Journal of Dairy Science® 2017 Editorial Report

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Introductory Comments

We published the 100th volume of the *Journal of Dairy Science* in 2017 with a record number of pages (10,486; Figure 1). The time from submission to publication was 223 days for 2017 and this number has not changed appreciably since 2013. This is remarkable, given the fact that the total number of submitted papers has increased by 36% in the same period. Our focus is on our authors, reviewers, and readers, and the journal cannot be successful without each of these individual parts. The goal for 2018 is to continue our long history as the leading source of high-quality scientific publications in dairy science and to make continual improvements to our journal.

Recognition of Service

Many individuals are dedicated to the effort and embody the high standards of the *Journal of Dairy Science*. Editorial and production work is handled by FASS (Champaign-Urbana, Illinois). The staff working directly with the journal includes Susan Pollock (managing editor), Louise Adam (lead technical editor), and Shauna Miller (editorial assistant); I interact multiple times weekly with these individuals. Additional staff members who devote a large percentage of their time to the journal include Chris Davies, Lisa Krohn, Mandy Eastin-Allen, Christine Horger, Sharon Frick, and Ron Keller. We could not publish such a large volume of scientific information without the continued commitment of the FASS staff mentioned.

Section editors are the lifeblood of the journal. These individuals make time in their daily schedules to shepherd manuscripts through the review process and decide which manuscripts will be published. Their task is not easy. The decision to accept, reject, or revise can be difficult. Nonetheless, we receive very few complaints

from authors concerning the review process. Six section editors completed their terms in 2017: Phil Tong (Cal Poly State University) in Dairy Foods; John Vicini (Monsanto) in Animal Nutrition; Jennie Pryce (Department of Primary Industries, Australia) in Genetics and Genomics; Kerst Stelwagen (SciLactis Ltd.) and Helga Sauerwein (University of Bonn) in Physiology; and Normand St-Pierre (Perdue AgriBusiness) in Management and Economics. The journal owes tremendous gratitude to these individuals who dedicated many years of their professional lives to the journal. Retiring section editors were replaced by 6 new section editors who began their terms in 2018: Michael Miller (University of Illinois; Dairy Foods), Scott Rankin (University of Wisconsin; Dairy Foods), Jeffrey Firkins (The Ohio State University; Animal Nutrition), Andrés Legarra (INRA; Genetics and Genomics), Jon Huxley (University of Nottingham; Health, Behavior, and Well-being), and Gerd Bobe (Oregon State; Physiology). In addition to these new section editors, we have John McKillip (Ball State University; Senior Editor), Lisbeth Goddik (Oregon State University), Federico Harte (Penn State University), and Yves Pouliot (Université Laval) in Dairy Foods; Paul Kononoff (University of Nebraska), Masahito Oba (University of Alberta), and Zhongtang Yu (The Ohio State University) in Animal Nutrition; Christian Maltecca (North Carolina State University) and Nicolo Macciotta (University of Sassari) in Genetics and Genomics; Tanya Gressley (University of Delaware; Senior Editor), Stephen LeBlanc (University of Guelph), Pam Ruegg (University of Wisconsin), and Dan Weary (University of British Columbia) in Health, Behavior and Well-being; John Roche (DairyNZ; Senior Editor) and Albert De Vries (University of Florida) in Management and Economics; and Stephen Butler (Teagasc) and David Beede (Michigan State University) in Physiology. Filippo Miglior (Canadian Dairy Network) continues as our Invited Reviews editor.

The editorial board included 76 members in 2017. We select editorial board members in the fall and attempt to balance the number of incoming papers within each section with an appropriate number of editorial board members. Editorial board members are expected to review 1 to 2 manuscripts each month. Despite the

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Figure 1. Number of pages published in the *Journal of Dairy Science* (2008 to 2017).

time required, I receive many requests each year from individuals who want to become more involved and join the editorial board. The first step to becoming an editorial board member is demonstrating a sufficient number and quality of reviews when acting as an ad hoc reviewer. We have a large number of reviewers who serve the journal in this capacity. Indeed, we sent out over 2,000 “thank you” letters to reviewers who served the *Journal of Dairy Science* in 2017. Our reviewers ensure that we maintain high scientific standards while maintaining a short time from submission to publication. We sincerely appreciate the contribution of both editorial board members and ad hoc reviewers.

2017 in Review—The Numbers

The *Journal of Dairy Science* ranked third for Impact Factor (2.474) among 58 journals in the Agriculture, Dairy and Animal Science category and 29th for Impact Factor among 128 journals in Food Science and Technology. We published 10,486 pages in 2017 (Table 1), averaging less than 6 mo from submission to “in press” and approximately 7 mo from submission to publication in an issue of the journal. I receive very few complaints from authors with respect to the timeliness

of the review and publication process in the *Journal of Dairy Science*. Credit for these very good numbers goes to our section editors, reviewers, authors, and production staff.

There were 1,824 new submissions in 2017, which is 120 more than the number of new submissions in 2016 (7% increase). The acceptance ratio has declined over the past 4 years (59.8% in 2014, 58.6% in 2015; 54.8% in 2016; and 53.4% in 2017). Most papers are published as research articles (Table 2), followed by “Short Communications” and “Dairy Industry Today” papers. We published 15 invited reviews and 8 symposium papers in 2017. The number of invited reviews in 2017 is getting closer to our goal of 2 invited reviews per month (24 invited reviews annually). Approximately 20% of the papers that we published were in Dairy Foods (Table 3) and the remaining 80% of papers were in Production (Table 4). Relative to 2016, the percentage of published papers in Dairy Foods was smaller, which is explained by an increase in the percentage of rejected manuscripts in Dairy Foods. The largest section in Dairy Foods was Microbiology and Safety, and the largest section in Dairy Production was Health, Behavior, and Well-being, followed closely in number by Animal Nutrition. Based on the numbers from the past 2 years, the sections experiencing growth in number of published papers are Health, Behavior, and Well-being and Animal Nutrition (Figure 2).

Highlights from 2017 and New Initiatives

We published a Special Issue of the *Journal of Dairy Science* in December 2017 to commemorate our 100th volume. Dr. John McNamara, Emeritus Professor of Animal Sciences, Washington State University, led this project. This important contribution to the literature was summarized in the Special Issue’s introduction, as follows:

“This special issue represents our attempt to summarize and highlight 100 years of scientific

Table 1. *Journal of Dairy Science* statistics for 2017 compared with previous years

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Avg. papers received/mo	152	142	124	117	112	102	97
Avg. papers accepted/mo	81	78	75	66	64	63	55
Avg. papers published/mo	78	79	70	65	65	62	55
Pages published	10,486	10,242	9,102	8,058	8,134	7,466	6,298
Average review time (d)	125	119	129	137	139	141	144
Average production time (d)*	98	101	92	89	87	105	93
Average total time (d)	223	220	221	226	226	246	237
Average accept to in press (d)	54	49	46	49	47	60	—
Average submit to in press (d)	179	168	178	184	189	200	—

*To print production.

Table 2. *Journal of Dairy Science* manuscript and page statistics by article type for 2017¹

Month	Research		Dairy Industry Today		Invited Review		Short Communication		Technical Note		Symposium	
	Papers	Pages	Papers	Pages	Papers	Pages	Papers	Pages	Papers	Pages	Papers	Pages
Jan	65	770	1	7	2	35	6	35	—	—	—	—
Feb	57	662	1	12	2	26	8	42	2	7	—	—
Mar	55	716	2	20	—	—	10	59	3	15	—	—
April	63	776	3	33	2	33	9	47	2	10	—	—
May	62	728	3	33	2	31	7	43	1	8	2	21
June	66	803	4	44	2	26	7	33	1	6	—	—
July	61	757	3	38	—	—	9	54	—	—	3	32
Aug	61	750	4	63	1	16	5	26	3	21	—	—
Sept	65	784	—	—	—	—	7	44	1	7	3	30
Oct	61	744	1	16	1	20	14	69	5	30	—	—
Nov	59	716	3	29	2	25	11	64	1	5	—	—
Dec	31	358	2	21	1	16	3	18	—	—	—	—
Total	706	8,564	27	316	15	228	96	534	19	109	8	83

¹Table does not include hot topics, letters, errata, news, or editorials.²December issue also contained 32 (100-year) reviews in 555 pages.³In 2017, JDS published 2 hot topics in 14 pages.**Table 3.** *Journal of Dairy Science* research manuscripts and page statistics published in Dairy Foods¹ for 2017

Month	BHH		CMS		MS		PE		RE		SA	
	Papers	Pages	Papers	Pages	Papers	Pages	Papers	Pages	Papers	Pages	Papers	Pages
Jan	3	40	3	30	4	23	1	17	—	—	3	41
Feb	2	11	3	27	6	62	3	28	—	—	—	—
Mar	2	24	3	28	3	22	1	9	—	—	2	24
April	2	28	—	—	6	71	4	38	—	—	—	—
May	4	44	4	44	5	65	2	26	—	—	1	9
June	2	12	3	23	6	42	2	22	—	—	3	32
July	1	14	2	28	3	28	3	22	—	—	1	11
Aug	1	17	4	48	1	10	—	—	—	—	3	39
Sept	2	21	8	81	8	68	3	33	—	—	1	18
Oct	3	22	1	9	13	108	2	23	1	20	1	14
Nov	2	22	8	84	8	74	1	11	—	—	1	12
Dec	2	26	1	11	—	—	1	7	—	—	1	12
Total	26	281	40	413	63	573	23	236	1	20	17	212

¹BHH = Bioactivity and Human Health; CMS = Chemistry and Materials Science; MS = Microbiology and Safety; PE = Processing and Engineering; RE = Resources and Environment; and SA = Sensory Analysis. Table does not include Dairy Industry Today manuscripts or invited reviews.**Table 4.** *Journal of Dairy Science* research manuscripts and page statistics published in Production¹ for 2017

Month	AN		BGG		HBW		ME		P		RE	
	Papers	Pages	Papers	Pages	Papers	Pages	Papers	Pages	Papers	Pages	Papers	Pages
Jan	16	198	8	94	23	252	2	19	7	78	1	13
Feb	18	194	8	92	16	177	3	35	8	85	—	—
Mar	20	243	8	113	15	157	3	44	10	119	1	7
April	18	221	8	97	18	177	2	10	17	197	—	—
May	15	177	5	48	22	222	—	—	13	156	—	—
June	23	317	6	74	14	158	4	50	12	120	—	—
July	23	266	10	120	13	147	4	53	13	154	—	—
Aug	11	133	9	104	21	207	5	57	11	132	3	50
Sept	12	165	8	97	17	188	2	25	12	139	—	—
Oct	17	209	10	111	17	156	2	12	13	159	—	—
Nov	15	191	8	91	16	155	1	13	12	136	—	—
Dec	5	72	4	44	12	114	1	6	7	84	—	—
Total	193	2,386	92	1,085	204	2,110	29	324	139	1,559	5	70

¹AN = Animal Nutrition; BGG = Breeding, Genetics, and Genomics; HBW = Health, Behavior, and Well-being; ME = Management and Economics; P = Physiology; and RE = Resources and Environment. Table does not include Dairy Industry Today manuscripts or invited reviews.

Figure 2. Number of papers published in 2016 (□) and 2017 (■) within Production sections of the *Journal of Dairy Science*. AN = Animal Nutrition; BGG = Breeding, Genetics, and Genomics; HBW = Health, Behavior, and Well-being; ME = Management and Economics; P = Physiology; and RE = Resources and Environment. Table does not include Dairy Industry Today manuscripts or invited reviews.

and technical progress in dairy science. . . Thirty separate but related papers, with 1,000 unique references, provide the dedicated reader an opportunity to learn where we are now and how we got here. Included in each article is a timeline of the major findings in each area. This series of papers can be used by anyone interested in the role that scientific research and technological advancement has played in efforts to make a safe and plentiful food supply for a growing population.” (McNamara and Lucy, 2017)

In addition to the completing the Special Issue, we recognized authors with 100 or more publications in the *Journal of Dairy Science* at our 2017 annual meeting (Figure 3). This elite group—termed JDS Club 100—will be amended annually as new authors reach this tremendous milestone. We continue to work toward increasing the Impact Factor for the journal. This effort may require innovative methods to attract new authors to our journal while maintaining our existing

Figure 3. Inaugural members of JDS Club 100 pictured after the 2017 ADSA Awards Ceremony in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Front row: Jud Heinrichs (Penn State University), Dave Schingoethe (South Dakota State University), Nina von Keyserlingk (University of British Columbia), Ken Leslie (University of Guelph), Dave Barbano (Cornell University). Back row: George Wiggans (USDA), Ron Pearson (Virginia Tech), Duane Norman (USDA), Jim Drackley (University of Illinois), and Dale Bauman (Cornell University). Not pictured: Gene Freeman (Iowa State University), Tal Huber (University of Arizona), Bob Miller (USDA, deceased), Ynte Schukken (Cornell University), William Thatcher (University of Florida), Dale Van Vleck (University of Nebraska), Dan Weary (University of British Columbia), and Charlie Wilcox (University of Florida). Color version available online.

author base. We have been able to increase the number of review articles (both Invited Reviews and Symposia papers) and have added a new type of review (Graduate Student Literature Review and Award) to the journal. This additional review material should help to maintain or increase the Impact Factor. We appreciate all JDS authors and recognize them through several programs, including the “Editor’s Choice” program where novel, topical, and high-quality papers are selected and featured on the journal homepage and cover for one month. We also plan to continue the ADSA awards for the most cited articles in JDS. We reduced page charges in 2017 to \$65 per page and at the same time decided to sunset the member-author loyalty reward program. The

member-author loyalty reward program was instituted by former editor in chief Roger Shanks (Emeritus Professor, University of Illinois). The program recognized ADSA member-authors who publish and review for the *Journal of Dairy Science* and was very popular among our authors. In February 2017, we completed a day-long strategic planning session that involved ADSA board members, *Journal of Dairy Science* section editors, and members of the Journal Management Committee. Ideas from this meeting will be collated and used to guide our work for the next 2 years.

It is a great pleasure to serve the *Journal of Dairy Science* as the editor in chief. I am looking forward to continued service and success of the journal.