second mandate and C. Ernst filled his position in Cellular and Molecular Biology as of March 2009. J. Chiquette was the CSAS liaison on the CJAS Editorial Board in 2008 and K. Stanford and D. Ouellet were on the Scientific Journals Committee. Great thanks to all these people for their wonderful contribution to the Journal.

Journal Statistics:

Current CJAS statistics (Tables 1 to 4) give an overview of the performance of the Journal during 2008. As in previous years, the greatest number of published manuscripts was in the area of Ruminant Nutrition (28), followed by Non-Ruminant Nutrition (14), Physiology and Endocrinology (12), and Welfare, Behaviour and Management (10). The number of papers published in these last two areas has greatly increased over the last 3 years, from 5 in 2006 for Physiology and Endocrinology and from 4 in 2006 for Welfare, Behaviour and Management (Table 1). Five reviews were published compared to none in 2007 and numerous articles were submitted to the Cellular and Molecular Biology section, yet acceptance rate was low largely due to the fact that many were from foreign countries. Overall, there was an increase in both total number of published papers and total number of pages published compared to the 3 previous years (i.e. 2005 to 2007, Table 1).

The number of submitted manuscripts (130) decreased from the 151 seen in 2007 (Table 2) but is comparable to what was seen in 2006 (135) and exceeds submission rate of 2005 (92). This decrease was seen only for full manuscripts but not for short communications. The number of submissions (Table 4) from Universities has kept constant (38 in 2008 vs. 40 in 2007) but that of AAFC manuscripts decreased from 30 in 2007 to 21 in 2008 and that of foreign manuscripts decreased from 80 in 2007 to 71 in 2008. This could be due to the publication costs since some European Journals provide publication at no cost. Page charges is therefore an issue which was discussed by the SJC and will be discussed further next year.

The rejection rates of AAFC, University and foreign papers were, respectively, 10.0%, 37.8% and 75.4% (Table 4). Even though high, this last number is comparable to the 74%

rejection rate seen in 2007 for foreign papers. Last, but not least, in terms of statistics, the average time taken for the whole review process of manuscripts has been steadily decreasing over the past 4 years (Table 3). Indeed, it took 136 days in 2008 compared to 171 days in 2007 and 220 days in 2005 for the review process of full papers, this being an 84 day-decrease, since 2005. Between 2007 and 2008, both reviewers and Associate Editors took 15 days less to perform the review, with little change occurring at the authors' level. In the case of short communications, the 33 day decrease in review time was mainly accounted for by decreases at the reviewers and authors' levels with little change (6 less days) occurring at the Associate Editors' level. Undoubtedly, the electronic reminders of OSPREY have been helpful in achieving this great accomplishment in terms of reduced review time, but Associate Editors really need to be commended for a job extremely well done and for putting up with regular check-ups by the Editor-in-chief... I want to take this opportunity to thank all of them for their dedication and hard work. It is evident that they take the quality and fate of CJAS at heart.

Editorial board meetings follow-ups:

The editorial board of CJAS held one conference call in April 2008 and will be holding its first "in-person" meeting in three years, at the Montreal CSAS/ASAS annual meeting. Many discussion topics are reserved for this meeting and the editorial board also dealt with urgent issues (such as election of new Associate Editors) over the year via emails. The Editor-in-chief is still doing a regular follow-up every 6 weeks on all manuscripts for which the review process has been ongoing for over 5 months. This follow-up used to be done for papers that had been in the review process for over 6 months but Associate Editors are doing so well that it has been reduced to 5 months.

The SJC committee held its annual meeting in November 2009 in Ottawa and some important follow-ups are:

- 1) The first memorandum of understanding between the 3 AIC Scientific Journals and AIC was signed in 2008. This ensures that the journals could go on in the event that AIC would cease to function because of lack of funds. This MOU will have to be re-signed each year by the CSAS president and AIC.
- 2) An updated/improved version of OSPREY was made available in March 2009.
- 3) All CJAS back issues will be scanned this year, this is a great achievement for which the SCJ has worked really hard.
- 4) A new platform was developed for the web pages of the 3 AIC journals and is now available. It includes a search engine as well as the possibility to get back issues (all of them will be available some time this fall). Papers "In Press" will also be available starting with the September issue of CJAS. This will now put CJAS on the same wavelength as other scientific journals...

I am currently in my fourth year as Editor-in-chief of CJAS and I am overall very happy with how CJAS is doing. Even though times are difficult financially in the scientific field, I truly believe that CJAS is an excellent Journal which is not only maintaining but is further improving its international reputation. Having said that, efforts need to be maintained to keep up the pace, and this mainly in terms of submissions, which have decreased up to now in 2008. I want to take

this opportunity to say a special thanks to Tim Fenton and Laurie Scott from the AIC office who make my duties of Editor so much easier.

Respectfully submitted,

Chantal Farmer
Editor-in-chief, CJAS

Table 1. Discipline areas of paper published in Canadian Journal of Animal Science (1980-2008)

Volume Year	80 2000	81 2001	82 2002	83 2003	84 2004	85 2005	86 2006	87 2007	88 2008
Application of Technology	2	6	2	6	3	3	0	1	N.A.
Welfare, Behaviour and Management	7	6	7	5	3	6	4	8	10
Biographical Sketch	-	-	2	0	1	0	0	0	0
Breeding and Genetics	7	2	5	1	8	6	1	5	6
Cellular & Molecular Biology	5	2	4	3	5	4	3	1	2
Growth and Development	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Letters	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Meat Science	8	7	11	8	10	4	5	7	1
Nonruminant Nutrition	13	18	18	17	14	9	12	14	14
Other	0	2	0	4	2	2	0	2	0
Physiology and Endocrinology	23	15	9	12	4	5	5	9	12
Reviews	7	3	1	5	7	5	4	0	5
Ruminant Nutrition	26	17	21	27	28	20	23	27	28
Symposium/Workshop	0	0	0	8	0	0	5	0	0
Grand Total	99	79	82	96	85	64	62	74	79
Pages Published	798	656	643	844	814	560	612	664	753

Table 2. Disposition of papers (P) and short communications (SC) submitted to Canadian Journal of Animal Science, 2005–2008

	Assigned		Accepted		Outstanding		Inappropriate		Rejected		Withdrawn	
	SC	P ^{z, y}	SC	P	SC	P	SC	P	SC	P	SC	P
Total 2005	16	76	10	48	1	5	0	1	6	17	1	3
Total 2006	21	114	16	49	0	0	0	0	7	51	0	12
Total 2007	25	126	11	35	8	38	0	0	4	41	3	11
Total 2008*	28	102	15	43	0	4	0	0	13	51	1	3

^zIncludes review papers.

^yIn 2008, one manuscript was submitted as a paper but rejected as a short communication.

*130 total excludes 3 duplicate submissions

Table 3. Average time (days) taken by associate editors and authors to process accepted manuscripts submitted to Canadian Journal of Animal Science, 2005–2008

DAYS TAKEN IN REVIEW OF ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPTS								
	Author		Editor		Reviewer		Total	
	SC	P	SC	P	SC	P	SC	P
Weighted Average 2005	56	78	32	73	28	59	120	220
Weighted Average 2006	24	45	60	59	43	55	133	159
Weighted Average 2007	33	37	74	78	38	55	145	171
Weighted Average 2008	19	33	68	63	27	40	112	136

Table 4. Source of manuscripts submitted to Canadian Journal of Animal Science - 2008

ORIGIN	TOTAL	ACCEPTED	UNACCEPTED	IN PROGRESS
AGRICULTURE & AGRI-FOOD CANADA				
Agassiz	1	1		
Lacombe	4	4		
Lennoxville/Sherbrooke	5	4	1	
Lethbridge	7	7		
Ottawa	1	1		
St Foy	1	1		
Provincial - Alberta Agriculture	2		1	1
TOTAL	21	18	2	1
UNIVERSITIES				
Alberta	3	3		
Canadian Univ. College	1		1	
Guelph	8	6	2	
Laval	1	1		
Manitoba	3	3		
NSAC	1	1		
Ottawa	1		1	
UBC	3	1	2	
UPEI	1		1	
Saskatchewan	11	5	5	1
Industry	5	3	2	
TOTAL	38	23	14	1
FOREIGN				
Australia	1	1		
Belize	1	1		
Brazil	2		2	
China	23	3	19	1
Egypt	1		1	
Germany	1		1	
Greece	1		1	
Iran	3	1	2	
Ireland	1	1		
Mexico	2		2	
Norway	2	1	1	
Pakistan	2		2	
Poland	5	2	2	1
Saudi Arabia	1		1	
South Korea	3	1	2	
Spain	8	4	4	0
Switzerland	1	1		
Tunisia	1		1	
Turkey	6	1	5	
USA	6		6	
TOTAL	71	17	52	2
GRAND TOTALS	130	58	68	4