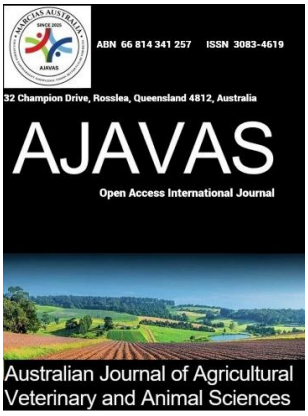

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1.0 AJAVAS – Publishers, Founders and Vision

The *Australian Journal of Agricultural Veterinary and Animal Sciences* (**AJAVAS**) is an independent and fully open access international journal published by MARCIAS AUSTRALIA, 32 Champion Drive, Rosslea, Queensland 4812 (**ABN 66 814 341 257**). AJAVAS has an International Standard Serial Number (**ISSN 3083-4619**) registration with the National Library of Australia, and is a full-fledged member of **CROSSREF** with a unique digital object identifier (**DOI**) prefix of **10.64902**. AJAVAS was established on **May 1, 2025,** under the leadership of Professor Aduli E.O. Malau-Aduli, *PhD*, *FRSN*, of the University of Newcastle, New South Wales, Australia, as Founding Editor-in-Chief and Chair of Editorial Board. The journal provides an authentic and reliable global reference point for sound science, integrated and multidisciplinary innovations in sustainable agricultural food security, natural resources conservation management, ethical livestock production and veterinary sciences with global practical applications in the 'real world'. With a strategic and operational base in Queensland, Australia, and a global spread, AJAVAS considers high-quality scientific manuscript submissions from domestic and international researchers from all over the world.

Foundation Members of the AJAVAS Advisory and **Editorial Board** comprised:
Prof. Aduli E.O. Malau-Aduli (University of Newcastle, Australia) – Founding Editor-in-Chief & Chair of Editorial Board;
Assoc. Prof. Benjamin Holman (Charles Sturt University, Australia) – Deputy Editor-in-Chief;
Prof. Chiara Adami (University of Cambridge, UK) – Section Associate Editor, Section 1 – Veterinary Sciences;
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1.1 AJAVAS scope, aims and objectives

AJAVAS is a fully open access, international, high-quality, and peer-reviewed publication platform that integrates agricultural, veterinary, and animal science research with practical applications in production animal farming and cropping systems. The key focus is on innovative, integrated, strategic and applied, multi- and inter-disciplinary research

on sustainable agricultural food security, animal healthcare and ethical livestock production systems, with a sound science base and international practical application.
The scope of AJAVAS is streamlined into the following four scientific themes:

- **Agricultural Science**
- **Animal Science**
- **Veterinary Science**
- **PhD Thesis Reviews**

- The **Agricultural Science Section** will consider innovative, sound science-based, multidisciplinary, experimental and practical-oriented scientific submissions on temperate, tropical, mediterranean, and subtropical food production systems in the following research fields: Agronomy, Agricultural Economics, Agricultural Extension, Agricultural Systems Modelling, Agricultural Education, Agricultural Engineering, Agroforestry, Climate-smart Agriculture, Crop Science, Sustainable Integrated Crop-Livestock Systems, Soil Science, Plant Physiology & Molecular Biology.

- The **Animal Science Section** will consider innovative, sound science-based multidisciplinary, experimental, practical, simulated, ethical and sustainable farm animal production research carried out in temperate, tropical, mediterranean, and subtropical food production systems in the following fields: Animal Quantitative Genetics, Molecular Genetics, Genomics and Breeding, Animal Nutrigenomics, Feeds & Feeding Systems, Animal Reproductive Physiology, Animal Welfare, Ethics & Behavioural Science, Animal Science Education & Pedagogy, Fisheries, Sustainable Livestock Production and Management, Meat & Dairy Product Quality, Food Processing, Safety and Microbiology.

- The **Veterinary Science Section** will consider innovative, sound science-based multidisciplinary, experimental, practical, preclinical and clinical scientific research carried out in temperate, tropical, mediterranean, and subtropical food production systems in all areas of ethical and sustainable veterinary medicine involving domestic, exotic, wild and production farm animals related to: Veterinary Anaesthesia, Surgery & Clinical Practice, Veterinary Anatomy, Radiology & Diagnostic Imaging, Veterinary Physiology, Pharmacology, Pathology, Virology & Immunology, Veterinary Public Health, Epidemiology & Disease Surveillance, Theriogenology, Veterinary Education & Pedagogy.

1.2 Types of Articles Considered for Publication in AJAVAS

AJAVAS publishes *Original Research, Review, Case Report and Short Communication* Articles
Original Full Length Research Articles should be authentic, original, novel, innovative, sound science-based research with potential international impact that have neither been submitted nor previously published elsewhere in other journals, conferences, and preprint data bases (except University Thesis repositories). Any article submitted to AJAVAS found to have contravened this requirement will be automatically rejected without further consideration. The responsibility of ensuring that manuscripts submitted to AJAVAS have undergone a prior and thorough similarity check using *iThenticate Turn-it-in* or similar software lies with authors. Quality check thresholds will be enforced and all manuscripts with Turn-it-in Overall Similarity above 20% will be desk-rejected.

Review Articles should address contemporary, topical, current research issues, and authors should first check with the Editor-in-Chief with a 250-word abstract before submission of the full review. Invited reviews would be given priority consideration for peer-review. A section of AJAVAS will be dedicated to **PhD Thesis Reviews** from Higher Degree by Research (HDR) University Postgraduate Students accompanied by an authentic student status letter signed by all their Supervisors at the point of submission. Eligible and approved HDR students get an Article Processing Charge discount of US$500 if their review articles are accepted for publication in AJAVAS after peer review. Systematic Reviews should generally follow the guidelines outlined in the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-analyses (PRISMA) checklist (Moher et al., 2010 - Preferred reporting items for systematic reviews and meta-analyses: The PRISMA statement. *International Journal of Surgery*, Volume 8, Issue 5, Pages 336-341, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijsu.2010.02.007). Literature search strategy, inclusion and exclusion criteria, quality assessment to minimise the risk of bias, data extraction and synthesis methods should be covered. The review should go beyond a simple assembly of historical information and data, but also provide scientific depth in terms of critical synthesis, appraisal and analysis to tease out existing knowledge gaps identified and proffer novel and innovative solutions to the identified issues from the literature reviewed. In a review, the expectation is that the authors provide intellectual comparisons, contrasts, and present strong scientific arguments backed by peer-reviewed scientific facts that are crystal-clear. For instance, a reader would like to be able to put a finger on a dot point list of all the identified knowledge gaps from the published literature accessed. A systematic review should also utilise the QATSDD (Quality

Assessment Tool for Studies with Diverse Designs) methodology for a thorough quality assessment, critical analysis and synthesis of the published literature (See Sirriyeh et al., 2012, *Journal of Evaluation in Clinical Practice* Volume 18, Issue 4, Pages 746-752 https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1365-2753.2011.01662.x for details).

Case Reports based on only one animal will not be considered in AJAVAS. Case reports should be on novel conditions, treatment protocols and structured follow-up of complex presentations in more than one animal of any species, under the management and care of humans in the same format as full length research articles including: Highlights, Introduction, Materials and methods, Presentation, history and presenting signs, physical and laboratory evaluation and any other diagnostic assessments deemed relevant, results, diagnosis, treatment, follow-up, summary and discussion, conclusion, acknowledgements, and references.

Short Communication should be a complete, concise and condensed description of a limited but novel investigation presented in the form of a regular paper that will not be included in a later paper. The write-up of a short communication should be itemized in the same way as a regular original research article.

1.3 AJAVAS Manuscript Submission Checklist Before authors submit their manuscripts to AJAVAS, they should be sure that they meet the requirements in the following checklist box:

- While there may be a specified period of article publishing charge (APC) waiver, all intending authors must realise that this is a fully open access journal with an APC of **US$1,500** if the manuscript is accepted. Only **review articles** by Higher Degree by Research (HDR) University Postgraduate Students as first-named authors duly signed and authorised by their supervisors at manuscript submission stage, get an Article Processing Charge discount of **US$500** if such reviews are accepted for publication in AJAVAS. All authors understand that they are responsible for payment of the APC in full before their accepted article is displayed as "*In press*" on the website. Credit card payments attract additional surcharges.
- The AJAVAS manuscript submission template MUST be used and there is 100% compliance with formatting style. Please, do not adjust or modify the fonts, font sizes, spaces or characters in the template.
- Systematic Reviews follow the guidelines outlined in the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-analyses (PRISMA) checklist
- Only one author has been designated as the corresponding author and their full contact details (email address, full postal address and phone numbers) have been provided.
- Highlights – Provide 3 bullet points of key highlights of findings not exceeding 85 characters including spaces.
- Abstract is not more than 250 words, and 5 keywords have been provided.
- The manuscript has not been simultaneously submitted or previously published elsewhere in other journals, conferences, and preprint data bases (except University Thesis repositories).
- Authors have used *iThenticate Turn-it-in* software ensuring that the manuscript's Overall Similarity is below 20%.
- All files have been uploaded, including keywords, figure captions and tables (including a title, description and footnotes) included.
- Spelling and grammar checks have been carried out.
- All references in the article text are cited in the reference list and vice versa.
- Permission has been obtained for the use of any copyrighted material from other sources, including the Web.
- Declaration that Artificial Intelligence software has not been used in writing the manuscript.

1.4 Scientific Writing Ethics and Compliance

When authors submit an article to AJAVAS, it is implied that:

- All named authors and the responsible authorities where the work was carried out tacitly and explicitly approve the publication.
- The manuscript is not simultaneously and currently under consideration for publication elsewhere.
- The work described has not been published previously in another journal, preprint, and edited conference proceedings. The only exceptions are conference abstract only, and University thesis repository.
- If accepted, the article will not be published elsewhere in the same form, in English or in any other language, including electronically, without the written consent of the copyright-holder.

Your manuscript will be screened with diverse tools at our disposal to verify compliance with AJAVAS publishing policies. Violation of any of these quality thresholds will result in automatic rejection of manuscripts that are in breach.

1.5 AJAVAS Manuscript Authorship

Before any researcher is listed as a co-author, it must be demonstrated that all authors have made substantial contributions to all of the following:

a) The conception and design of the study, or acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data.
b) Active participation in drafting the article or revising it critically for important intellectual content.
c) Contributions in the laboratory analysis and interpretation of data
d) Funding acquisition
e) Final approval of the version to be submitted.

Authors should appoint only one corresponding author to communicate with the journal during the editorial process. All authors should agree to be accountable for all aspects of the work to ensure that the questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved. The maximum number of co-authors allowed on any manuscript is 10. Approval from the Editor-in-Chief must be sought for manuscripts naming more than 10 co-authors and a detailed justification for their inclusion provided backed by evidence.

1.6 Changes to AJAVAS Manuscript Authorship

Upon the successful submission of a manuscript, the Editor-in-Chief will generally not consider changes to authorship. Therefore, it is imperative and very important that authors take their time to carefully consider the co-authorship list, order of authors and provide a definitive author list at original submission.

As a matter of policy regarding changes to authorship in AJAVAS:

- Only in exceptional circumstances will the Editor-in-Chief consider the deletion, addition, or rearrangement of the listed order of authors post acceptance.
- Any case for the deletion, addition, or rearrangement of author names in the authorship list should only be made prior to acceptance, and only if approved by the Editor-in-Chief.
- All authors must be listed in the manuscript and their details entered into the submission system.
- All requests to change authorship must be submitted using the official AJAVAS Change of Authorship Form. Requests which do not comply with the instructions outlined in the form will not be considered.
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1.7 Author Declaration of Conflict of Interests

Any financial and personal relationships with other people or organizations that could inappropriately influence or bias their work must be disclosed by all authors. Examples of potential competing interests include:

- Honoraria
- Employment
- Paid expert testimony
- Consultancies
- Stock ownership
- Patent applications or registrations
- Grants or any other funding

Authors with no competing interests to declare should select the option, "I have nothing to declare".

1.8 Research Grant and Funding sources

Authors must disclose any funding sources who provided financial support for the conduct of the research and/or preparation of the article. The role of sponsors, if any, should be declared in relation to the study design, collection, analysis and interpretation of data, writing of the report and decision to submit the article for publication. If funding sources had no such involvement this should be stated in your submission.

List funding sources in this standard way to facilitate compliance to funder's requirements:

Funding: This work was supported by the Australian Commonwealth Government's Innovation Connections [Grant numbers xxxx, yyyy]; the Australian Research Council Discovery Projects, Canberra, ACT [Grant number zzzz]; and the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research [Grant number aaaa].
It is not necessary to include detailed descriptions on the program or type of grants, scholarships and awards. When funding is from a block grant or other resources available to a university, college, or other research institution, submit the name of the institute or organization that provided the funding.
If no funding has been provided for the research, it is recommended to include the following sentence:
This research did not receive any specific grant from funding agencies in the public, commercial, or not-for-profit sectors.

1.9 AJAVAS and Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)
Authors must declare the use of generative AI in scientific writing upon submission of the paper. AJAVAS does not currently allow the use of generative AI or AI-assisted technologies such as ChatGPT or similar services by authors or reviewers or editors in the writing of manuscripts, peer review and manuscript evaluation process.

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- Institutional affiliations: Authors should use the full, standard title of their institution and the standard abbreviation of the institutional name in brackets if necessary, so that the institutional name can be independently verified for research integrity purposes.

2.1 Ethics approval, informed consent and animal patient details Authors must document in the manuscript that ethics committee approval and informed consent have been obtained for studies involving animal patients or humanvolunteers (including organ/tissue donors). Appropriate consents, permissions and releases must be obtained if case details, personal information and images of patients or any other individuals are included in a publication, even if anonymized. Patient and research subjects' names, initials, hospital or social security numbers, dates of birth or any other personal or identifying information should never be used, even where consent has been provided. Written consents must be retained. They should not be provided to AJAVAS unless this is specifically requested in exceptional circumstances, for example, when a legal issue arises. Only then should you provide copies of the consents, or evidence that all relevant consents were obtained. Personal details of any patient must only be included in your article or in any supplementary materials (including all images and videos) in cases where written permission has been given by the patient (or, where applicable, the next of kin).

2.2 Veterinary Clinical trial results Authors must disclose all posting in registries of results of the same or closely related work. Our Editors will not consider results to be a prior publication if they have already been posted in the same clinical trials registry in which primary registration resides, as long as the results are presented in the form of a brief structured abstract (fewer than 500 words) or table. Disclosing results in other circumstances, such as in an investors' meeting, for example, is discouraged and may jeopardise consideration of your manuscript by AJAVAS.

3.0 Step-by Step Walk-through AJAVAS Manuscript Writing and Formatting All manuscript submissions MUST use the AJAVAS template as an editable word document. In addition to submitting online via the AJAVAS Editorial Manager System, the corresponding author MUST also email a WORD Document editable file for the entire submission (including figures, tables and text graphics) to the Editorial Office at: ajavas@marciasaustralia-jomaus.com.au Save files in an editable format, using the extension .doc/.docx for Word files. A PDF is not an acceptable source file. Use spell-check and grammar-check functions to avoid errors.

3.1 Title page You are required to include the following details in the title page information:
- Manuscript title. Article titles should be concise and informative. Please avoid abbreviations and formulae, where possible, unless they are established and widely understood, e.g., DNA).

- Author names. Provide the given name(s), initial(s) of middle name, and family name(s) of each author. The order of authors should match the order in the submission system. Carefully check that all names are accurately spelt.
- Affiliations. Add affiliation addresses, referring to where the work was carried out, below the author names. Indicate affiliations using a lower-case superscript letter immediately after the author's name and in front of the corresponding address. Ensure that you provide the full postal address of each affiliation, including the country name and, if available, the ORCID ID and email address of each author.
- Corresponding author. Clearly indicate only one author who will be responsible for handling all relevant correspondence for your article at all stages of the refereeing as well as pre- and post-publication processes and answering any future queries about your results, data, methodology and materials. The email address, ORCID ID, telephone and contact details of the corresponding author should be updated throughout the publication process.
- Present/permanent address. If an author has moved since the work described in your article was carried out, or the author was visiting during that time, a "present address" (or "permanent address") can be indicated by a footnote to the author's name. The address where the author carried out the work must be retained as their main affiliation address. Use superscript Arabic numerals for such footnotes.

3.2 Abstract A concise and factual abstract which does not exceed 250 words must be provided. The abstract should briefly state the purpose of the research, principal results and major conclusions. Some guidelines:
Abstracts must be able to stand alone as abstracts are often presented separately from the article.

- Avoid references in the Abstract.
- Avoid non-standard or uncommon abbreviations. If any are essential to include, ensure they are defined within your abstract at first mention.

3.3 Keywords Authors must provide 5 keywords for indexing purposes. Keywords should be written in English. Please try to avoid keywords consisting of multiple words (using "and" or "of"). Only use abbreviations in keywords if they are firmly established in the field.

3.4 Highlights It is mandatory to provide article highlights at submission. Highlights are a short collection of bullet points that should capture the novel results of your research as well as any new methods used during your study. Highlights will help increase the discoverability of your article via search engines. Highlights should consist of 3 bullet points, each a maximum of 85 characters, including spaces.

3.5 Introduction, Materials and methods, Results, Discussion, Conclusion, Acknowledgement, References Please refer to, and use the AJAVAS Manuscript Submission Template for guidance on order and content.

3.6 Units, classifications codes and nomenclature AJAVAS requires you to use the international system of units (SI) which follows internationally accepted rules and conventions. If other units are mentioned within your article, you should provide the equivalent unit in SI.

3.7 Math formulae Submit math equations as editable text, not as images. Present simple formulae in line with normal text, where possible. Use the solidus (/) instead of a horizontal line for small fractional terms such as X/Y. Present variables in italics. Denote powers of e by exp. Display equations separately from your text, numbering them consecutively in the order they are referred to within your text.

3.8 Tables Must be in editable text, not as images. Place tables next to the relevant text. Cite all tables in the manuscript text. Number tables consecutively according to their appearance in the text. Please provide captions

along with the tables. Place any table footnotes below the table body. Avoid vertical rules and shading within table cells. Any data presented in tables should not duplicate results described elsewhere as Figures in the article.

3.9 Figures, images and artwork Figures, images, artwork, diagrams and other graphical media must be inserted within the manuscript. When submitting artwork, cite all images in the manuscript text. Number images according to the sequence they appear within the article. Submit each image as a separate file using a logical naming convention for the files (for example, Figure_1, Figure_2 etc). Please provide captions for all figures, images, and artwork. Text graphics may be embedded in the text at the appropriate position

Figure captions All images must have a caption. A caption should consist of a brief title (not displayed on the figure itself) and a description of the image. Authors should keep the amount of text in any image to a minimum, though any symbols and abbreviations used should be explained.

4.0 Supplementary material Supplementary materials such as applications, images and sound clips to enhance research may be used. Cite all supplementary files in the manuscript text. Submit supplementary materials at the same time as your article. Be aware that all supplementary materials provided will appear online in the exact same file type as received. These files will not be formatted or typeset by the production team. Include a concise, descriptive caption for each supplementary file describing its content. Provide updated files if at any stage of the publication process the authors wish to make changes to submitted supplementary materials. Do not make annotations or corrections to a previous version of a supplementary file. Switch off the option to track changes in Microsoft Office files. If tracked changes are left on, they will appear in your published version. It is recommended that authors upload research data to a suitable specialist or generalist repository and share the link.

4.1 Video AJAVAS does not accept video material and animation sequences to support and enhance scientific research.

4.2 Article structure Divide the manuscript into clearly defined and numbered sections. Number subsections 1.1 (then 1.1.1, 1.1.2, ...), then 1.2, etc. Authors may give subsections a brief heading. Headings should appear on a separate line.

4.3 Glossary Please provide definitions of field-specific terms used in your article.

4.4 Footnotes Use footnotes only sparingly. If used, ensure that they are numbered consecutively.

4.5 Acknowledgements Include any individuals who provided help during the research, such as help with language, writing or proof reading, in the acknowledgements section. Do not include acknowledgements on the title page, or as a footnote to the title, or anywhere else in the article other than in the separate acknowledgements section.

4.6 Author contributions: Corresponding authors are required to acknowledge co-author contributions using the roles of:

- Conceptualization

- Data curation
- Formal analysis
- Funding acquisition
- Investigation
- Methodology
- Project administration
- Resources
- Software
- Supervision
- Validation
- Visualization
- Writing – original draft
- Writing – review and editing

  Not all roles will apply to every manuscript and some authors may contribute through multiple roles.

4.7 Funding sources Authors must disclose any funding sources who provided financial support for the conduct of the research and/or preparation of the article. The role of sponsors, if any, should be declared in relation to the study design, collection, analysis and interpretation of data, writing of the report and decision to submit the article for publication. If funding sources had no such involvement this should be stated in your submission.

List funding sources in this standard way to facilitate compliance to funder's requirements:

Funding: This work was supported by the Australian Commonwealth Government's Innovation Connections [Grant numbers xxxx, yyyy]; the Australian Research Council Discovery Projects, Canberra, ACT [Grant number zzzz]; and the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research [Grant number aaaa].

It is not necessary to include detailed descriptions on the program or type of grants, scholarships and awards. When funding is from a block grant or other resources available to a university, college, or other research institution, submit the name of the institute or organization that provided the funding. If no funding has been provided for the research, it is recommended to include the following sentence: *This research did not receive any specific grant from funding agencies in the public, commercial, or not-for-profit sectors.*

4.8 Appendices Identify individual appendices within the article using the format: A, B, etc. Give separate numbering to formulae and equations within appendices using formats such as Eq. (A.1), Eq. (A.2), etc. and in subsequent appendices, Eq. (B.1), Eq. (B. 2) etc. In a similar way, give separate numbering to tables and figures using formats such as Table A.1; Fig. A.1, etc.

4.9 References Any references cited within the article should also be present in the reference list and vice versa. References must not be cited in the abstract. Do not include unpublished results and personal communications in the reference list. In exceptional circumstances, authors may mention these in the text of the article. Any unpublished results and personal communications included in the reference list must follow the standard reference style AJAVAS. In substitution of the publication date add "unpublished results" or "personal communication." References cited as "in press" imply that the item has been accepted for publication. Before submission, check that all

data provided in the reference list are correct, including any references which have been copied. Providing correct reference data allows linkage to abstracting and indexing services such as Scopus, Crossref and PubMed. Any incorrect surnames, journal or book titles, publication years or pagination within the references may prevent link creation. Please use and provide Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs) as reference links as they provide a permanent link to the electronic article referenced.

4.9.1 Reference style The reference list should be arranged alphabetically and then chronologically. More than one reference from the same author(s) in the same year must be identified by the letters 'a', 'b', 'c', etc., placed after the year of publication. Examples:

4.9.2 Reference to a journal publication: Malau-Aduli AEO, Edriss MA, Siebert BD, Bottema CDK, Deland MPB, Pitchford WS. 2000. Breed differences and genetic parameters for melting point, marbling score and fatty acid composition of lot-fed cattle. *Journal of Animal Physiology and Animal Nutrition*, 83(2), 95–105. https://doi.org/10.1046/j.1439- 0396.2000.00254.x

4.9.3 Reference to a journal publication with an article number: Malau-Aduli AEO, Nguyen DV, Le VH, Nguyen QV, Otto JR, Malau- Aduli BS, Nichols PD. 2019. Correlations between growth and wool quality traits of genetically divergent Australian lambs in response to canola or flaxseed oil supplementation. *PLoS ONE*, 14(1), e0208229. https://journals.plos. org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0208229.

4.9.4 Reference to a book: Strunk W, Jr., White EB. 2000. The elements of style (4th ed.). Longman (Chapter 4).

4.9.5 Reference to a chapter in a book: Malau-Aduli AEO, Holman BWB. 2014. World beef production. In: Beef Cattle Production & Trade 1st ed., Cottle DJ, Khan L (Editors) (pp. 65–79). Collingwood, Melbourne, Australia: CSIRO Publishing. ISBN: 9780643109889, Chapter 4.

Malau-Aduli AEO, Holman BWB (2015a). Molecular genetics-nutrition interactions in ruminant fatty acid metabolism and meat quality. Molecular & Quantitative Animal Genetics (pp. 197–214). New Jersey, USA: Wiley-Blackwell Publishers. Khatib H (Editor), ISBN: 978-1-118-67740-7, Section 3: Molecular Genetics of Production and Economically Important Traits, Chapter 20.

4.9.6 Reference to a website: Powertech Systems. 2022. Lithium-ion vs lead-acid cost analysis. Retrieved from http://www.powertechsystems.eu/home/tech-corner/lithium-ion-vs-lead-acid-cost-analysis/. Accessed January 6, 2022.

4.9.7 Reference to a dataset: Oguro M, Imahiro S, Saito S, Nakashizuka T. 2015. Mortality data for Japanese oak wilt disease and surrounding forest compositions [dataset]. Mendeley Data, v1. https://doi.org/10.17632/xwj98nb39r.1.

4.9.8 Reference to a conference paper or poster presentation: Engle EK, Cash TF, Jarry JL. 2019 November. The Body Image Behaviours Inventory-3: Development and validation of the Body Image Compulsive Actions and Body Image Avoidance Scales. Poster session presentation at the meeting of the Association for Behavioural and Cognitive Therapies, New York, NY.

4.9.9 Reference to software: Coon E, Berndt M, Jan A, Svyatsky D, Atchley A, Kikinzon E, Harp D, Manzini G, Shelef E, Lipnikov K, Garimella R, Xu C, Moulton D, Karra S, Painter S, Jafarov E, Molins S. 2020. Advanced Terrestrial Simulator (ATS) (Version 0.88) [Computer software]. Zenodo. https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3727209.

4.9.10 Web references When listing web references, as a minimum, authors should provide the full URL and the date when the reference was last accessed. Additional information (e.g. DOI, author names, dates or reference to a source publication) should also be provided, if known. You can list web references separately under a new heading directly after your reference list or include them in your reference list.

4.9.11 Data references Cite underlying or relevant datasets within article text and list data references in the reference list. When citing data references, you should include: Author name(s), dataset title, data repository, version (where available), year and global persistent identifier.

5.0 Submitting your manuscript

5.1 Submission checklist Before completing the submission of all manuscripts, all authors must ensure that they meet the following submission checklist:

- This is a fully open access journal. After the initial 2-3 years of 100% waivers, an article publishing charge (APC) of **US$1,500** will come into effect if the manuscript is accepted. Only **review articles** by Higher Degree by Research (HDR) University Postgraduate Students as first-named authors duly signed and authorised by their supervisors at manuscript submission stage, get an Article Processing Charge discount of **US$500** if such reviews are accepted for publication in AJAVAS. All authors understand that they are responsible for payment of the APC in full before their accepted article is displayed as "*In press*" on the website. Credit card payments attract additional surcharges.
- The AJAVAS manuscript submission template MUST be used for a 100% compliance with formatting style.
- Systematic Reviews follow the guidelines outlined in the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-analyses (PRISMA) checklist
- Only one author has been designated as the corresponding author and their full contact details (email address, full postal address and phone numbers) have been provided.
- Highlights – Provide 3 bullet points of key highlights of findings not exceeding 85 characters including spaces.
- Abstract is not more than 250 words, and 5 keywords have been provided.
- The manuscript has not been simultaneously submitted or previously published elsewhere in other journals, conferences, and preprint data bases (except University Thesis repositories).
- Authors have used *iThenticate Turn-it-in* software ensuring that the manuscript's Overall Similarity is below 20%.
- All files have been uploaded, including keywords, figure captions and tables (including a title, description and footnotes) included.
- Spelling and grammar checks have been carried out.
- All references in the article text are cited in the reference list and vice versa.
- Permission has been obtained for the use of any copyrighted material from other sources, including the Web.
- Declaration that Artificial Intelligence software has not been used in writing the manuscript.

Suggesting reviewers by authors to support the peer review process is NOT allowed in AJAVAS.

5.2. The Peer-Review Process

All manuscripts submitted to AJAVAS go through a robust and rigorous anonymous peer-review process that validates and improves the quality of published research while enhancing networking among researchers with common interests. In upholding the integrity, quality and validity of research articles and scientific communications, all manuscript submissions will be initially assessed by the Editor-in-Chief to ensure that best practice minimum quality threshold

expectations and suitability for progression to peer-reviewers are met. If deemed suitable, manuscripts are assigned to Associate Editors who oversee further handling by two or more independent specialist reviewers who provide expert assessment of the scientific quality, robustness, novelty and addition to existing knowledge of the manuscript. AJAVAS Editors will not be involved in the decision-making process of submitted manuscripts that they, family members and colleagues have written or where conflict of interest exists in relation to products or services. The Editor-in-Chief reserves the exclusive right to final decisions of acceptance or rejection of all manuscripts pre- or post-review.

5.2.1 Appeals of Editorial Decisions

The Authors who wish to appeal the revision or rejection decision for their manuscript may submit a formal appeal. Appeal requests must be made in writing to the AJAVAS Editor-in-Chief (authors can find the journal's email address on the journal's homepage) with the word "Appeal" and the manuscript reference number in the subject line. Appeals will only be considered for manuscripts that have been peer-reviewed and will not be considered for those rejected outright by the journal editorial team. The appeal must be submitted by the corresponding author of the manuscript. All co-authors must agree to the submission of the appeal.

Corresponding authors should:

- submit their appeal within two weeks of the date on which the authors receive the editorial decision.
- not submit their manuscript to any other journal or start a transfer process to another journal while their appeal is being considered.
- detail in the appeal letter why they refute the decision and provide point-by-point responses to any of the editors' and/or reviewers' comments that may have contributed to the rejection decision, together with supporting evidence. Please note that appeals will not be considered where manuscripts have been rejected because they do not comply with journal publishing policies or where there is a difference of opinion as to the interest, novelty, or suitability of the manuscript for the journal.
- provide supporting evidence if they believe the Editor or Reviewer has made technical errors in their assessment of the manuscript.
- provide supporting evidence if they believe the Editor or the Reviewer may have a conflict of interest or has been biased.

Appeal requests which do not comply with the above requirements will be rejected and not considered by the journal. The appeal request will be considered by the Editor-in-Chief or their designated representative. Where there is an allegation of a conflict of interest on the part of the Editor, the appeal will be handled by a different member of the Editorial Board. The time required for the consideration of an appeal may vary with the scientific field, complexity of the manuscript, and time taken to find new experts that are available to review the manuscript afresh, among other reasons. The corresponding author may withdraw an appeal request by sending an email to the same email address used to submit their appeal with the words "Appeal withdrawal" and the manuscript reference number in the subject line. The appeal request will be assessed in accordance with AJAVAS policies, aims and scope. The Editor-in-Chief will notify the corresponding author of the outcome of the appeal. Should the journal agree to reconsider the manuscript, acceptance is not guaranteed, and the reconsideration process may involve re-review by previous or new reviewers and/or Editors, and substantive revision. Only one appeal per submission will be considered and the appeal decision will be final. AJAVAS is unable to consider appeals in which the subject matter is part of a legal dispute and reserves the right to suspend or discontinue an ongoing appeal in such cases.

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7.0 AJAVAS Post-Publication Amendments and Retraction Policy

AJAVAS is dedicated to preserving the integrity, permanence, and reliability of the scholarly record. In strict alignment with the **Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) Guidelines** and the **Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research**, AJAVAS establishes clear procedures for addressing errors, ethical violations, and structural challenges to published agricultural, veterinary, and animal science literature.

7.1. Principles of Post-Publication Changes

AJAVAS considers the version of record of any published article to be a permanent component of scientific history.

Objective: Post-publication amendments and retractions are intended solely to correct the literature and ensure its integrity, not to punish authors.

Open Access: All correction notes, Expressions of Concern, and Retraction Notices will be published as open-access content and dynamically linked directly to the original article.

7.2. Article Retractions

The Editorial Board will consider a full article retraction under specific criteria defined by COPE.

Criteria for Retraction

AJAVAS will issue a retraction if:

- **Unreliable Findings:** There is clear evidence that the findings are unreliable, either due to major honest error (e.g., analytical miscalculations, experimental flaws) or intentional misconduct (e.g., data fabrication, image manipulation).
- **Plagiarism & Redundancy:** The article contains severe plagiarism or constitutes redundant (duplicate) publication without proper cross-referencing or justification.

- **Ethics Violations:** The research involved unethical treatment of animals or failed to secure mandatory institutional ethics clearance. For Australian-based research, this includes failure to comply with the *Australian Code for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes* or lack of **Animal Ethics Committee (AEC)** approval.
- **Compromised Peer Review:** The peer review process was systematically compromised (e.g., peer-review manipulation, fake reviewers, or paper mill activity).
- **Undisclosed Conflicts:** The authors failed to disclose a major competing interest that would have fundamentally altered the editorial or review decision.

7.3 The Retraction Process and Presentation

- **Preservation of Record:** To maintain the historical record, the original PDF of the retracted article will **not** be deleted. It will remain accessible online but will be permanently watermarked **"RETRACTED"** on every page.
- **Retraction Notice:** A separate, formal Retraction Notice will be published. It will clearly explicitly state who is retracting the article (the authors, the editor, or the publisher), the definitive reasons for the retraction, and a direct hyperlink to the original paper.

7.4 Expressions of Concern (EoC)

The Editorial Board may issue an Expression of Concern to alert the scientific community while a complex or sensitive investigation is ongoing.

Criteria for an Expression of Concern

An EoC is deployed when:

- **Inconclusive Evidence:** There is well-founded suspicion of research or publication misconduct, but the evidence is currently inconclusive, or an institutional investigation will take a prolonged period to complete.
- **Uncooperative Parties:** There is strong reason to believe an article is unreliable, but the authors' institution or governing body refuses or fails to investigate the matter adequately.

7.5 Article Corrections (Errata and Corrigenda)

If an error does not invalidate the core scientific conclusions of a study, AJAVAS will issue a correction note rather than a retraction.

- **Errata:** Issued to correct significant errors introduced by the journal during editing, typesetting, or production.
- **Corrigenda:** Issued to correct significant errors introduced by the authors (e.g., correction of a minor software script, missing author names, or minor clarification of a figure axis).

7.6 Article Removal (Exceptional Circumstances)

In highly exceptional and rare circumstances, an article may be completely removed from the online platform. This action is restricted to instances where:

- The content is defamatory, infringes upon statutory legal rights, or violates a subject's privacy.
- The article contains biosecurity risks or details that, if acted upon, pose an immediate and severe hazard to public health, veterinary welfare, or Australian agricultural safety.

When an article is removed, the metadata (title and authors) and an explanatory note will remain, but the text and PDF will be deleted.

7.7 Investigation Protocol

a) **Reporting:** Concerns regarding published work can be raised by readers, reviewers, or the authors themselves via the AJAVAS Editorial Office.

b) **Initial Assessment:** The Editor-in-Chief evaluates the claim using COPE Flowcharts.

c) **Institutional Contact:** If misconduct is suspected, the Editor-in-Chief will contact the authors' corresponding institution (e.g., the Research Integrity Office or equivalent body) to request a formal review.

d) **Final Determination:** The final decision to retract rests solely with the Editor-in-Chief based on findings from the investigation.