

EDITORIAL

The 50 Most Downloaded *Poultry Science* Papers in 2021

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Poultry Science begins its second century in 2022. Many changes occurred over the journal's 100 yr including the amount of scientific data generated and the entire publication process. Manuscripts moved more rapidly from submission to revision to publication. Mailing papers for review and revision has been replaced by electronic processes. Following acceptance, pre-proof articles appear online quickly. The pre-proof is replaced by the final version after online correction. Article-based publishing means that articles are available in their final, citable format sooner, rather than waiting for a journal issue to be complete. Online access has superseded print as the mechanism to communicate research knowledge. Requesting reprints via mail after scanning *Current Contents* for the latest articles is only a memory.

During the centennial celebration, the list of [The 100 Most Cited *Poultry Science* Papers](#) was assembled. The most recent highly cited work was published in 2014. The time lag up to 2021 represents the interval required for that paper to accumulate enough citations to reach the top 100 rank. Other processes, such as full-text downloads, denote usage of scientific publications. Assessing download rate may highlight an influential article before it reaches high citations. *Poultry Science* has collected the [Top 50 Downloaded *Poultry Science* Articles in 2021](#). Some of the highlights are described below.

Forty-nine of the papers are full-length manuscripts with one Research Note. Fourteen of the top 50 articles (28%) are reviews, demonstrating the comprehensive review's value to the scientific community. Two of the top 10 papers were published in 2021 whereas 60% (30/50) of the articles were published between 2019 and 2021. In the last 10 yr, 84% of the top downloaded articles (42/50) appeared. Eight papers (16%) were published before 2011 with 4 of those dating from 1977 or earlier.

Sampling Methods in Behavior Research (Lehner, 1992) is the most-downloaded paper. Even though the work was published 29 yr ago, the high downloads indicate that the topic is relevant today. The paper described that specific research questions identify the variables that will aid the selection of behavior sampling

methods. Variables include what, who, when, where, as well as abiotic or biotic environments. The author writes that a rule to follow is "...select the sampling method that will provide only enough accurate and valid data of sufficient resolution to answer your research question" (Lehner, 1992).

The two oldest papers approach the topic of sex-identification: one in quail and the other in turkeys. First, Homma et al. (1966) discussed methods to identify sex in day-old quail. The authors cited instances in which investigators wish to start experimentation early using a single sex. Their sex identification employed cloacal examination with or without a magnification aid. The method's 99% accuracy was comparable to the technique applied to chicks. In the second paper, USDA scientists established a method to identify sex in day-old turkey poults after growers had requested that such a procedure be developed (Hammond and Marsden, 1937). Vent examination for the presence or absence of genital papillae was 95.7% accurate based on data from 2 independent examiners. Both methods have retained their utility over many years based on the number of downloads.

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