

# Instructions to Contributors

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## General

The *Journal of Dairy Research* publishes original scientific research on all aspects of the biology, wellbeing and technology of lactating animals and the foods they produce. Research Papers report innovative, hypothesis-driven research that is likely to have international impact. Research Communications are shorter and intended primarily for descriptive research and research of regional or technical impact. The Journal also publishes additional categories of Research Reviews and Research Reflections, which may be short review articles, opinion papers or hypothesis-based data-less papers. It also publishes Letters to the Editor, Book Reviews and Editorials. Research Reviews and Editorials are usually by invitation only. These Instructions for Contributors give the important information that applies to all submissions. Further information specific to the additional categories of article is provided in the Annex. Material for publication should be submitted using the online submission system at [www.journalofdairyresearch.org](http://www.journalofdairyresearch.org) where you will also find further details of the *Journal's* scope, advice on preparing your manuscript and access to track your manuscript through Peer Review. If you have been directed to a dedicated submission portal (for a Special Issue, for instance) that is the one to use. Submission of a manuscript will be taken to imply that it reports original unpublished work that is not under consideration elsewhere and that if accepted by the *Journal* it will not be published elsewhere in any language without the consent of the Editors. You will be asked to confirm that you accept these conditions. Your manuscript will be peer reviewed. If it is accepted for publication you will be asked to assign the copyright, under certain conditions, to the *Journal* to help protect your material. Although it is not a formal requirement, authors of submitted manuscripts are strongly encouraged to participate in the Peer Reviewing of other submissions.

## Submission of manuscripts

Submission is online via [www.journalofdairyresearch.org](http://www.journalofdairyresearch.org). You should first consult the online guidance and these Instructions for Contributors to ensure that your manuscript is prepared in accordance with the *Journal's* requirements. You must submit the manuscript as a single Word document that incorporates all the tables and figures that are essential to the understanding of the research and its conclusions. If we subsequently require higher quality original files of figures or images we will ask you for them. When you submit the manuscript you take responsibility for all subsequent correspondence relating to the manuscript and, if deemed acceptable, the published paper, and the manuscript must identify you as Corresponding Author. You will also normally be required to submit a Supplementary File that provides the methodological detail required for repetition as well as data and other information that corroborate the conclusions without being essential to them.

## Journal Scope

The *Journal's* ability to cover the entire dairy foods chain is a major strength. The remit spans from animal nutritional aspects of feed input through to the biology of lactating animals and the mammary gland to milk quality, technological aspects of processed dairy products and healthy nutrition for the consumer. The focus is on dairy species, but we also welcome comparative research related to human lactation and lactation in non-dairy animal species. The *Journal* does not categorize published articles by topic. Each issue will follow the dairy foods chain, starting with feeding-related research and ending with consumer-related.

## Types of manuscript and general considerations

In the original research category the *Journal* publishes submitted Research Papers and Research Communications. Research Papers report innovative hypothesis-driven research of international impact and will not normally be appropriate for research that is purely descriptive. Research Communications are shorter. In addition to international impact research, Research Communications can also report descriptive studies of regional or technical interest. Within the *Journal* there is no categorization of original research by article type, which must be briefly stated in the first line of the Abstract. Page limits apply to all types of manuscript. These are reported as Text Equivalents (TEQ) where one word is one TEQ and each figure or table is 250 TEQ. Research Papers should be no longer than around 6000 TEQ and should include only figures, tables and reference citations that are essential to the understanding of the research objectives. Research Communications should be no longer than around 2500 TEQ and should include only one or two tables or figures and a maximum of around 10 citations. Manuscripts that exceed these recommendations will be returned for revision. The *Journal* places great emphasis on conciseness, and strongly encourages the use of a Supplementary File to ensure that the article is focused and succinct. Authors who choose not to include a Supplementary File will be asked to justify that decision.

## Reviews and Editorials

These are invited, and separate guidance will be provided with the invitation. The Editors are always interested to receive suggestions for topics, with or without possible authors.

## Other Materials

Separate information is provided in an Annex for submission of Research Reviews, Research Reflections (mini-reviews, opinion papers, hypothesis-only papers), Letters to the Editor, Book Reviews and Editorials.

## General style of all manuscripts

Please consult the online guidance and refer to a recent issue to familiarize yourself with *Journal* conventions and layout. Attention to these and other details will speed publication. Manuscripts should be written in UK English using the spelling of the Concise Oxford Dictionary and should as far as possible be comprehensible to the non-specialist reader. They should be concise and focused on the scientific hypothesis and objectives. Research Papers and Research Communications must be completely comprehensible without reference to any Supplementary File, what was done and what was found must be fully apparent. However, the detailed methodological descriptions or cited methodologies required to allow repetition must be given in the Supplementary File, and not in the manuscript. Similarly, data that is methodological (eg tabular description of a diet) or that is supportive of the conclusions without being essential to them must be given in the Supplementary File. Formatting should include double spaced and consecutively numbered lines, standard margins and an appropriate font of appropriate size. Do not hyphenate words at the end of a line unless a hyphen is to appear in the printed text.

## Layout of Research Paper manuscripts

The manuscript should generally be divided as follows:

- **Cover sheet** should give the title of the article, names of the authors each with one forename together with their affiliations, a shortened version of the title suitable as a heading, and the name and email of the author to whom correspondence and proofs should be sent.
  - **Abstract**, preferably not more than 300 words, should encapsulate the whole paper, showing clearly the new knowledge acquired. The first line of the summary should identify the article as a Research Paper and present the objectives, preferably in the form of a hypothesis (eg *This Research Paper addresses the hypothesis that...*). Without using separate sections, the Abstract should briefly explain what was done, why it was done, how it was done and what was found. Results and conclusions should be clearly stated, but the Abstract should not contain individual data values unless this is essential to the conclusions.
  - **Keywords**: up to 5 keywords must be supplied
  - **Introduction** should not have a heading. It should not contain a full review of the literature, but should help the non-specialist to understand why the subject of enquiry is interesting or important, why the authors have chosen the approach described and what the likely impact of the research will be. The objectives must be clearly stated, preferably in the form of a hypothesis.
  - **Materials and Methods** section should be sufficiently informative to allow the reader to understand what was done, but should not contain the detail needed to allow repetition (this should be given in the Supplementary File). Proper reference must be made to the Supplementary Materials and Methods.
  - **Results** should be as concise as possible, without repetition or inclusion of irrelevant material. Tables and illustrations should be used efficiently. All data reported must directly relate to the understanding of the research objectives and conclusions. Supporting or confirmatory data that corroborate the conclusions without being essential to them should be presented separately as part of the Supplementary File. Proper reference must be made to this Supplementary Data.
  - **Discussion** should not repeat the results but discuss their significance. Refer to existing or accepted knowledge in the present tense and the authors' work in the past tense; the difference in tense should clearly show the authors' contribution. A separate conclusion is not necessary but authors should summarize their main conclusions briefly at the end of the Discussion. A combined Results and Discussion is acceptable but not preferred.
  - **Acknowledgements** of financial support, technical assistance and so on are given in a separate paragraph. It is the responsibility of the authors to ensure that individuals or organizations acknowledged as providing materials or otherwise are willing to be identified.
  - **References** must be consistent and must use the style described below.
  - **Tables** and table legends, following the style described below.
  - **Figure legends** sufficient to allow the figure to be understood without reference to the text
  - **Figures** should be produced using an editable software and copied into the Word document.
- Please remember that the complete manuscript should be submitted as a single document.

## Layout of submitted Research Communication manuscripts

In general, follow the same format and layout as for a Research Paper. The introduction will typically be shorter than the results and discussion are more likely to be given in the Supplementary File. Use of

a Supplementary File for the presentation of supporting data is normally a requirement. The Abstract should start with a sentence clearly identifying the article type and presenting the objectives (eg *This Research Communication describes...*)

## References

Refer to a recent issue and ensure that your reference citations comply with *Journal* style. References should be given in the text as Brown & Jones (1987) or (Schmidt, 1985; Nakamura *et al.* 1989); the first author with *et al.* is used for papers with three or more authors. Where necessary, papers are distinguished as Lenoir (1988a), (Litov *et al.* 1990a, b). When several references appear together in the text, cite them in chronological order, and alphabetically within years. The Reference list at the end of the paper, which should begin on a fresh page, is given in strict alphabetical order and uses the minimum of punctuation. Each reference should contain authors' names, with initials (in capitals), the year, the title of the paper, the name of the journal in full, the volume and the page range. Titles of articles originally published in another language should be given in English translation, and this indicated by the use of square brackets. References to books should include the town of publication and the publisher, with editor(s) and volume and edition number where appropriate. Unpublished work should be given in the text (use authors' initials and surname) and not in the Reference list. You are reminded that it is your responsibility to check all references.

## Data presentation

Choose the most economical form of data presentation, remembering that this could include data presented briefly in the text. All data included in the manuscript must directly relate to the hypothesis or objectives and be essential to establish the conclusions. Confirmatory or supportive data that corroborate the conclusions should not be given in the manuscript, but as part of the Supplementary File. For investigative research, avoid including in the main text large tables and figures that are comprised mainly of data that do not differ significantly between treatments. For descriptive research, use the Supplementary File for all apart from the most important observations.

## Tables

Tables should be numbered and carry headings enabling them to be understood without reference to the main text. Any abbreviations should be defined. Each Table should be typed separately at the end of the main text, but their approximate position should be indicated by a marginal mark (eg *Table 1 near here*). Symbols for footnotes should avoid use of \*, \*\*, etc, which should be used to indicate levels of significance. Additional Tables given in the Supplementary File should follow the same conventions and should be numbered Supplementary Table S1, S2 etc. Ensure that the manuscript includes proper reference to each Supplementary Table.

## Figures and Illustrations

Figures should be numbered and the combination of figure and legend should be comprehensible without reference to the main text. Figures must be prepared using an editable file format and then copied into the Word document. Data points should be indicated by clearly distinguishable symbols. Illustrations such as photographic images should be accompanied by a legend as above, with scale bars if appropriate. Additional Figures given in the Supplementary File should follow the same conventions and should be numbered Supplementary Figure S1, S2 etc. Ensure that the manuscript includes proper reference to each Supplementary Figure. Colour figures and artwork submitted to the *Journal* as part of the manuscript will be published online free of charge. If you request colour figures in the printed version, you will be contacted by CCC-Rightlink who are acting on our behalf to collect Author Charges. Please follow their instructions in order to avoid any delay in the publication of your article.

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## Statistical treatment

Authors should, where possible, discuss their work with a statistician at an early stage and give attention to sample size. Individual results should not normally be given. The methods of statistical analysis should be clearly described; a suitable reference is adequate. Authors should make it clear whether they are quoting SD, SEM, SD, SE and so on. Any statement that two groups of values are different should be supported by the level of significance involved. Differences should not be claimed or implied if  $P > 0.05$ .

## Gene Sequences

Original DNA sequences reported in the *Journal* must also be submitted to GenBank. Instructions can be found at <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/Genbank/index.html>

## Ethics of experiments

All research published in the *Journal* must comply with the locally-applicable ethical legislation or codes for animal or human research, and there must be a clear statement detailing that compliance.

## Units

SI and commonly-used non-SI metric units should be used whenever possible. Solutions may be reported in terms of molarity (M) or as mol/l, providing there is consistency and no ambiguity. Give compositions based on mass or volume as (e.g.) mg/l or mg/kg and not percentage. Report as part of the Supplementary File all details of buffers etc that would be required for repetition. Normality should not be used.

## Microorganisms

The organism should be described unambiguously, with genus, species and subspecies (if any) in italic and strain number or source in roman. Usage should conform to current international rules. Shortened forms or synonyms may be used after the first mention if desired.

## Chemical formulae

These should be unambiguous. It is permissible but not required to use symbols for inorganic formulae.

## Enzymes

The recommendations of the International Union of Biochemistry (*Enzyme Nomenclature*, 1984, London: Academic Press) should be followed, and the EC number given where known.

## Other nomenclature, symbols, abbreviations and conventions

Authors should consult a current issue for guidance. Useful information on biochemical nomenclature and permitted acronyms can be found in *Biochemical Journal* 169, 11-14 and on nutrient nomenclature in the *British Journal of Nutrition*. If authors use other abbreviations or acronyms, they should be defined at first mention, and their number restricted to ensure that the text is readable. Always use Arabic numerals with units; otherwise use words for 1-10 and figures for more than 10, (e.g. 3 weeks, three cows, 34 sheep) but avoid mixed tenses. Time should be given by the 24 h clock, e.g. 14.15, without h or mins.

## Supplementary File

A Supplementary File is now a normal requirement when submitting your research to the *Journal*, and if you choose not to include one you will be asked to justify that decision. It must be submitted by the same Corresponding Author as the original article. The purpose of the Supplementary File is to enhance the impact of the manuscript. The relationship between the two is straightforward: the article communicates the research in a scientifically validated and focused way, whilst the Supplementary File allows the research to be repeated by those who may wish to do so. The Supplementary File must be submitted as a single Word document that begins with the title of the paper and a list of authors (affiliations are not required) followed by the statement SUPPLEMENTARY FILE. The Supplementary File should be restricted to those materials that are specifically identified in the manuscript and will not normally be understandable without reference to the manuscript. The exact composition of the Supplementary File is flexible, but in general it will contain detailed materials and methods followed by data presented as tables and/or figures. Additional references may also be given. Tables must be numbered consecutively in the format Supplementary Table S1, S2 etc. Figures must similarly be numbered Supplementary Figure S1, S2 etc. The Supplementary File will be published online as a single pdf file with a link to that file provided at the end of the main article.

## Revision of papers

If a paper is returned to authors for possible amendment or revision, a period of 2 months will normally be allowed. The editors are ready to consider a revised or rewritten paper at any time, but after 2 months it will be considered a new paper and given a new submission date unless an extension has been agreed with the Editor.

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