
Editorial

It is eight years since I drew attention in the editorial to one of the most worrying problems that can affect any journal – a shortage of suitable papers and other material for publication. Since then there has been a slow steady improvement. This has been stimulated by establishing higher standards at all stages of production. While progress was a major feature of the five years during which the journal was published by Butterworth-Heinemann, these standards are being maintained under the new arrangements with WATT Publishing. Creating the confidence of authors is a vital component. A part of this process is the considerable effort made to try to balance a need for an adequate sequence of accepted papers in the ‘publication pipeline’ with the obvious desire by authors for their papers to appear in print as quickly as possible.

Another welcome, but more recent, trend has been for more WPSA branches to report on their activities. This has great potential in stimulating the spread of good ideas among branches and by aiding wider understanding. Even so, there are still too many branches which rarely or never send reports – is your branch one of them? Some branches also provides items of Research News, a section also showing signs of growth in this issue.

To help accommodate the general increase in material – made possible by the support of our 83 sponsors – this issue has extra pages, so helping to make the journal even better value to Association members and subscribers.

As this issue goes to press, details of an exciting initiative by the Netherlands branch of the WPSA have become available. To stimulate excellence, three awards will be made at each World’s Poultry Congress to both recognize and encourage achievement in the broad areas of Education, Organization and Research – three words that appear as part of the WPSA logo. Categories have been established to acknowledge individual achievement in poultry science and the achievement of individuals or groups in industry/organization and in the fields of education and training. Each award will be for Dfl 25 000 (currently about US\$16 000). This will be divided into two parts, with 20% going directly to the individual or group and 80% provided to promote further development of the work being recognized. For more details, including nomination requirements, see pp. 109–111 of this issue.

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