

Canadian Journal of Animal Science – 2006, Volume 86
Report to the annual meeting of CSAS
June 2006, Winnipeg, MB

Volume 86 (2006) was produced by an Editorial Board of 21 Associate Editors and myself as Editor-in-chief. Four Associate Editors completed their first terms in December 2006, three of them, namely Nigel Cook, Stephen Moore and Daniel Ouellet, were appointed to a second 3-year term and Doug Korver (non-ruminant nutrition) did not wish to go on for another mandate. Priya Mir (ruminant nutrition) and Sam Baidoo (non-ruminant nutrition) resigned during their mandate and Alexander Hristov (ruminant nutrition), Jim House (non-ruminant nutrition) and Amy Batal (non-ruminant nutrition) were elected to fill in the vacant positions. Alma Kennedy (Physiology & Endocrinology) resigned from her position in January 2007 and that position was filled by Norman Rawlings. I wish to thank the outgoing associate editors for all their hard work and to welcome warmly the newcomers. I am sure we will do great work together. Priya Mir was also the CSAS liaison on the CJAS Editorial Board.

Several changes took place during my first year as Editor, the following are the main points:

- 1) Since September 2006, an online submission system for manuscripts has been implemented. It is evident that this is a step in the right direction and will prove most helpful for the whole editorial process, however, some fine-tuning is still necessary (for example, right now manuscript tracking is only possible for the editor-in-chief but that should be available to all Associate Editors later in the year). A special thank you to Tim Fenton and Laurie Scott (at the AIC office) as well as to Mick Price (the outgoing editor of CJAS) for their hard work which led to this.
- 2) Since March 2006, a notification of new issue alert is now being sent electronically to all CSAS members.
- 3) Some changes in the sections of the Journal were made: “Physiology” is now called “Physiology and Endocrinology” and “Behaviour and Management” is now “Welfare, Behaviour and Management”.
- 4) The definition for short communications was altered so that a total of 2 Tables and/or Figures are now stated as acceptable and the maximum abstract length was increased to 100 words.
- 5) Some changes were made in the allowed deadlines at various steps of the review process and the Editor-in-chief has been doing a regular follow-up every 2 months on all manuscripts for which the review process has been ongoing for over 6 months.
- 6) An advertising pamphlet was prepared for CJAS and copies were sent electronically to all members of the CSAS executive. It is also available online.
- 7) The 3 scientific journals of AIC are currently in the process of getting an MOU signed with AIC to ensure that the journal could go on in the event that AIC would cease functioning because of lack of funds.

The following are changes which will soon take place:

- 1) The section “Application of technology” will no longer exist.
- 2) The requirements for submission of manuscript to CJAS will include that the work submitted must be related to animals or animal by-products.
- 3) The description of review articles will specify that these must be in-depth critical reviews of an area in which the authors are knowledgeable and that they must undergo the normal peer-review process.

Current CJAS statistics (Tables 1 to 4) give an overview of the performance of the Journal during 2006 and deals only with those manuscripts submitted to CJAS during 2006. The rejection rate of full manuscripts, at 42%, was similar to what was seen in 2005 and somewhat higher than the usual 33%. This increase is related to the greater number of submissions from foreign countries, which have a greater incidence of rejection. The rejection rate for short communications in 2006 was 22%, being similar to that of previous years. The two major changes which I would like to point out are, firstly, the fact that the number of manuscripts submitted went from 92 in 2005 to a total of 135 in 2006, of which 12 were not suitable. This is now getting back to the numbers we have seen for the years 2000 to 2003 (2003: 130, 2002: 120, 2001: 99 and 2000: 125) and I am real happy about that. The second point I would like to make is the fact that there has been a major reduction in the time taken for processing full papers. This actually went from 220 days in 2005 to 143 days in 2006, namely a 77 day reduction which was attributed to both authors and the editors. Reducing the processing time for submitted manuscripts was my first priority as incoming editor and I am glad to see that the efforts put forth in that direction paid off. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Associate Editors for the support they have given me as demonstrated by their diligence in following up on their assigned papers.

In conclusion, being Editor-in-chief of CJAS proved to be as challenging and motivating as I hoped it would be...

Respectfully submitted,

Chantal Farmer
Editor-in-chief, CJAS

Table 1. Discipline areas of paper published in Canadian Journal of Animal Science (1999-2006)

Volume Year	79 1999	80 2000	81 2001	82 2002	83 2003	84 2004	85 2005	86 2006
Application of Technology	4	2	6	2	6	3	3	0
Welfare, Behaviour & Management	1	7	6	7	5	3	6	4
Biographical Sketch	-	-	-	2	0	1	0	0
Breeding and Genetics	7	7	2	5	1	8	6	1
Cellular & Molecular Biology	1	5	2	4	3	5	4	3
Letters	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Meat Science	8	8	7	11	8	10	4	5
Non-ruminant Nutrition	14	13	18	18	17	14	9	12
Other	3	0	2	0	4	2	2	0
Physiology & Endocrinology	10	23	15	9	12	4	5	5
Reviews	0	7	3	1	5	7	5	4
Ruminant Nutrition	32	26	17	21	27	28	20	23
Symposium/Workshop	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	5
Grand Total	82	99	79	82	96	85	64	62
Pages Published	610	798	656	643	844	814	560	612

Table 2. Disposition of papers (P) and short communications (SC) submitted to Canadian Journal of Animal Science during 2006 (updated June 2007)

	Assigned		Accepted		Outstanding		Rejected		Withdrawn	
	SC	P	SC	P	SC	P	SC	P	SC	P
Total	19	116	14	43	3	10	5	49	0	11

* 3 manuscripts submitted as full papers were accepted as short communications

Table 3. Average time (days) taken by associate editors and authors to process accepted manuscripts submitted to Canadian Journal of Animal Science in 2006. (updated February 2007)

DAYS TAKEN IN REVIEW OF ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPTS								
Associate Editor	Author		Editor		Reviewer		Total	
	SC	P	SC	P	SC	P	SC	P
Weighted Average 2006	23	43	68	48	26	52	117	143
Weighted Average 2005	56	78	32	73	28	59	120	220

Table 4. Source of manuscripts submitted to Canadian Journal of Animal Science in 2006 (updated June 2007)

ORIGIN	TOTAL	ACCEPTED	UNACCEPTED	IN PROGRESS
AGRICULTURE & AGRI-FOOD CANADA				
Kamloops	1	1		
Lacombe	3	1	1	1
Lennoxville/Sherbrooke	12	6	5	1
Lethbridge	11	6	3	2
Nappan	1	1		
TOTAL	28	15	9	4
UNIVERSITIES				
Alberta	2	1	1	
Guelph	10	6	3	1
Laval	1			1
Manitoba	5	4	1	
McGill	2	1		1
Montreal	1	1		
NSAC	2		1	1
Saskatchewan	15	6	8	1
UBC	2	1		1
TOTAL	40	20	14	6
FOREIGN				
Australia	1		1	
China	15	1	14	
Egypt	1		1	
France	2		1	1
Greece	1	1		
India	2		2	
Italy	1		1	
Iran	4		4	
Japan	1	1		
Mexico	1	1		
Netherlands	1		1	
New Zealand	3	2		1
Norway	1	1		
Pakistan	7	1	6	
Turkey	7	1	6	
USA	15	10	4	1
TOTAL	63	19	41	3
Provincial - Alberta Agriculture	3	3		
Provincial - Quebec	1		1	
TOTAL	4	3	1	0
GRAND TOTALS	135	57	65	13