



American Society of Animal Science

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Dear ASAS Membership,

We don't know that there has ever been in the history of ASAS, a time of more innovative, active and visionary programming than what ASAS is offering today. Our membership has increased by 25% in the last 4 years. Our journal, the *Journal of Animal Science* is the #1 rated animal science journal worldwide. Our annual meeting, in partnership with ADSA is the largest and most robust annual, global animal science meeting. We have launched, with international collaborators, a highly successful, international journal to rave reviews. We have very active and growing interest from international colleagues to continue to offer collaborative scientific meetings that benefit the global community. We have committed to reaching out to a broad and diverse society to inform the public of the contributions of animal agriculture and animal science through new technology driven venues. The diversity and power of our traditional and new programs has required ASAS to investigate and adopt new operating procedures and technologies.

ASAS achieves these goals because of an active and committed membership, a tireless board of directors, a qualified and devoted staff and healthy partnerships with FASS, ADSA, PSA and because of a solid base built by our past leaders. As ASAS has expanded we have had to adopt new technology, streamline processes, form new partnerships and change aspects of operations to ensure that we meet the needs of our current and future membership. Many of these things are driving changes in the day-to-day business operations of ASAS.

Change always breeds questions. We are drafting this message to the membership to address a number of recent questions regarding ASAS actions. We also want to clearly state that any change being implemented by ASAS is being proposed and implemented only after extensive thought, research and analysis with active engagement, input and support from our Board, outside consultants and legal counsel. Our actions are essential to continue to meet the fundamental needs of our membership today and tomorrow. We take seriously our charge to ensure the health and prosperity of the organization that all of you helped to make great.

In the last several days, we have fielded numerous questions, concerning the intent of "ASAS to sever all ties with FASS". Since inception of FASS, ASAS has been inarguably the largest supporter of FASS and the FASS mission. **ASAS still whole-heartedly supports the mission of FASS to serve as a unified voice of animal agriculture and animal science. ASAS has no intent of severing ties with FASS, nor do we have any intent of**

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calling for the dissolution of FASS. This is evidenced by our recent commitment to 3 more years of funding for the FASS Scientific Liaison office in Washington, D.C. ASAS is, and will continue, to be the largest single funder of this office.

In addition to the FASS role as a unified voice, FASS operates an association management business. As such FASS offers association management services to societies including founding societies and non-founding societies. These FASS services were originally set up to provide economies of scale, cost savings and quality joint services for ASAS, ADSA and PSA. However, over the last several years these advantages have declined. Costs have escalated to levels outside of industry standards. As ASAS has offered new programs, FASS has lacked the skillsets to accommodate many of the needed services for new program implementation and for those they did offer, FASS dictated the methodology for their use to an extent that made them unworkable for ASAS initiatives. As a matter of due diligence, in October 2011, the ASAS board voted to change how ASAS contracts association management services. Rather than continuing to use FASS as a single source, no bid contractor, ASAS voted to put select services out for competitive bid. In all cases we asked and encouraged FASS to bid. To our dismay, in multiple cases the bids from FASS services were more than double other reputable vendors, could not meet the technology demands and would not commit to placing quality standards in writing. In all cases we went back to FASS to attempt to find a compromise. These compromises were rejected by FASS; therefore, for select services ASAS will be announcing new partnerships in the near future. In all cases these new partnerships, will help us maintain or increase quality, increase the services offered and will decrease costs for the society.

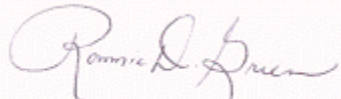
We will note here, that we are actually the last of the FASS Societies to make this decision. In the last 5 years, both ADSA and PSA have made significant changes to meeting their staffing and service needs directly rather than through FASS by employing freelancers, contracting meeting services and publication of journals. When ADSA and PSA made these changes, ASAS did not interfere. ASAS was actually the last hold out among founding owners to contract services outside of FASS and fiscal accountability allows us to do so no longer.

All business models evolve and the nature of partnerships changes. ASAS will remain a partner in FASS, we will continue to use FASS services when they fit our needs and we will continue to staunchly support the FASS role in providing a unified voice of animal agriculture. In addition to doing this, we will continue to work tirelessly to ensure that ASAS members receive the highest quality services in the most cost effective manner from ASAS.

Sincerely,



Margaret E. Benson
ASAS President



Ronnie D. Green
ASAS Past President



James L. Sartin
ASAS President Elect