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## Introduction

# ASAS celebrates 10 years of publishing *Animal Frontiers: The Review Magazine of Animal Agriculture*

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In July 2011, the first issue of *Animal Frontiers* was published by an international consortium including the American Society of Animal Science (ASAS), the Canadian Society of Animal Science (CSAS), and the European Federation of Animal Science (EAAP). Development of an international, science-based, open access journal that provided review

articles and global perspectives on the complex dynamics associated with the production of animal-sourced foods was an accomplishment in and of itself, but the ability to meet the needs of a diverse community of readers, including scientists, policy makers, educators, and the general public set *Animal Frontiers* apart from other journals. In 2012, the American Meat Science Society (AMSA) joined the consortium and added a valuable perspective regarding muscle-based meat products and the meat science industry. To keep the journal going (and growing) and maintaining its primary objectives across three publishers, three editors-in-chief, and an increasing number of competing journals, including numerous predatory journals, adds another level of success to the 10-year history of *Animal Frontiers*!

The first issue of *Animal Frontiers* was titled “Fork to Farm: The Carbon Footprint” and contained six, peer-reviewed articles addressing the carbon footprint associated with the production of animal-sourced foods (Zinn, 2011). With the completion of volume 10, *Animal Frontiers* will have published more than 300 articles focused on timely and sometimes controversial topics such as farm animal welfare, use of new technologies, genomics, emerging diseases, global food security, alternative sources of animal-based protein, land use challenges, precision livestock farming, consumer acceptance, the challenge of communicating

animal sciences effectively, antimicrobial resistance, meat safety, climate change, reducing the impact of animal production on the water supply, and ethics. Each issue leverages the global scientific community providing a valuable resource. To take advantage of this resource, ASAS conducts a Snack and Fact briefing and distributes hard copies of each issue of *Animal Frontiers* to Congressional offices in Washington, DC. Issues of *Animal Frontiers* are also used as required reading in undergraduate and graduate animal science courses in Animal Science Departments throughout the United States. And, many issues of *Animal Frontiers* provide information for quiz bowl competitions such as the Academic Quadrathlon held at regional ASAS meetings and at the national ASAS-CSAS annual meeting.

In 2019, *Animal Frontiers* received its first impact factor of 1.984—not a bad start! According to data from Oxford University Press, content engagement (e.g., online views of *Animal Frontiers* papers) increased more than 4-fold in 2019 compared with 2018 and several articles achieved more than 10,000 downloads and Alt Metric scores above 100. While these are excellent quantitative measures of the success of *Animal Frontiers*, the future success of the journal will rely on the best scientists from around the world contributing their best work to ensure consumer acceptance, legislation that supports animal production, and an educated workforce willing to supply safe, affordable, and healthy animal-sourced foods to meet the nutritional needs and increased global demand for animal protein.

### About the Authors

Debora L. Hamernik is editor-in-chief of *Animal Frontiers*. Corresponding author: [Deb.hamernik@gmail.com](mailto:Deb.hamernik@gmail.com)

Meghan Wulster-Radcliffe is CEO, ASAS.

Steven A. Zinn was the founding editor-in-chief of *Animal Frontiers*.

### Literature Cited

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