

Editorial

In small countries like Iceland the advancement of knowledge often takes place in small unspectacular steps, unnoticed outside the country and, because of common language barriers, basically inaccessible to the rest world. Results from major and minor research projects and documentation of primary data like yield, livestock numbers and production are published in the local language and can be found in periodicals, yearbooks, bulletins, and local conference papers, as well as in unpublished theses. The results and data are frequently only interpreted and discussed locally and in many cases not further published, which means that they are practically unknown and unavailable for researchers in other countries. Though much of this is basically only of local interest, researchers from other countries may benefit from the progress made in smaller countries. The editors of IAS have therefore felt the need to actively promote the publicity of the local research in Iceland in the form of invited review articles, where the results of recent research are presented to the international audience. Our aim is to publish one invited review article per year. This year we start with a review article by Emma Eythórsdóttir on “Growth and carcass characteristics of Icelandic lambs”. Research in this field has a long tradition in Iceland dating back to one of the founders of research in this field, Halldór Pálsson, and his early work in the late 1930’s. In her review Emma gives an overview of the research and developments during the last couple of decades. Similar focussed reviews from other boreal or colder regions will be welcomed in the future.

Besides original research and review articles we now also offer the possibility of short communications to allow for dissemination of important original results that, however, do not fulfil the requirements of a full research article. Here again we are attempting to fill a gap as we see that a number of important research projects deliver interesting and important results but are only published in Icelandic or other local language as they are too limited for a full paper. In this issue Thröstur Eysteinnsson made use of this possibility with a communication on regeneration after felling in an Icelandic birch forest. A natural ecosystem also found in the Fennoscandian countries and in Scotland.

Together with the above mentioned articles this issue has papers dealing with cold stress in winter wheat, models for simulating the development of Siberian larch, ethanol production from biomass, inoculation of birch seedlings by mycorrhizia and sea trout in Icelandic rivers.

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