

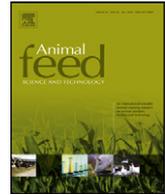


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Plagiarism, Science and Animal Feed Science and Technology

Original thoughts and research are the essence of science. The Co-Editors in Chief (CEIC) of Animal Feed Science and Technology (AFST) consider publication by scientists of the thoughts and words of other scientists as their own to be a serious professional infraction. The CEIC and publishers of AFST take the issue of plagiarism extremely seriously, and do their very best to prevent it from marring papers that are published in AFST.

The letter of apology from the contact author of Wang et al. (2009), which appears directly after this note, occurred in response to their serious plagiarism of Chung et al. (2007), which had previously appeared in the Journal of Dairy Science. The publication of Wang et al. (2009), which appeared in AFST, was brought to the attention of the CEIC of AFST by the contact author of Chung et al. (2007). Although the Wang et al. (2009) manuscript was reviewed by two highly qualified scientists, and thoroughly read by one of the CEIC of AFST, there were several cases of plagiarism of Chung et al. (2007) that were not detected. It seems to be almost an impossible task to detect all forms of plagiarism, as this would require reading all relevant papers in the area (and a virtually perfect memory), but the CEIC of AFST apologize to the readers of AFST, and the authors of Chung et al. (2007), for this occurrence.

What the readers of AFST may not know is that several cases of plagiarism are detected during the AFST review/editorial process every year. It also seems, with the increased receipt of manuscripts from non-traditional countries, that the incidence of plagiarism is increasing in manuscripts submitted to AFST. While this plagiarism may relate to different cultural values among peoples, and/or difficulties that some authors have in writing in a language that they are not familiar with, the CEIC of AFST would like to make it abundantly clear that plagiarism is not an acceptable practice and that it will not be tolerated by the CEIC of AFST.

The CEIC of AFST would also like to point out to AFST authors that it is acceptable to use short blocks of text from prior publications in their publications, but only if that text is in quotation marks and is appropriately referenced to the originating publication. While this practice is perhaps not as common as it was in the past, and should not be overused in manuscripts, there are cases where prior writing on an issue is so clear and/or elegant that the authors would like to use it verbatim in their publication.

Plagiarism is a practice that should not tarnish the pages of any scientific journal and, fortunately, the overwhelming majority of cases of plagiarism that occur in manuscripts submitted for consideration for publication in AFST are detected and the manuscripts are rejected. However, no system of review can be perfect and there will be occasional cases that slip through the system, such as the one that occurred here. It is the responsibility of all of us in the scientific process, whether we are co-authors, reviewers or editors, to prevent plagiarism by being constantly vigilant. The CEIC of AFST encourage all readers of AFST to report any form of plagiarism that they detect in AFST manuscripts for review, and published papers, to any one of us for action.

References

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