



Editorial: A 60th anniversary

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Archives Animal Breeding celebrates its 60th anniversary in 2017 – we have been serving the animal science community for six decades! During this time more than 3300 reviewed articles have been published written by more than 4200 authors. We would therefore like to thank all the authors as well as the numerous reviewers, the members of the editorial board, the publishing staff, and last but not least the readers for this story of success. Thank you for your support!

Much has changed in society and science – also in animal sciences. Many new topics, methods and tools have come into focus during the last five decades. Our knowledge has been significantly enhanced by the important advances in molecular biology. The use of computers has revolutionized not only research but also the publication of research results. Comprehensive analysis of physiology at a molecular, cellular and animal level using advanced technologies will further deepen our understanding of performance in association with health and behaviour of livestock species. *Archives Animal Breeding* will continue to contribute to the dissemination of science as a reliable partner.

Wilhelm Stahl (1900–1980), the founder and long-time chief editor of the journal, wrote the following in the preface of the first issue in 1958 (translated from German):

The *Archiv für Tierzucht* [English: *Archives Animal Breeding*] has the task of making research results from various institutes [...] and universities available to the public. In addition, the *Archiv* intends to open its pages to all scientific problems of animal breeding wherever they are worked on. [...] The cooperation of all colleagues, nationally and internationally, is desired [...] to free mankind from the terror of hunger and to satisfy the growing needs for animal products and raw materials in an ever better and more abundant way.

Today, the hallmarks of *Archives Animal Breeding* are a large thematic range, consequent open access, a rigorous but transparent peer review process, a well-organized production process, and a strong international orientation. Recent advances were the acceptance of the journal into the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) and into the index PubMed. Furthermore, *Archives Animal Breeding* received the DOAJ Seal, which recognizes journals with an exceptionally high level of publishing standards and best practice. Not least, we have been included in the Journal Citation Report for 20 years.

With the publisher Copernicus we have a strong partner who, according to their slogan “You research. We care.”, provides the greatest possible support for the further development of *Archives Animal Breeding*.

On the occasion of the anniversary, we have asked a number of renowned authors to provide reviews in their research areas. We would like to thank all of the authors for their time and the effort they have spent in following our request. Along with regular articles, we will publish these invited reviews marked as special contributions to the anniversary of our journal. The first contributions will cover diverse areas like the development of biomarkers for the prediction of meat quality in pigs, the biological evaluation of dietary protein in poultry and swine nutrition, and statistical models and experimental designs for genome-wide association studies in farm animals. Additionally, one contribution will elucidate a decade-long history of collaboration in reproductive biology between scientists from the Leibniz Institute for Farm Animal Biology (FBN) – the institution that publishes this journal – and scientists from Europe and Asia. Other topics of the invited reviews will be resource use and environmental aspects of animal production, molecular biology in animal breeding, and mathematical modelling in genetics and livestock breeding.

We are looking forward to the next decades of the successful development of *Archives Animal Breeding* and invite you to join us.