ADSA Presidential Report

Michael F. Hutjens
University of Illinois, Urbana

As president of ADSA, I have been honored to serve your organization along with a dedicated Board, solid committee support, dedicated members, and a talented executive director, Brenda Carlson. Being on the faculty at the University of Illinois, I had the opportunity to visit the Savoy office several times a month observing the effort and commitment of FASS and ADSA staff. My report will be brief, highlighting those areas in which members may be interested in “seeing the numbers” for 2005. ADSA is unique with its combined dairy production and dairy food divisions, which allows our organization to function as one society from “farm to fork” at local, state, and national levels. You will conclude that 2005 was a successful year!

Annual Meeting

A highly successful joint annual meeting was co-hosted by ASAS, ADSA, and the Canadian Society of Animal Science in Cincinnati, Ohio, from July 24 to 28, 2005. Overall program chair was Joe Ford (ASAS) along with Rick Grant (ADSA) and Jim Oltjen (ASAS). This year, 2624 individuals registered for the meeting, which included 27 symposia and 1 workshop, 754 oral presentations (including symposia), and 757 poster presentations. The dairy foods division had 104 abstracts presented (55 posters and 52 oral presentations). Fourteen symposia were selected to be recorded and will be available to members. A new concept was a specialized symposium to attract nonmembers and increase attendance. The opening session featured Dennis Avery as the keynote speaker. The international reception was expanded with Hank Fitzhugh, retired from the International Livestock Centre for Africa, as the invited speaker. Sergio Calsamiglia provided a world map for international members and attendees to indicate their home countries. The ADSA and ASAS meeting has become an international meeting.

Journal of Dairy Science

The year 2004 was a record one for the Journal of Dairy Science (JDS), with 777 manuscripts submitted (up 106 or 14% from 2003), and in 2005, we are on track to reach 850 manuscripts. A total of 496 papers (4562 pages) were printed in 2004 (up 221 pages from 2003). Equally impressive was the number of days in review and production, which has dropped (110 days for 2005).

Amy Kemp serves as interim managing editor after Jean Rice accepted a new position in July 2004. The journal is being handled by two full-time editors and the interim managing editor (includes both JDS and Journal of Animal Science). We thank Louise Adam (primarily JDS) and Amanda Kolling (primarily JAS) along with production staffers, Sharon Frick and Jeremy Holzner, for their contributions and efforts. Impact factors reported by the Institute for Science Information (ISI) reported that JDS was ranked second in the category of agricultural dairy and animal science journals with an impact factor of 2.14 (Domestic Animal Endocrinology was ranked first). Impact factor is a measure of frequency of JDS articles being cited in a particular year (reflecting the importance of the science being reported).

Dakota Systems (a consulting group) was hired by the 3 founding societies to evaluate future direction of journal publications leading to a series of recommendations including moving to a single format and style in the 4 journals. A contract was signed with HighWire Press to scan all JDS for posting (currently JDS issues after 1990 are available online). Steve Nickerson has completed his 3-year term as editor-in-chief with total commitment and successful leadership resulting in the tremendous success JDS has achieved. Gary Rogers has accepted the opportunity to serve as our next editor-in-chief of JDS. Our professional thanks to Steve and Gary; our journal is key to our organization.

ADSA Foundation

Al Kertz continued as chair leading several efforts while maintaining important programs including the
Foundation Scholars Awards, Genevieve Christen Undergraduate Award, Quiz Bowl Award, “giving plan” seminars at the annual meeting, and sponsoring the popular and financially successful ADSA Auction and Raffle (net profit was $7386 in 2004). Four DISCOVER Conferences (numbers 8, 9, 10, and 11) were held, including “Reducing Cow Culling Rates” in Nashville, Indiana; “Protecting and Managing Animal Genetic Resources for Future Generations” in Cheyenne, Wyoming; “Improving Health Through Dairy Foods” in Atlanta, Georgia; and “Amino Acid Requirements of Dairy Cows” in Nashville, Indiana. The Searchable Proceedings of Animal Conferences (S-PAC) made its debut this year with 13 conferences providing material. As of July 2005, 158 individuals have subscribed (20% of subscriptions were from outside the US).

Membership

Another important area is the stable number of ADSA members in 2005. The year-end summary (December 31, 2004) reported 2390 professional members, 1097 institutional members, 222 life members, 400 undergraduate students, 389 graduate students, and 65 postdoctoral members—a total of 4657 members. Membership numbers have remained steady since 1998. International membership continues to increase and contribute to our membership base and includes 176 Mexican and Canadian members plus 510 additional international members. The dairy manufacturing industry represents about 15% of professional members. Membership is critical to our future growth and stability.

Student Affiliate Division

An increase in student participation at the national meeting in 2005 occurred, with 137 undergraduates reflecting leadership by campus club advisors. In support of the Centennial celebration, the Student Affiliate Division (SAD) scorecard for awards will reflect the Centennial theme and will encourage SAD members to participate. Each club was encouraged to develop a poster of their history over the past 100 years. A student internship, online job listing, and member resumes will be considered for 2006. Other suggestions were to consider closing the exhibit hall for an hour to allow undergraduate students to hold a job fair with exhibitors and create a section in the job placement center where universities could post graduate positions and display graduate school information. The SAD recognized David Winston as the outstanding advisor. The Quiz Bowl had 11 schools participating. The Midwest SAD section held their annual regional meeting at South Dakota State University in February 2005, with over 500 students and advisors participating. The Midwest regional meeting in Des Moines, Iowa, held a successful undergraduate quadriathlon contest along with paper contests for undergraduate students.

Financial Summary

One critical area is the financial base of our society. Under the leadership of Ellen Jordan, ADSA Treasurer, and Brenda Carlson, ADSA Executive Director, 2004–2005 was a milestone year with over $500,000 in profit leading ADSA to reaching one of the Board’s goals (to have one year of financial reserves). These funds are being carefully invested in stable funds. Reasons for this year’s financial success include the increased number of pages in the journal, a financially successful annual meeting in 2004, closing of the Washington FASS office, and careful oversight in cost control and budgeting. The ADSA Foundation continued to grow ($327,308 in 2004; up $57,000 from 2003) to support future programs and the Centennial meeting.

FASS Management

If you attended the Town Hall meeting in Cincinnati, the discussion focused on FASS. It has been a challenging year as FASS struggled under financial losses, resignation of the Executive Vice President-Administration, closing of the Washington office and release of staff, restructuring FASS with a CEO, appointing Normand St-Pierre as FASS treasurer, development of cost recovery program, potential sale of the Savoy office, and hiring of Jerry Baker as FASS CEO. The good news is that FASS has a new direction, a new look, new leadership, and a financially sound base. ADSA has also changed FASS representation with the current ADSA vice president, president, and past president on the FASS board. Members must continue to monitor and ask about FASS; it is our organization, and provides critical services to ADSA.

Centennial Meeting

Ken McGuffey is the capable overall chair leading the 100th meeting in Minneapolis, Minnesota, next summer. A historical DVD has been commissioned for the opening session along with a coffee table historical summary. The publications committee will publish the April 2006 issue of the Journal of Dairy Science with invited review articles on all phases of dairy production and manufacturing under the leadership of John Fuquay. Jimmy Clark and Stan Gilliland will coordinate posters featuring 100 years of history at universities.
Changes in Leadership

The strength of ADSA is our continued ability to “find” talented individuals to serve on the Board, as officers, committee chairs, committee members, and other ADSA assignments. Dave Barbano will be a futuristic leader, with Gary Hartnell (vice president), Bob Roberts (Dairy Foods Division), and Jim Drackley (Dairy Production Division) joining the board. Our professional and personal thanks to 3 dedicated individuals leaving the board: Joe O’Donnell, Bill Aimutis, and Steve Nickerson. We are pleased to announce that Ellen Jordan will continue as ADSA Treasurer and Al Kertz as ADSA Foundation Chair. Members are encouraged to volunteer to participate in ADSA committee and leadership areas by contacting board members. We need everyone to contribute to your organization’s success.

Executive Director Leadership

Brenda Carlson continues to commit long days to ADSA at Savoy, representing ADSA, and providing committee leadership and support. Her ADSA and FASS institutional “memory” is critical on a daily basis to make correct decisions for ADSA, answer member questions, and guide officers, board members, and committee members. One constant from day-to-day and year-to-year is Brenda Carlson; thanks for making my year as president enjoyable and successful.

In Summary

It has been an honor and professional experience to serve as your president. It was a personal goal to serve ADSA as president leading to an amazing experience. Some days were too busy, some decisions were gut wrenching, and some days had great experiences (awards program when we recognize the best of the best). Everything not completed with the strategic plan and international efforts will be continued under Dave’s and the Board’s leadership. We look forward in 2006 to our Centennial Celebration in Minneapolis!

Have a great day!