

NOTES

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Dear readers, contributors and supporters during 24 years.

With these, my last Notes as the editor of SCIENTIFUR, I wish to thank you all for the support you have given me in various ways over the years.

Firstly, I wish to thank the board of directors of The Scandinavian Association of Agricultural Scientists (N.J.F.) for giving me the job of starting up and running SCIENTIFUR based on the decision made by the participants of the first International Scientific Congress in Fur Animal Production, held in Helsinki in 1976 (see later just after the Notes)

The economic basis for the production has all the years been the payments for subscription plus large economic support from the fur breeders associations. During the years from 1977 until 1993 the major economic support came from the Scandinavian Fur Breeders Associations (Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden). From 1994, after the establishment of IFASA (the International Fur Animal Scientific Association), the support has been managed through EFBA (The European Fur Breeders Association), which today stands for app. 2/3 of the total costs of publishing SCIENTIFUR and running IFASA.

For housing SCIENTIFUR from 1976 until 1993 we thank The National Institute of Animal Science in Denmark, first the fur animal dept. in Hilleroed and later the same dept. at Research Centre Foulum. From the middle of 1993 the address of IFASA/SCIENTIFUR has been Oslo Fur Centre Norway. We hereby wish to thank the Norwegian Fur Breeders Association for giving us the privilege of having our domain in their house and the possibility of using the facilities and services at the Oslo Fur Centre.

It has been inspiring that the fur farmers for whom we work have during all the years underlined their impression of the importance of International Cooperation in Fur Animal Science through this support. Also all the letters and other flowers that we have received from our readers and colleagues over the years, have been a good remedy to keep up the speed and enthusiasm.

All the personal friends from many countries that I have got over the years have made me very happy. Dear friends, we do not necessarily lose contact after my retirement. I can hopefully for many years to come be reached at the address: FOSSGATE 26, N-3320 VESTFOSEN, NORWAY, and E-mail address: gu-joer@online.no

I have done it before, but also on this occasion I wish to thank the "girls" in my and SCIENTIFUR's life. First of all, thanks to our famous colleague Outi Lohi, who was up front in the arrangement of the first International Scientific Congress in Fur Animal production. Later on she has made an enormous job in connection with establishing the SCIENTIFUR INDEX and given your editor instruction in the use of the personal computer and not least the yearly "lining up" of my PC to work normally again. Now Outi is in focus again helping the arrangement committee of the VII International Scientific Congress in Fur Animal Production, Kastoria Sept. 2000, with the editing of the Congress Proceedings. Outi is also responsible for transferring the contents of SCIENTIFUR presented on the Internet (www.IFASANET.ORG) by Odette Hèlie.

After that, thanks to my secretary at the research centre in Hilleroed, Ellen Andersen, who has been typing SCIENTIFUR from 1976 until 1991 and during the same period has taken care of the book-keeping in relation to SCIENTIFUR. We must not

forget, either, that Ellen was the one who did all the hard work in connection with The 2nd International Scientific Congress in Fur Animal Production held in Denmark in 1980. Thank you for that Ellen; they were good years, even though the personal computers were not in this period available for "normal" people.

SCIENTIFUR and The Editor moved with the National Institute of Animal Science to Research Centre Foulum in 1991. Again Outi Lohi was helpful with finding the right staff to do the secretarial work for us. We found Hanne Artved, who since then has been correcting our language before further treatment. I am not sure whether Hanne feels my English has improved over the years, but the language control in the computer helps me, and therefore also Hanne. Thanks to both.

At the same time we employed Dorthe V. Nielsen, who has over the years not only typed SCIENTIFUR page by page, but who has also developed a fantastic "eye" for lay-out. What I did with the help of a pair of scissors and glue for the first many years, Dorthe does with the PC, and I only have to look it over, and agree. Thank you very much Dorthe for making my editorial life easier. Also this last issue is made by Dorthe.

Of course we have had a lot more helpers over the years - Among these Janne Hansen has been enthusiastic and faithful for many years in controlling her original language in all reports before final printing and distribution of SCIENTIFUR. Thank you very much Janne. Hopefully, you will also in the future receive a lot of good scientific material about fur animals.

As already mentioned, Outi and Odette have made a good work in putting app. 50 % of the contents of SCIENTIFUR, vol. 24. No 1 & 2 on the Internet, where it can be found at the address: www.IFASANET.ORG. Today a check showed

859 visitors to the website since January 2000. It tells us that IFASA/SCIENTIFUR are going to be wellknown on the net. It will be interesting to see whether from 2001 we shall have only an electronic version of SCIENTIFUR or a combination of a printed and an electronic version like what we have done until now this year. Until the final decision, I will wish the continuation of IFASA and SCIENTIFUR all the best in the future, and I know that many stand behind me in these wishes.

Apart from the increase in the electronic publication and database systems, it has been very difficult to receive copies of original reports published elsewhere during the last few years.

An effective search for titles will be more costly in the future, and a more active effort to get the copies of the full reports in, will take a lot of time, and cost more money than what has been actual until today. I have for app. 95% of the titles brought in SCIENTIFUR over the years had the policy that the full report should be in our hand before an abstract or the title was published in SCIENTIFUR. I feel it is very important, that at one place in the world there is as complete collection of scientific reports regarding fur animals as possible. This has been started, and more than 7000 scientific reports can be found in the files of SCIENTIFUR placed at Oslo Fur Centre which has since 1993 housed the office of IFASA/SCIENTIFUR.

Finally thanks to all of you. I hope to meet many of you at the congress in Kastoria in September. On page 173-182 you will find more information regarding the final congress program.

Your colleague, friend and editor
Gunnar Jørgensen