

# Reap the benefits of ADSA membership

by A. F. Kertz

**T**WO benefits are often linked with membership in the American Dairy Science Association (ADSA, [www.adsa.org](http://www.adsa.org)): the opportunity to attend the Joint Annual Meeting (JAM) and subscription access to the *Journal of Dairy Science*.

In July 2011, over 3,000 attendees flocked to New Orleans to attend the JAM. A large portion of these were international guests. Attendees had an opportunity to view over 2,200 poster and oral abstract presentations along with 41 symposia.

Among the 55 journals worldwide in the categories of agriculture, dairy, and animal science, the *Journal of Dairy Science* has had the highest average citation index over the past five years. The size of the journal has more than doubled in annual published pages. Authors from foreign countries now account for over 60 percent of the papers being published and, concurrently, the expanded journal size. Thus, ADSA has become quite international in its

scope and membership.

## DISCOVER ADSA

But two newer ventures of ADSA are less well known. The DISCOVER Conferences (<http://www.adsa.org/discover/series.html>) were initiated in 1997, primarily through the efforts of Bill Baumgard, then retired from Purdue University. This venture was supported by the ADSA Board of Directors because they recognized a need for expanded educational programming in the area of food animal agriculture.

Breaking ties with tradition, this conference offers an environment that encourages interactions among scientists. To cultivate this unique atmosphere for learning and understanding, presentations are centered on different dimensions of a unifying theme with considerable time set aside for informal questions and discussion.

The 22nd DISCOVER Conference, held in October, centered on the theme of Milk Components: Oppor-

tunities for Maximizing Farm Gate Returns and Meeting Manufacturing Needs. To facilitate participation in formal and informal discussions, attendance is limited to about 150 registrants.

This past DISCOVER Conference began with a historical perspective, with four presentations, focused on Milk Component Basics: Biology and Recent Advances. Four presentations in Session 2 covered component economics. In Session 3, analytics of milk components were discussed. Session 4 provided a general overview of milk components. Session 5 delved into challenges and opportunities with protein. The conference concluded with Session 6, a discussion of milkfat challenges and opportunities.

The 23rd DISCOVER Conference will focus on "Bovine immunology: The intersection of innate and acquired immunity." It will be held May 29 through June 1, 2012, at the Eaglewood Resort and Spa in Itasca, Ill.

## A proceedings gold mine

The most recent ADSA venture, and potentially most useful, is the searchable proceedings of animal conferences (S-PAC, <http://spac.adsa.org/>). Launched in 2006, it compiles over 390 proceedings into a single searchable database from 39 conferences held in the U.S. and Canada. Listed on the home page are the various conferences and proceedings for each.

This subscribable service is so extensive that features have been added to allow searching within a conference and its proceedings. There also are portions of the database that anyone can access even if not a S-PAC subscriber. These include all abstracts from JAM or ADSA meetings and interpretative summaries from all DISCOVER Conferences.



The author is the principal in ANDHIL, LLC, a St. Louis-based consulting firm.

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