

Canadian Journal of Animal Science

Report to Canadian Society of Animal Science regarding Volume 81 (2001)

Volume 81 (2001) was produced by an Editorial Board of 20 Associate Editors and myself. This was the first year of operating without Assistant Editors. At the end of 2001 six Associate Editors (Drs. Karen Beauchemin, Johanne Chiquette, Bob Kemp, Zahir Mir, Helene Petit and Jeff Rushen) completed their terms and were replaced by six more (Drs. John Basarab, Christiane Girard, Priya Mir, Julie Small, Fred Silversides and Tina Widowski) for Volume 82. I would like to extend thanks to the retiring Associate Editors, several of whom had served two 3 year terms, and a welcome to the newcomers. We are fortunate indeed that such able scientists are willing to devote the time and energy that this task demands. Mr. Tim Fenton continues as our Production Editor in the Ottawa Office and he and his staff continue to produce a quality product, of which we are rightly proud.

At the suggestion of the Canadian Society of Animal Science we have introduced a new category in Volume 82 (2002) called "Biographies". This category is, I think self explanatory, and is intended to celebrate post-mortem the careers of Canada's outstanding animal scientists. Two have been accepted for publication so far and we enthusiastically encourage the submission of more. However, to avoid any potential embarrassment names for potential biographies should be submitted to the Editor, and will be considered by the Executive of CSAS and the Editorial Board of CJAS, before an invitation is issued to submit a biography.

The following statistics give an overview of the performance of the Journal and its editors during 2001. In studying these statistics bear in mind that the year opens and closes with a number of manuscripts in the process of being reviewed and edited so that the reported totals are not necessarily the sum of the parts. This report deals just with those manuscripts submitted to us during 2001.

During the year 2001 a total of 99 manuscripts were submitted to the Canadian Journal of Animal Science. This is clearly lower than the number received in recent years (1998 -- 124; 1999 -- 133; 2000 -- 125), and the rate of submission appears to be even lower so far in 2002. An examination of the source of manuscripts submitted indicates that the greatest reduction is in the "foreign" category (1999 -- 45; 2000 -- 45; 2001 -- 25), which may in turn be attributable to the low historical acceptance rate of foreign papers. But there is no doubt that the downward trend is general and a cause for concern.

We published 79 manuscripts in Vol. 81 (Table 1), which is well below the average (98) for the previous seven volumes. The page numbers published in Vol. 81 (656) were also below average (776) because the average length of manuscripts was normal (about eight pages per paper).

Non Ruminant Nutrition (18), Ruminant Nutrition (17) and Physiology (15) were the research fields generating the greatest number of manuscripts published in Volume 81. This represents a major reduction in the number of Ruminant Nutrition papers, while those for other categories remained close to normal (Table 1).

In terms of acceptance / rejection rates for manuscripts received during 2001, Table 2 shows an overall average of 66% acceptance and 19% non-acceptance. This does not include the 15 manuscripts still being processed when these Tables were produced. Both percentages can therefore be expected to rise, but it is clear that the rejection rate will be close to the long-term average of about 20%.

The rejection rate was variable among editorial board members (Table 2) ranging from 0% to 50%, but the numbers involved are small and a couple of rejected papers can make a big difference. Generally I do not detect any important differences in standards among the Associate Editors.

The average time taken to review manuscripts (201 days for full papers and 159 days for Short Communications (Table 3) is a little longer than last year, which in turn was longer than previous years (2000: 196d and 147 d; 1999: 183d and 133d; 1998: 171d and 148d). I addressed this problem last year and am disappointed that this statistic has not improved. I certainly hope to see an improvement in 2002. It should be noted, however, that it is the authors rather than the editors who are mainly responsible for the increase. Although Table 3 shows that the award for fastest processing should go to me, I have to admit that as the person who assigns the papers I may have expressed an unconscious bias and given myself the easiest papers. I will strive to not be the best next year!

The Canadian Universities continued to be the major source of manuscripts submitted to CJAS during 2001 (Table 4). The number of papers (41) from that source is similar to recent years (average for the previous three years = 43). The 29 papers from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada is below the three year average of 36, and as indicated above, submissions from Foreign sources is substantially lower in terms of both absolute number (25 vs. 41) and number of different countries represented (12 vs. 17). It is probably noteworthy that the acceptance rate for foreign papers is higher this year than in recent years (60% vs. 49%), which may represent a growing respect by foreign authors for our editorial rigour.

Overall, I feel that the Canadian Journal of Animal Science is in good health, but there is a concern about the decreasing number of manuscripts being submitted and published. I certainly welcome any suggestions regarding either the cause or the cure for this developing problem.

Respectfully submitted,

Mick Price
Editor, CJAS

TABLE 1. DISCIPLINE AREAS OF PAPER PUBLISHED IN CANADIAN JOURNAL OF ANIMAL SCIENCE (1994-2001)

Volume Year	74 1994	75 1995	76 1996	77 1997	78 1998	79 1999	80 2000	81 2001
Animal Biotechnology	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Application of Technology	9	7	2	6	2	4	2	6
Behaviour and Management	2	4	9	8	3	1	7	6
Breeding and Genetics	15	5	8	7	7	7	7	2
Cellular & Molecular Biology	0	0	0	0	7	1	5	2
Letters	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Meats	7	6	11	15	12	8	8	7
Nonruminant Nutrition	18	20	15	16	21	14	13	18
Other	2	0	2	7	3	3	0	2
Pastures and Forages	4	3	2	2	0	0	1	1
Physiology	22	23	18	15	9	10	23	15
Reviews	1	1	0	0	2	0	7	3
Ruminant Nutrition	23	27	25	21	30	32	26	17
Symposium/Workshop	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0
Grand Total	104	96	92	97	106	82	99	79
Pages Published	732	688	642	776	930	610	798	656

TABLE 2. DISPOSITION OF PAPERS (P) AND SHORT COMMUNICATIONS (SC) SUBMITTED TO CANADIAN JOURNAL OF ANIMAL SCIENCE DURING 2001

Associate Editor	Assigned		Accepted		Outstanding		Inappropriate		Rejected		Withdrawn	
	SC	P	SC	P	SC	P	SC	P	SC	P	SC	P
Aalhus	0	5	0	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Beauchemin	0	6	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Benkel	1	3	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Charmley	1	7	1	5	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
Chiquette	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
de Lange	2	3	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dugan	2	2	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Farmer	1	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kastelic	3	4	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Kemp	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mandell	1	3	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
McAllister	1	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
McKinnon	2	3	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0
Mir	2	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Okine	0	4	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	0
Petit	1	6	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0
Price	0	7*	1	3*	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0
Rushen	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scott, S.	1	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Scott, T.	0	4	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Van Lunen	0	10	0	7	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0
Widowski	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grand Total 99	19	80	15	50	1	14	0	1	2	14	2	0

* Includes 1 review

TABLE 3. AVERAGE TIME (DAYS) TAKEN BY ASSOCIATE EDITORS AND AUTHORS TO PROCESS ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPTS SUBMITTED TO CANADIAN JOURNAL OF ANIMAL SCIENCE IN 2001

DAYS TAKEN IN REVIEW OF ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPTS						
Associate Editor	Author		Editor		Total	
	SC	P	SC	P	SC	P
Aalhus	-	70	-	97	-	167
Beauchemin	-	93	-	54	-	148
Benkel	41	148	99	96	140	244
Charmley	116	103	60	109	176	213
Chiquette	-	73	-	79	-	152
de Lange	46	64	199	188	244	252
Dugan	68	35	93	120	161	155
Farmer	98	56	57	71	155	130
Kastelic	81	115	69	104	150	219
Kemp	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mandell	-	83	-	163	-	246
McAllister	65	173	38	125	103	298
McKinnon	83	-	114	-	196	-
Mir	0	46	98	94	98	140
Okine	-	-	-	-	-	-
Petit	91	86	25	92	116	177
Price	26	64	36	58	62	122
Rushen	139	90	169	108	308	198
Scott, S.	-	78	-	233	-	311
Scott, T.	-	155	-	81	-	236
Van Lunen	-	33	-	150	-	187
Widowski	-	28	-	139	-	226
Weighted Average 2001	78	84	88	114	159	201
Weighted Average 2000	52	73	97	123	147	196

TABLE 4. SOURCE OF MANUSCRIPTS SUBMITTED TO CANADIAN JOURNAL OF ANIMAL SCIENCE - 2001

ORIGIN	TOTAL	ACCEPTED	UNACCEPTED	IN PROGRESS
AGRICULTURE&AGRIFOOD CANADA				
Agassiz	3	3	0	0
Brandon	3	2	1	0
Charlottetown	2	0	0	2
Kamloops	1	1	0	0
Lacombe	5	4	0	1
Lennoxville	9	6	0	3
Lethbridge	4	2	1	1
Nappan	1	1	0	0
Ottawa	1	0	0	1
TOTAL	29	19	2	8
UNIVERSITIES				
Alberta	6	4	2	0
British Columbia	2	1	1	0
Calgary	1	0	0	1
Guelph	11	8	2	1
Laval	1	1	0	0
Manitoba	10	6	3	1
McGill	1	1	0	0
Montreal	1	1	0	0
Saskatchewan	8	6	2	0
TOTAL	41	28	10	3
FOREIGN				
Belgium	1	1	0	0
China	1	0	0	1
Finland	1	1	0	0
France	1	1	0	0
India	1	0	1	0
Italy	3	1	1	1
Norway	1	0	0	1
Spain	1	1	0	0
Sweden	1	0	1	0
Switzerland	1	1	0	0
Turkey	1	0	1	0
USA	12	9	3	0
TOTAL	25	15	7	3
PROVINCIAL				
TOTAL - Alberta Agriculture	4	3	0	1
GRAND TOTALS	99	65	19	15