EDITORIAL COMMENT

A brief scan of the 'Information for contributors to *Animal Science*' found on the verso of the front cover of Animal Science reminds us of the broad range of material that both the *British Society of Animal Science* and its Journal seek to embrace. *Animal Science* must function holistically. Our core material remains based on whole animal biology, but we seek contributions in the 'new sciences' and also in those areas of integration and research development that are seen to have international implications.

Probably the most important function in the development of research is that of 'framing the right questions'. The following commentary by Jim Sumberg puts into words the thoughts that many members of the Society must have had in relation to applied research at many levels and in a range of situations. The African situation discussed here may be repeated in other conditions across the globe.

This commentary is not a conventional paper for the Journal but its content is a timely contribution, especially to *Animal Science*, for three reasons. The issues raised are relevant to the deliberations of the international conference 'Responding to the increasing global demand for livestock products', held in November 2002 in Merida, Mexico, organised by the British Society of Animal Science in collaboration with the American Society of Animal Science and Mexican Society of Animal Production. The commentary is also relevant to the BSAS presidential theme for 2002-03, 'Animal science and globalization', and will assist deliberations on the theme at the Annual Conference in March 2003. Thirdly, and most importantly, the article illustrates the urgent need for animal scientists to engage with members of other disciplines, such as socio-economists and extension specialists.

The editors hope that this paper will act as a spur for comments from members and will help to establish a correspondence section for the electronic version of the Journal.

I. J. Lean   E. Owen
Chairman of Editors   BSAS President

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