

Quality Standards for Abstracts

An abstract is a communication of restricted length that permits informed readers to evaluate significant contributions of a scientific study, method, or technique of teaching or extension. An abstract becomes a part of the permanent literature. Therefore, clearly stated, simple sentences with exact wording must be used to ensure clarity and brevity.

AN ABSTRACT SHOULD INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

1. The objective(s) of the presentation are to be clearly and concisely stated at the beginning of the abstract.
 2. Pertinent methodological conditions, such as population and sample, design, instrumentation, methodology used, assessment of methodology, data collection, and data analysis, are to be included to define the scope of the work.
 3. The information in the abstract is to include those details that directly influence the interpretation or enhance the understanding of the results or methodologies presented.
 4. The results are to be compiled, condensed, and presented with great care. Only information that is discussed is to be presented. Only data relating to the objectives are to be reported. Any statistical inferences shall be sufficiently detailed to authenticate interpretation of the data. A simple illustrative table may be used if it is the most effective method for conveying the results in a clear manner.
 5. Abstracts detailing teaching/extension philosophy must be innovative, such as a new idea or creative modification or application of an existing idea. Abstracts are also to be of national significance, demonstrate application of said philosophy, and provide an evaluation of their effectiveness.
 6. A clearly stated conclusion is essential.
3. Includes no data or statements relating to the objective(s).
 4. Does not use the metric system.
 5. Contains typing errors.
 6. Fails to comply with submission requirements, which include electronic submission, keystroke limits, and a submission deadline.
 7. Presents opinion/speculation with no demonstrated use in a teaching/extension experience.

The quality of an abstract for presentation is a direct reflection on the image of the author(s) and the American Society of Animal Science.

If you need clarification or additional information on abstract quality or submission, please contact the chairperson or the business office.

Quality Standards for Contemporary Issues Abstracts

These abstracts evaluate specific issues affecting all aspects of animal agriculture.

A Contemporary Issues Abstract Should Include the Following:

1. The author's objectives, the message delivered, or the information to be given should be clearly and concisely stated at the beginning of the abstract.
2. Pertinent supportive information germane to the objectives, such as pending or enacted legislation, trade, commodity or environmental group positions, etc., should be included to give an indication of the scope and importance of the issue.
3. Issue evaluation should be complete, condensed, and presented with great care.
 - a. Evaluation should include a summary of how issues were assessed, reference points, precedents, and sources.
 - b. A simple graphic illustration of factors influencing issue resolution can effectively illustrate the complex components involved in issues and their interrelationships.
4. The evaluation should include a summary of recommended actions, possible implications of these actions, and (or) inactions regarding the issue.

AN ABSTRACT IS UNACCEPTABLE IF IT:

1. Contains grammatical errors and(or) meaningless statements such as: "The results will be presented."
2. Presents data without appropriate statistical analyses or estimates of data variability.

Opinions should relate directly to conclusions that the presenter derives from the information presented and should be labeled as such.

A Contemporary Issues Abstract is Unacceptable If It:

1. Contains grammatical errors and (or) meaningless statements such as "The problems will be discussed."
2. Contains typing errors.
3. Includes no baseline information or statements relating to issue development and (or) resolution.
4. Does not comply with submission requirements, which include electronic submission, keystroke limits, and a submission deadline.

Guidelines for Symposia

Symposia are encouraged at the Annual and Sectional Meetings. Plans and budget for all symposia for the Annual Meeting must be submitted to the Secretary nine months prior to the symposia for financial support. Plans and budget for symposia for Sectional Meetings must be submitted to the Secretary at the Annual Meeting prior to the Sectional Meeting at which the symposia are proposed. As a general rule, up to \$1,500 is available to each section for special symposia at Sectional Meetings.

As a general policy, ASAS members will not receive honoraria or travel expenses for presentations at the Annual Meeting or at ASAS symposia. Exceptions will be acted upon by the Executive Committee. Honoraria for nonmembers will be approved by the Executive Committee approximately nine months prior to the symposia. Chairs should use discretion regarding amounts of honoraria to be requested. In general, up to \$500 may be given as an honorarium for most symposia. Growth and Reproduction Symposia budgets must be approved by the Executive Committee nine months prior to the symposium date. Honoraria may exceed \$500, upon Board approval, but chairs should use discretion in establishing honoraria. Program and symposia chairs are encouraged to obtain outside funds for honoraria and other expenses.

Symposiac manuscripts for a given year will be published together in electronic form on the ASAS Web site. All symposiac manuscripts are due on the date of the symposium and must be turned into the Business Office as a group by the Symposium Chair (not by individual authors) immediately after the symposium. Publication costs are the responsibility of each symposium.

Manuscripts for Special Symposia Proceedings, including Growth, Reproduction, Lactation, and Western Section Symposia, are due on the date of the symposium

and must be forwarded by the Symposium Editor, who is approved by the Publications Committee, as a group directly to the ASAS office, not the Editor-in-Chief, immediately following the symposium. Manuscripts for these special proceedings should conform to *Journal of Animal Science* Style and Form and be reviewed by two or more scientists besides the special Symposium Editor. Publication costs are the responsibility of the special symposium committee and will be included in the committee's budget for Board approval nine months prior to the symposium date.

Suggested Procedures and Guidelines for an Academic Quadrathlon

An academic quadrathlon is a local or a regional event involving undergraduate student teams from within a school or university or between students from various schools or universities. Teams participate in four events: Laboratory Practicum, Written Exam, Oral Presentation and Quiz Bowl. The emphasis of an Academic Quadrathlon is on *participation* by students rather than on competition. Many believe that the greatest benefits reaped by students occur at the local level. One benefit to the faculty is commitment to and involvement in a student activity.

This outline serves as a guide for students and faculty as they plan and conduct a Quadrathlon. These guidelines should not be considered as a set of rules imposed by the American Society of Animal Science. Individual school and sectional (regional) contests have considerable license in interpretation. Availability of facilities and faculty will dictate what institutions can accomplish.

The objectives and benefits of an Academic Quadrathlon include the following:

1. Focus on important subjects studied by undergraduate students, including meat and dairy animals and poultry.
2. Provide an opportunity for undergraduates to cooperate and interact in solving problems of general interest.
3. Develop a cooperative atmosphere among faculty to work collectively on a student-oriented activity that relates directly to knowledge about animal science.
4. Provide an activity that emphasizes academics in a way that can be exciting, educational, and useful as an undergraduate club project.
5. Establish an opportunity for the students on the local winning team to attend sectional (regional) American Society of Animal Science meetings and

to meet and compete with students from other schools.

Suggested Procedures

- I. *Teams*: At the local level, teams must be organized by the students and consist of four individuals or fewer. Organizers at a school intending to host its first contest should observe a local event at another university.
- II. *Eligibility*: Members on regional teams must not have represented their school previously at the regional level. They must be undergraduates in a nonprofessional degree program at the time of their local competition. The regional team must be the winning team at the local competition; substitution for or addition of members requires approval of the chair of the regional committee. Substitution should not be used to strengthen a school's team that is sent to regional competition.
- III. *Events*: Students participate as a team in all four events. These events are the Laboratory Practicum, the Written Exam, the Oral Presentation, and the Quiz Bowl.
 - A. In the *Laboratory Practicum*, the team demonstrates its ability to perform physical skills (e.g. handle animals). The competition includes stops at several stations, which the teams visit in rotation. Work at each station lasts for 15 to 20 minutes and involves the entire team. Calculators can be used. Each station is weighted equally in the evaluation. The work at each station usually involves a species such as beef or swine or a disciplinary area such as nutrition or meats.
 - B. The *Written Exam* should have a time limit. The questions may involve any area related to animal production and products. Each team writes one exam, dividing the questions as they wish. Questions may involve problem solving and students may use calculators. No reference material is allowed.
 - C. In the *Oral Presentation* the students select one of several topics dealing with animal agriculture. Topics may or may not require reference books. If references are required, they will be provided. In some cases, topics are used that require no reference and students develop their own subject matter. After selecting a topic, the team proceeds to a private room for preparation of the presentation. Each team will be given a designated amount of preparation time prior to delivering its presentation. The form of the presentation may be a speech, a panel discussion, a debate, or a skit. Each presentation lasts 10 to 14 minutes. An official committee will score each presentation on the following criteria: knowledge and understanding of the subject, appropriateness and excellence in presentation, and ability to answer questions after the presentation.
 - D. In the *Quiz Bowl* questions may be on any topic that relates to animal agriculture and that are answerable in a short period of time. Quiz games will be organized as a double elimination tournament. For each round, there will be 40 questions (32 toss-up and 8 bonus questions). Every fourth question, if answered correctly, entitles the team to answer a bonus question. If the fourth question is not answered, the bonus question becomes a toss-up question. If the team that earns the right to answer to bonus question does not answer the bonus question correctly, no points will be subtracted and the other team will not be permitted to answer. For all toss-up questions, a wrong answer results in points being subtracted from the total team score. Both toss-up and bonus questions are worth 10 points (+10 for a correct answer and -10 for an incorrect answer). If one team misses a toss-up, the other team has 5 seconds to answer. When the initial question is read, either team has 5 seconds to answer and the team members may not confer. For a bonus question, team members may confer and have 10 seconds to decide on an answer. If a student engages the buzzer while a question is being read, the moderator stops reading and asks for an answer. If the answer is incorrect, the moderator completes reading the entire question and gives the other team 5 seconds to answer. Where there is a question of interpretation of an answer, the moderator may solicit assistance from a panel of faculty members designated as officials. In all cases, the moderator's decision is final. If teams are tied after 40 questions, 5 additional questions will be used. If teams remain tied, individual questions are used.
- IV. *Scoring*: Teams are ranked in the Quiz Bowl according to the round in which they are eliminated and by the average number of points per match. Each event is given equal weighting in determining the overall score. This is achieved by giving points based on the ranking in each event (e.g., one point for first, two points for second). The team with the lowest total score wins.

V. *Other*: The regional competition is held in conjunction with the sectional ASAS meetings to give the students an opportunity to attend the technical sessions. In keeping with the policy of emphasizing the value of participation rather than competition between schools, regional teams are not to be coached in any formal manner by faculty or

graduate students. A school sending a team to the regional competition should provide two faculty members or graduate students to act as officials.

Reference: "An approach to conducting an academic quadrathlon." Bob Kauffman and Ann Glewen, University of Wisconsin-Madison (revised August 1990).