Journal of Dairy Science® 2011 Editorial Report

Roger D. Shanks, Editor-in-Chief

Transition

Please help me celebrate the successful completion of terms of several section editors of the *Journal of Dairy Science*® (JDS). I am not excited to have these editors leave their roles, but they have successfully completed their terms. All 3 have served as senior editor of their respective sections for several years. During their tenure, each has earned the respect of the other section editors, authors, reviewers, and the editor-in-chief. When you see them, please thank them for a job well done.

In Physiology and Management (PM), Frank Gwazdauskas has been dedicated to JDS for over 30 years as an author, reviewer, section editor, and senior editor. His contributions have been appreciated in each of these areas. Frank took his role as senior editor extremely seriously and often sacrificed his own time to protect that of other editors. He was also committed to training others to excel in handling the editor and reviewer responsibilities.

In Genetics and Breeding (GB), Filippo Miglior was one of the first international section editors selected. He has handled manuscripts efficiently and ably utilized the expertise of other section editors and his worldwide colleagues. His language and negotiation skills were put to good use.

For Nutrition, Feeding, and Calves (NFC), James Spain has developed his administrative strengths and time management skills in effectively moving this section forward. I thank Jim for his well-thought-out responses to my inquiries during the past year.

I congratulate Frank, Filippo, and Jim on the contributions that each has made to JDS and wish them success in the next portion of their careers and lives.

The sad time of seeing editors leave must be balanced with the excitement of new section editors joining the excellent team for JDS and the appointment of experienced section editors—Matthew Lucy (PM), Keith Cummins (NFC), and Georgios Banos (GB)—to their new roles as senior editors. I welcome new section editors to JDS—Kerst Stelwagen (PM) from New Zealand, Jennie Pryce (GB) from Australia, Helga Sauerwein (PM) from Germany, and John Vicini (NFC) from St. Louis, Missouri. Although the section editor changes above did not greatly affect the Dairy Foods (DF) section editors, other section editors, or the FASS

staff, I do sincerely thank each one of them for their excellent contributions to the *Journal of Dairy Science*.

Editor Guidelines have recently been updated and approved by the ADSA Board of Directors. The Guidelines now reflect that JDS will have 5 editors in PM, 4 editors in NFC, 3 editors in DF, 3 editors in GB, and 1 editor for Invited Review manuscripts, for a total of 16 section editors. Terms for most of these editors will be staggered. This growth in the number of section editors is a direct result of more submissions, more manuscripts published, and more international contributions to JDS.

History

The journal has set another record for number of papers published in one year and averaged 55 papers per month (Table 1). Six hundred fifty-four papers containing 6,298 pages were published in JDS during 2011. Although more papers were published during 2011, the number of pages was 8 fewer than the record number of pages in 2009. The acceptance rate for all papers (accepted, rejected, and revised) during 2011 was 57%, very similar to that of the past several years (Table 1). Final decisions during 2011 were made on 1,067 manuscripts, accepting 666 and rejecting 401 for a 62% acceptance rate. Twenty-three manuscripts were accepted on original submission and 335 manuscripts were rejected on original submission. The rest of the manuscripts took from 1 to 6 revisions before a decision was made. Section editors made decisions in a timely manner. Submissions set a new record in 2011 and averaged 97 submissions per month. Seven hundred fifty-six manuscripts were submitted from outside the US and Canada and their acceptance rate was 47%. One factor in the lower acceptance rate for international papers (authors outside North America) continues to be the quality of English. During 2011, approximately 65% of submissions were from outside the US and Canada. The *Journal of Dairy Science* is truly the leading international dairy journal. Be sure to visit the journal website (<http://www.journalofdairyscience.org/>) and take advantage of the breadth of science that can be located using the advanced search features of the site.

Another highlight of 2011 was the reduced production time (time from acceptance to publication). Again,

Table 1. *Journal of Dairy Science* statistics for 2011 compared with previous years

	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002
Avg. papers received/mo	97	91	86	85	79	74	76	65	56	53
Avg. papers accepted/mo	55	53	49	48	46	46	42	39	38	37
Avg. papers published/mo	55	53	53	44	52	45	40	40	38	33
Pages published	6,298	6,064	6,306	5,134	5,849	4,961	4,451	4,562	4,341	3,633
Average review time (d)	144	137	127	141	127	125	122	132	105	121
Average production time (d)	93*	95**	107	102	106	126	92	135	151	159
Average total time (d)	237	234	234	243	233	251	214	267	256	280

*Averaging 98 d from acceptance to being posted online by Elsevier; 93 d = acceptance until advance print copy received.

**Averaging 98 d from acceptance to being posted online by Elsevier; 95 d = acceptance until advance print copy received.

accepted papers were available in advance print copy or online less than 100 d after acceptance. Because the average review time increased, the average total time for submission to publication increased slightly to 237 d (Table 1).

Tables 2 and 3 indicate how the papers were distributed by article type and journal section. Full research papers, as expected, were easily the most frequent article type. Invited reviews at 10 were right on target, thanks to the efforts of section editor Peter Hansen to extend invitations and to expedite reviews. Suggestions for invited reviews are always welcome.

The most papers (205) and pages (2,018) were published in the Physiology and Management section (Table 3). The NFC section averaged the most pages per paper (10.2). The smallest section of the journal, with 97 papers and 801 pages, was Genetics and Breeding. My interpretation is that each section of the journal is healthy and I extend kudos to every editor. Thanks.

Publication

The grand success of co-publishing with FASS and Elsevier continued for another year. Visibility was good, submissions were up, the journal website was updated,

numerous citations occurred, and the journal continued to rank highly among our peers on both the one-year and five-year citation indexes. The one-year Impact Factor was 2.497 (2011 Thomson Reuters Journal Citation Report®), and JDS ranked second among 55 journals in the Agriculture, Dairy and Animal Science category. The five-year impact factor was 2.952 and JDS ranked first among journals in the same category. In addition, JDS ranked 16th in category of Food Science and Technology. Co-publishing with Elsevier has been successful because of the support from the excellent FASS staff, particularly Susan Pollock and Louise Adam, and cooperation from Anthony Trioli, our publisher at Elsevier.

Recognition

Selecting the “Featured Article” and “Other Issue Highlights” during 2011 has been both a rewarding and challenging experience. Choosing among approximately 55 excellent papers each month is an honor I take seriously in making my “Editor’s Choice.” Each month, all papers in the journal are eligible for consideration, although those without an Interpretive Summary are first to be eliminated. Some of the best science of the journal has been highlighted. Articles are first screened

Table 2. *Journal of Dairy Science* manuscript and page statistics by article type for 2011

Month	Research		Our Industry Today		Invited Review		Short Communication		Technical Note	
	Papers	Pages	Papers	Pages	Papers	Pages	Papers	Pages	Papers	Pages
January	49	490	2	15	0	0	4	21	1	5
February	42	433	5	43	3	41	3	13	0	0
March	47	487	3	35	2	20	5	23	1	4
April	43	422	3	29	0	0	8	45	1	4
May	41	422	2	20	1	12	9	50	1	6
June	43	455	4	46	0	0	5	24	2	14
July	42	413	3	24	1	16	8	41	3	17
August	46	476	1	5	0	0	6	36	0	0
September	46	464	2	17	1	12	3	15	0	0
October	41	437	3	30	1	13	3	14	0	0
November	39	404	3	36	1	14	7	32	0	0
December	37	409	5	63	0	0	4	29	3	19
Total	516	5,312	36	363	10	128	65	343	12	69

Table 3. *Journal of Dairy Science* research manuscripts and page statistics by science section¹ for 2011

Month	DF		PM		NFC		GB	
	Papers	Pages	Papers	Pages	Papers	Pages	Papers	Pages
January	9	85	22	235	12	110	11	86
February	11	112	12	116	14	152	8	66
March	15	152	12	152	17	175	9	65
April	10	91	22	190	13	132	7	58
May	12	126	17	146	16	161	6	45
June	12	106	20	198	15	160	3	29
July	11	93	21	188	12	108	9	82
August	9	86	9	91	16	179	18	156
September	12	128	19	189	12	117	6	45
October	9	90	21	209	8	95	6	57
November	12	118	16	155	13	129	5	34
December	15	141	14	179	6	59	9	78
Total	137	1,328	205	2,018	154	1,577	97	801

¹DF = Dairy Foods; PM = Physiology and Management; NFC = Nutrition, Feeding, and Calves; and GB = Genetics and Breeding. Table does not include Our Industry Today manuscripts or invited reviews.

based on their Interpretive Summaries and then chosen based on sound scientific merit and because they catch my attention. Another criterion for feature consideration is the impact that the paper may have on the research community. At least one featured article came from every section of the journal during the year; JDS contains outstanding papers in every section of the journal every month. Thank you to the authors for submitting outstanding papers, thank you to the reviewers for making those outstanding papers better, and thank you to the section editors for overseeing and validating the process.

Awards for most highly cited papers were initiated during 2011. This past July, at the ADSA Awards Ceremony, I was extremely pleased to recognize the 4 corresponding authors of the most highly cited manuscripts published in JDS in 2008. This next year, I look forward to congratulating authors with the greatest number of citations from papers published in 2009.

Interpretive Summaries

Interpretive summaries are being emphasized as a vehicle to reach a larger readership. Check out the Interpretive Summaries to learn about the diverse topics covered in JDS. Each month, selected Interpretive Summaries are being translated into Spanish under a working arrangement with the Spanish version of *Hoard's Dairyman*. This initiative has continued to increase international visibility of the journal.

Funding

The *Journal of Dairy Science* is in sound financial shape with revenues balancing expenses. The journal continues to be the keystone of ADSA. One vision of ADSA Foundation was to create the JDS Superfund, which is anticipated at maturity to reduce or eliminate page charges for ADSA member authors.

Closing

I encourage you to visit the website (<http://www.journalofdairyscience.org/>), read the *Journal of Dairy Science* online, submit research manuscripts through Manuscript Central, volunteer to review, help reduce the average review time, and contribute to the JDS Superfund. It is a pleasure serving as editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Dairy Science* because of the outstanding people I meet along the way. Thank you.