
Editorial

I'm sure that, like many more before me, I fully expected on taking up the editorship of your journal at the beginning of this year that it would be possible to produce the four 1999 issues more or less on time. By issue number 2 I find myself in the position of having to apologise unreservedly for failing to achieve this objective by a substantial margin. Whilst in the editorial office at *British Poultry Science*, I was constantly critical of our publishers for failing to dispatch the journal during the month that matched its cover date. Now I realise how painful are the stones pitched at editors in glass offices!

On a more serious note, however, the timely appearance of a journal does matter to the following groups of people who are vital to its continued well being.

Firstly, it is important to the contributors who justifiably wish to see their articles in print as soon as possible. Publication indices are influential in a scientist's career advancement and, such is the pace of modern science, that delays in the publication process can mean that results from new research overtake the results of and opinions expressed in a review.

Secondly, it is important to the members/readers who rightly expect to read authoritative accounts on topical poultry science subjects by leading international experts as soon as possible after they are written. Only relevant and timely reporting allows them to keep pace with progress and construct their future strategies. Calendar planning is also made easier and more effective.

Finally, but no less importantly, it is imperative that advertisers see their promotional material appear when expected. They have become an increasingly compelling component in the economics of your journal in the past few years. This is the result of a lot of hard work and entrepreneurial skill by a number of office bearers of the Association, although much of the credit for putting the financial status of the *WPSJ* on such a sound footing resides with your Secretary, Piet Simons.

I alone must accept the responsibility for the tardiness of both the March and June issues. The September edition will also be late, although I hope less so, and, as I write this, I intend to pull out all stops to have the December copies on most of your desks on time.

Jim McNab

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Notes for Contributors

The World's Poultry Science Journal publishes: review articles on all aspects of poultry science, reports on the development of poultry production from around the world, reports from constituent scientific working groups, book reviews, Association and Branch news, together with a listing of forthcoming events. Summaries of the review articles are published in French, German, Russian and Spanish. The journal does not publish the results of original research unless these form a minor part of an article that mainly reviews published work, or where they are contained in reports given at branch meetings or arise from the activities of Federation Working Groups. Among the characteristics considered important in a review paper are that it should be comprehensive within the area defined by its title, the structure should be logical and the citations should be subjected to critical appraisal – which should extend to the methodology and statistical significance of results. In preparing a review, sound deductive and constructive processes should be used to produce valid, useful and clearly presented conclusions. The appropriate use of figures, tables, formulae and illustrations is encouraged. The object must always be to produce a worthwhile addition to the body of available literature.

Typescripts

Typescripts should be in English and should be sent in duplicate, to the Editor, World's Poultry Science Journal, Dr J. M. McNab, Roslin Institute (Edinburgh), Roslin, Midlothian EH25 9PS, UK. Contributions, which will be subject to scrutiny by independent referees and editorial revision, should normally not be longer than the equivalent of 8–10 pages of the journal (or approximately 6000 words) including tables, illustrations and references. Longer reviews are accepted from time to time, but it is advisable for authors to contact the Editor before submission. Papers should be typewritten on one side of the paper only and the typing should be double-spaced between lines with ample margins on each side of the sheet. The automatic numbering of lines in the margin is a great advantage. Pages should be assembled in the order: title; name and postal address(es) of author(s); where applicable, name and address of institution where the work was done; summary of between 100 and 300 words; keywords (up to 8); text of paper; references; tables; figures; figure legends (on separate page); abbreviated title (for use as a running headline). The pages of the paper itself should be numbered in the upper right-hand corner and should only be fastened by means of a paper-clip. To enable summaries to be translated into French, German, Russian and Spanish, contributions should be accompanied by an additional copy of the summary (in English) of 100–300 words, typed on a separate sheet of paper.

References

References to previous work should be cited in the text with the author's name and the year of publication in parentheses, e.g. 'Brown (1957) showed that . . .'. At the end of the paper, the references should be listed in alphabetical order of the surnames of the first author with all authors included, e.g. 'BROWN, A.B., SMITH, C.D. and JACK, E.F. . .'. The titles of journals should be given in full and should include the first and last page numbers of the papers concerned.

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Typescripts and matter relating to the content of the journal should be addressed to the Editor, Dr J. M. McNab, Roslin Institute (Edinburgh), Roslin, Midlothian EH25 9PS, UK.

Back numbers

Requests for back numbers up to the completion of Volume 44 (1988) should be addressed to the Editor, as above. For back numbers from Volume 45 (1989) onwards, please make application to the Secretary of the World's Poultry Science Association, Dr Ir Piet C.M. Simons, Centre for Applied Poultry Research, "Het Spelderholt", Postbus 31, 7360 AA Beekbergen, The Netherlands (Tel. + 31 55 506 65 34, Fax: + 31 55 506 48 58).