

### Managing Editors

*Journal of Animal Science*  
1987–2002 John W. Edwards  
2002–2004 Jean Rice  
2004–2005 Amy Kemp  
2005– Susan Pollock

### Technical Editors

*Journal of Animal Science*  
1967–1980 Bernice Wilson  
1980–1981 James M. Kern  
1982–1985 Cheryl D. Ruthenbeck Elam  
1985–1987 Denise L. York  
1987–2002 John W. Edwards  
1990–1995 Mark D. McClees  
1995–1997 Michael S. Worley  
1998–2004 Leon Jeter  
2002–2005 Amanda Kolling  
2005– Louise Adam  
2005– Lisa Krohn  
2006– Susan Krusemark  
2006– Mandy Maiden

## Brief History of the *Journal of Animal Science*

In November 1940, the Society's Editorial Committee, chaired by Dr. R. M. Bethke, submitted a report at the Business Meeting that was adopted by the Society. The report provided 1) that the Society publish a quarterly journal, starting in 1942; 2) that the Annual Proceedings for 1940 be published as in former years; 3) that the Executive Committee be empowered to appoint an Editorial Board composed of not less than 7 members, an Editor and, if deemed necessary, a Business Manager; 4) that, because of the anticipated increased expense of issuing a quarterly journal, the annual dues for 1941 be increased from \$2.50 to \$3.00; 5) that the Editorial Board, subject to the approval of the Executive Committee, set the price of the journal for nonmembers, libraries, etc.; and 6) that the Executive Committee be empowered to approve the editorial policies established by the appointed Editorial Board so that preparations for publishing the quarterly journal could proceed without delay.

Shortly thereafter, Dr. R. W. Phillips was appointed as Editor of the journal. During the first year, the most significant activities were selecting Editorial Board members, drafting an editorial policy, obtaining enough significant manuscripts so that publication could begin in 1942, establishing a contract with a publisher (George Banta Publishing Co., Menasha, WI), initiating the process of clearing manuscripts through the Editorial Board members, and selecting the name *Journal of Animal Science*.

The first issue of volume 1 of the *Journal of Animal Science*, published in February 1942, contained 8 articles. Issues

2, 3, and 4 of volume 1 contained 12, 10, and 9 articles, respectively. The format for volumes 1 through 19 was a single column page.

Dr. R. W. Phillips served as Editor from 1941 until February 1949. While Dr. Phillips was on temporary appointment (February 1943 to March 1944) with the Department of State as Advisor on Animal Breeding to the governments of China and India, Dr. R. G. Schott served as Acting Editor. Dr. Phillips resumed editorship when he returned to Beltsville in March 1944.

The journal reflected the effect of World War II on animal science research. Most research was interrupted, and the flow of scientific manuscripts was low. The number of graduate students was greatly reduced, and research output and accrual of new members in the Society were reduced. Consequently, the Society's treasury was limited, and it was necessary to tailor the size of the journal to the resources available, as well as to the relatively small number of manuscripts. Thus, the early quarterly issues were small compared with the issues published after 1951.

In 1947, the position of Associate Editor was established. Dr. L. E. Casida was appointed to the position and served in the capacity through February 1949. Upon resignation of Dr. Phillips following publication of the February 1949 issue, Dr. Casida assumed the editorship. The Secretary-Treasurer of the Society served as Business Manager of the journal until 1955. The George Banta Publishing Co. was the printer through the November 1950 issue. The Boyd Printing Co., Albany, NY, was selected to print the journal from 1951 to 1990. The journal was then printed by Imperial Printing, St. Joseph, MI. Since 2004, the journal has been printed by The Sheridan Press, Hanover, PA.

Volume 1 of the journal, published in 1942, contained 39 articles. The 409 articles published in volumes 49 and 50 represent a 10.5-fold increase in the number of papers published during the calendar year. The Editorial Board for volume 1 consisted of 8 members in addition to the editor. The Editorial Board in 1999 consists of 108 members, 15 Section Editors, and the Editor-in-Chief. The first symposium was published in volume 16 in 1957 and consisted of 4 articles on the "Meat-Type Steer." volume 17, published in 1958, the 50th anniversary of the American Society of Animal Production, included a 50th anniversary commemorative issue that contained 16 special articles on key subject areas. During this 50th anniversary year, the Program Committee initiated and supported the concept of the journal publishing symposium manuscripts.

In 1961, the format of the journal was changed from a 6- × 9-inch single-column page to a double-column 7- × 10-inch page. This change allowed 60% more published words per page. In 1992, the journal was redesigned, and since that year has been published in an 8- × 11- inch format.

In 1964, 3 Assistant Editors were appointed for the subject areas of animal breeding, meats, and nutrition. In 1965, use of the metric system became mandatory in the journal. A cumula-

tive author and subject index for volumes 1 through 24, prepared by Dr. and Mrs. A. B. Chapman, was published in 1965. Two additional cumulative indexes were prepared by Dr. T. W. Perry. The cumulative index for volumes 25 to 34 was published in 1973, and that for volumes 35 through 44 was published in 1978. In 1990, a database for rapid computer retrieval of *Journal of Animal Science* publications was developed by Dr. D. M. Hallford and made available to members through the ASAS Business Office. That database allows retrieval of papers on the basis of authors, key words, or words in the title. A companion database of sectional and annual meeting 42 abstracts was completed by Dr. Hallford and made available in 1993.

In 1967, the title of Editor was changed to Editor-in-Chief. Dr. D. E. Becker became the first Editor-in-Chief. Dr. Becker divided the journal by subject matter area into 6 sections and appointed a Section Editor for each. These sections were Breeding and Genetics, Extension and Teaching, Meat Science, Nonruminant Nutrition, Physiology and Endocrinology, and Ruminant Nutrition. Except for Extension and Teaching, these sections were continued in the journal until 1989, when the Ruminant Nutrition Section was divided into Pasture and Forage Utilization and Digestion and Metabolism.

During the late 1960s, there was a marked increase in the number of manuscripts processed by the journal, and, in 1967, the number of issues per year was increased from 4 to 6. Because of the increased number of manuscripts submitted to the journal, an Editorial Assistant (Technical Editor) was hired in 1967. In 1969, the number of issues was increased from 6 to 12, with 2 volumes published per year. Beginning in 1988, a single volume of 12 monthly issues was published annually. A second Technical Editor was hired in 1990.

In 1972, a new section, Applied Animal Science, was adopted; in 1973, the name of the Meat Science section was changed to Meat Science and Muscle Biology. In 1976, a Section Editor for Applied Animal Science was appointed. In 1981, 2 new sections were added to the journal: 1) Growth and Developmental Biology and 2) Pharmacology and Toxicology. The name of the Meat Science and Muscle Biology section was changed to Meat Science. Section Editors were appointed in 1981 for the 2 new sections.

In 1983, a special Diamond Jubilee issue of the journal (Vol. 57, Suppl. 2) was published commemorating the 75th anniversary of the American Society of Animal Science. Distinguished ASAS members were invited to author 32 articles reviewing significant developments in the animal industry and its various disciplines during the last 25 years (since the 1958 commemorative issue), with a special focus on identifying major challenges and opportunities for improving animal agriculture's role in serving human needs during the next 25 years.

A Publications Committee (composed of members of the Board of Directors) was established in 1984 to assist the Editor-in-Chief in recommending policies, procedures, and appointments in regard to publishing the journal.

A section on Environment and Behavior was added in 1986. A Biographical Sketches section was added in 1988 to accept articles on deceased individuals who had made major scientific and (or) historical contributions to the field of animal science. "Technical Notes" were approved in 1989.

In 1992, the Society implemented a rapid communication section to handle short communications in 2 categories: Molecular Genetic Markers and Nucleotide Sequence Data. In 1998, the name of this section was changed to Rapid Communications: Molecular Genetics. The criteria for these rapid-communication papers are scientific merit and originality of data. These papers are extremely important for the rapid exchange of these critical pieces of information toward continued progress in molecular research.

Since 1977, the abstracts from the sectional meetings and the annual meeting of ASAS have been published as a separate supplement to the journal. Beginning in 1967, the "Other" section in the journal included symposic manuscripts. The name "Other" was changed to "Special Topics" in 1988. In 1998, the Board of Directors approved the publication of an annual symposium issue of the journal. The first issue appeared in 1999.

A "Letters to the Editor" section was added to the journal in 1992. The purpose of this section is to provide a forum for scientific exchange relating to matters published in the journal. In 1993, 2 additional sections were added, "Teaching" and "Contemporary Issues." Beginning in 1995, the Ruminant Nutrition Section was divided into 2 sections to better represent the range of information in this field: 1) Pasture, Rangeland, and Forage Utilization and 2) Ruminant Nutrition.

Also in 1995, under the guidance of the newly formed Editor's Operations Advisory Committee the journal debuted in its electronic format on the World Wide Web, posted to a server at Colorado State University located at URL <http://www.asas.org>. The electronic version of the journal is now managed at ASAS Headquarters.

Beginning with the 1998 annual meeting, symposium papers were published separately from regular *Journal of Animal Science* issues in a supplement to volume 77. In the subsequent years, symposium papers from the sectional and annual meetings have been published in electronic-only form as proceedings posted to the ASAS Web site. Proceedings published in 2003 or later are indexed at PubMed.

In January 2004, major changes occurred in the structure of the journal and also in the editorial process. These changes were designed to provide an approach that would allow for a reasonable distribution of the editorial workload among volunteer members and give the Editor-in-Chief (EiC) more time to provide long-term leadership and vision for the journal. Moreover, it was the intent of these changes to provide a structure that would meet the current publication needs of the membership and allowing for expansion into new areas. The journal was divided into 7 divisions: Animal Genetics; Animal Growth, Physiology, and Reproduction; Animal Nutrition; Animal Production; Animal Products; Special Topics; and Symposia. Each

division has one or more division editors, and may have one or more associate editors. Division editors have the authority for final acceptance and rejection of manuscripts. The EiC works with division editors to ensure uniformity among divisions in terms of scientific integrity, mechanics of the review process, and consistency and technical quality of the papers published in the journal. This new structure should allow the journal to respond rapidly to the ever-changing needs of the membership and the scientific community, and the dramatic changes taking place in the academic publishing industry.

## General Policies of the *Journal of Animal Science*

The *Journal of Animal Science* (*JAS*) is published by the American Society of Animal Science (ASAS), and its editorial policies are established by the EiC, with advice from the Publications Committee and the division and associate editors, and with final review and approval by the Board of Directors. These policies are published as the **INSTRUCTIONS FOR CONTRIBUTORS TO *Journal of Animal Science*** (also known as the *Style and Form*), and are updated as needed, so authors should check the latest version of the *JAS* Style and Form, at <http://jas.fass.org/misc/ifora.shtml>, before when preparing a manuscript for submission to the journal.

In general, the policy of the journal is to publish articles reporting new research, the ultimate objective of which is clearly the solution of a problem in the animal sciences. Review articles that are part of symposia sponsored by program committees or are specifically invited by the ASAS Board or the EiC will be considered for publication. No acceptable article shall be refused publication for lack of space. The suitability of all manuscripts for publication in *JAS* is judged by the reviewers (which may include members of the Editorial Board or other reviewers deemed appropriate by the editors) and associate editors, division editors, and the EiC. The EiC, division and associate editors, and the members of the Editorial Board are appointed by the Board of Directors for 2- to 3-year terms. Editorial board members or ad-hoc reviewers make recommendations to the associate editors, who make recommendations to their division editors, who then make the decision to accept or reject the manuscript. The EiC is the final arbiter regarding acceptance or rejection of manuscripts submitted for publication. Appointments are guided by the needs of the Board for individuals with particular kinds of scientific knowledge. Within a given field of specialization, associate editors, division editors, and members of the Editorial Board are chosen on the basis of demonstrated high editorial competence.

## Duties of the Editor-in-Chief

The EiC for *JAS* is selected by the Board of Directors of the ASAS based on scientific expertise, publication record, previous service to *JAS*, and professional demeanor. The EiC is the

final arbiter regarding acceptance or rejection of manuscripts submitted for publication in *JAS* and has authority for granting others permission to reuse copyrighted material from *JAS*. As a member of the Board of Directors of ASAS, the EiC participates in all decisions of the Board and is expected to report on the status of *JAS* during regular Executive Committee and/or Board conference calls and scheduled Board meetings. Compensation will be provided.

## Manuscript Handling

*The author, not the EiC or ASAS, is responsible for ensuring that the data are complete, valid, and properly interpreted statistically, that treatment of the animals has been humane, has followed established guidelines, and has been approved by the local Animal Care and Use Committee or its equivalent, and that the text of the published paper is correct. Associate editors and division editors are responsible for verifying this.*

The EiC shall

1. Ensure timely and efficient function of the editorial process, and ensure the quality and consistency of standards applied across the 6 divisions of *JAS* during the editorial process. The 6 divisions of *JAS* are Animal Genetics, Animal Growth, Physiology, and Reproduction, Animal Nutrition, Animal Production, Animal Products, and Special Topics.
2. Ensure that submitted manuscripts are rapidly and justly appraised for scientific quality by monitoring the work of the associate editors and division editors using reporting functions within *JAS* Manuscript Central and assessing the quality of manuscripts recommended for acceptance.
3. Work with the ASAS Board of Directors on short- and long-range planning, including assuring the quality of *JAS* and its usefulness to members.
4. Bring suggestions from readers, authors, *JAS* staff, associate editors, and division editors for improving the usefulness of *JAS* to the Executive Committee, the Publications Committee, and the Board of Directors as appropriate.
5. Provide oversight and guidance to associate and division editors, including reviewing recommendations for acceptance and rejection of manuscripts. Associate editors shall handle all correspondence with authors pertaining to the review process and necessary revisions, and recommend acceptance or rejection to the responsible division editor. The division editor reviews the recommendation made by the associate editor and renders a decision of acceptance or rejection, which is reported to the EiC. Document files for accepted manuscripts are transmitted by the division editor to the EiC, who reviews the files and forwards them to the technical editing staff. In the rare case of a disagreement between the EiC and a division editor with respect to a decision on a manuscript, the EiC and division

editor will work together to resolve the disagreement; however, the ultimate responsibility for the content of *JAS* rests with EiC, who may override the decision if he/she deems it necessary.

6. Assist division editors in arbitrating contested recommendations by an associate editor and make the final decision in unresolved cases of acceptance or rejection.
7. Transmit suggestions from the ASAS Board of Directors to associate and division editors concerning changes in philosophy and production of *JAS*.
8. Receive all material for the "Letters to the Editor" section and be responsible for their editorial review and acceptance.
9. Review and revise (as needed) the *JAS* Style and Form, which is published each year in January.
10. Encourage and facilitate editorial policies in concert with the Publications Committee and *JAS* staff as approved by the ASAS Board of Directors.
11. Report to the Publications Committee and perform additional duties as assigned by the Publications Committee.
12. Select and recommend individuals for vacant associate and division editor positions with sensitivity to the diverse scientific backgrounds that reflect the disciplines represented by the divisions.
13. Ensure orientation of new division editors.
14. Solicit feedback on journal performance from the ASAS membership and respond to concerns expressed by members.
15. Solicit articles on current issues, policy, and scientific reviews on areas of key importance to the ASAS membership.
16. Grant permission for use of copyrighted material from *JAS* and keep abreast of developments that may affect copyrights and related issues such as licensing and open access policies relating to scientific publications.
17. Ensure the quality of the final assembled journal by reviewing the galley proofs each month before publication.
18. Work with the technical editing staff to ensure that *JAS* maintains high standards of quality and consistency from issue to issue.

### **Duties of Division Editors, *Journal of Animal Science***

Division editors are responsible for management of associate editors and manuscripts assigned to the various divisions of the *JAS* and other official publications under the general supervision of the EiC and Publications Committee. The 6 divisions of *JAS* are Animal Genetics, Animal Growth, Physiology, and Reproduction, Animal Nutrition, Animal Production, Animal Products, and Special Topics. Division editors are appointed by the EiC and are selected based their scientific expertise, editorial experience, and professional demeanor. Compensation will be provided as on the basis of manuscripts processed.

### **Manuscript Handling**

*The author, not the EiC or ASAS, is responsible for ensuring that data are complete, valid, and properly interpreted statistically, that treatment of animals has been humane, and that the text of the published paper is correct. Associate editors and division editors are responsible for verifying this.*

1. Division editors shall evaluate each new manuscript that is submitted to their division in *JAS* and assign the manuscript to an associate editor. The associate editor shall then assign the manuscript to at least 2 reviewers, obtain and summarize the comments and recommendations of the reviewers, handle all correspondence regarding necessary revisions with authors, and recommend acceptance or rejection to the responsible division editor.
2. The division editor shall evaluate the comments and recommendations made by reviewers of each manuscript and the recommendation of the associate editor regarding acceptance or rejection. If the division editor agrees with the recommendation of the associate editor that a manuscript be accepted, he/she will contact the corresponding author and request that the author submit a final version of the document file for the manuscript. At this time, the division editor may request additional changes deemed appropriate to meet the quality and consistency standards of *JAS*. Technical editing is a staff responsibility unless changes are needed by the division editor to clarify the meaning of the sentence(s) in the manuscript. Document files are then forwarded by the division editor to the EiC, with a decision of accept or reject. If the recommendation is for rejection, the division editor shall notify the author and the EiC of the decision, providing a summary of the reason(s) for rejection.
3. In the case of decisions that are appealed by the authors, division editors will work with the EiC and the responsible associate editor to bring the appeal to a timely and fair resolution.
4. Division editors, along with the EiC, associate editors, and reviewers will hold all scientific information in submitted manuscripts in confidence until the information is published.
5. By monitoring the activities of associate editors working under their direction, division editors will ensure that submitted manuscripts are rapidly and justly appraised for scientific quality.
6. Division editors shall recommend to the EiC appointments to the Editorial Board of new associate editors to work under their direction and, in conjunction with associate editors, recommend the appointment of reviewers to the Editorial Board. Division editors also will ensure orientation of new associate editors.
7. Division editors will work under the direction of the EiC to ensure that quality standards are applied consistent across the divisions of *JAS*.

8. Division editors will provide recommendations to the EiC regarding changes to the *JAS* style and form guidelines and methods to improve the review process.
9. Division editors shall meet yearly during the annual meeting and participate in planning and training sessions during these meetings. They will work with the EiC to solicit articles on current issues, policy, and scientific reviews in areas of key importance to the ASAS membership.

### **Duties of Associate Editors, *Journal of Animal Science***

Associate editors have full responsibility for assigned papers. Associate editors shall be responsible for the editorial content published in the *JAS* and other official publications under the general supervision of the responsible division editor, EiC, and Publications Committee. Associate editors are appointed by the EiC and selected by mutual agreement between the EiC and responsible division editor based their scientific expertise and editorial experience. Compensation will be provided as on the basis of manuscripts processed.

### **Manuscript Handling**

*The author, not the EiC or ASAS, is responsible for ensuring that data are complete, valid, and properly interpreted statistically, that treatment of animals has been humane, and that the text of the published paper is correct. Associate editors and division editors are responsible for verifying this.*

1. The associate editor works within one of the 6 divisions of *JAS* under the direction of the responsible division editor. The 6 divisions of *JAS* are Animal Genetics, Animal Growth, Physiology, and Reproduction, Animal Nutrition, Animal Production, Animal Products, and Special Topics.
2. Associate editors shall select the members of the Editorial Board or other qualified reviewers (at least 2) to whom a manuscript may be sent for review. Using the protocol established within *JAS* Manuscript Central, the associate editor contacts each potential reviewer to determine whether the person is willing and able to complete a review within the 3-week period before assigning the manuscript to that reviewer. Neither the associate editor nor a reviewer may be from the same institution as an author of the manuscript. Reviewers should render their comments and recommendations and return the paper to the responsible associate editor within 3 week.
3. The associate editor and reviewers shall ascertain that reporting of statistical significances and trends is accurate as part of their review of the manuscript. The associate editor shall ensure that errors in statistical reporting, study design, and discussion of results have been corrected

during revision and further ascertain that the information reported is understandable to readers. Technical editing is a staff responsibility, unless changes are needed by the associate editor to clarify the meaning of the sentence(s) in the manuscript.

4. The associate editor shall obtain and summarize the comments and recommendations of the reviewers, handle all correspondence regarding necessary revisions with authors, and recommend acceptance or rejection to the responsible division editor.
5. The division editor, with assistance from the EiC as needed, shall arbitrate contested recommendations by an associate editor and make the final decision in unresolved cases of acceptance or rejection.
6. Scientific information included in submitted manuscripts will be held in confidence by the EiC, division editors, associate editors, and reviewers until the information is published.
7. Associate editors shall work with their responsible division editor to recommend appointments of reviewers to the Editorial Board.
8. Associate editors shall meet yearly during the annual meeting and participate in training/information sessions during these meetings.

### **Associate Editor's Relationship with Reviewers and Authors**

A reviewer recommends acceptance, rejection, or acceptance after revision by scoring and commenting on the manuscript within the *JAS* Manuscript Central system.

1. Unqualified recommendation by 2 reviewers typically ensures acceptance. Nonetheless, such papers are examined by the responsible associate editor, who may recommend revisions in terminology, style, or phrasing, and additions to or deletions from the manuscript.
2. If both reviewers recommend acceptance or rejection, the decision typically stands, although the responsible associate editor may seek additional opinions. An associate editor always reviews each manuscript and takes full responsibility for, or consults with the responsible division editor, regarding a decision to recommend acceptance or rejection.
3. If the two reviewers differ (i.e., a split-decision), the associate editor may seek a third review or may serve as the arbiter of the final decision.
4. If a manuscript is rejected, the author may appeal if he/she believes an erroneous or unfair judgment has been made. Appeals should be made in writing to the EiC. A rejected paper may be resubmitted for publication in *JAS* only if specifically recommended by the responsible associate editor and division editor and approved by the EiC.