

GUIDELINES FOR AUTHORS

Journal of Animal and Food Sciences (JAFS)

1. Aims and Scope

The *Journal of Animal and Food Sciences (JAFS)* is a peer-reviewed, open-access journal dedicated to publishing high-quality original research and critical reviews in the core domains of Animal and Food Sciences. The journal covers research in animal production systems, animal nutrition and feed science, animal health, welfare and management, laboratory animal science (focused on care, nutrition, housing, welfare and ethics), meat science and processing, dairy science and technology, egg science and egg product technology, animal by-product utilization and processing, food science and technology, food processing and preservation, fish and seafood processing technology, food packaging systems, food safety and quality assurance, aquatic sciences and aquaculture, and microbiological and biotechnological applications directly related to animal- and food-based systems. JAFS emphasizes studies that promote sustainability, value addition, product quality, safety, and innovation across animal and food production and processing chains, thereby serving as an international platform for researchers, academics, and industry professionals.

Authors submitting manuscripts to the JAFS are required to strictly adhere to the Author Guidelines provided in this document. Manuscripts that do not comply with the prescribed guidelines will be rejected without further review or processing.

2. Publication Fees and Open Access Policy

JAFS is a fully **open-access journal**, providing immediate and unrestricted online access to all published articles. To support the costs associated with editorial management, peer review administration, manuscript production, online hosting, and long-term digital archiving, the journal levies an Article Processing Charge (APC) of USD 40 for manuscripts accepted for publication. There are no charges for manuscript submission, and authors are required to pay the APC only after their manuscript has successfully passed peer review and received final acceptance. The payment of the APC has no influence on the editorial decision-making process, which is based solely on the scientific quality, originality, and relevance of the submitted work.

Waiver and Discount Policy: JAFS is committed to promoting inclusive and equitable scholarly publishing. Partial or full APC waivers may be granted on a case-by-case basis to authors from low- and lower-middle-income countries, early-career researchers, or in situations where genuine financial constraints exist. Requests for waivers or discounts should be submitted to the Editorial Office at the time of manuscript submission and will not affect the peer review process.

3. Review Policy

JAFS employs a rigorous double-blind peer-review process in line with COPE and international best practices. All submissions undergo an initial editorial assessment for scope, originality, and ethical compliance. Manuscripts meeting these criteria are evaluated by two independent expert reviewers, with a third reviewer consulted if necessary.

Peer-Review Timeline:

- Editorial screening: 7–10 days
- Peer review: 6–8 weeks
- Authors are promptly informed of editorial decisions and reviewer comments to facilitate revisions.

Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality:

Reviewers and editors must declare any potential conflicts of interest. Manuscripts are treated as strictly confidential, and reviewers are prohibited from sharing or using any information for personal or professional gain.

Decisions are based solely on scientific quality, methodological rigor, originality, and ethical standards, ensuring transparency, fairness, and integrity throughout the publication process

4. Plagiarism Policy

JAFS enforces a strict policy toward plagiarism, data or figure manipulation, dissemination of inaccurate information, and any copyright infringement. All manuscripts undergo comprehensive plagiarism screening prior to peer review using recognized similarity detection tools.

Manuscripts with a similarity index exceeding 20%, excluding properly cited references and quotations, will be rejected outright, and authors will be promptly notified. Particular scrutiny is applied to copied text in the introduction, results, discussion, and conclusions, as well as to figures, tables, and images.

Authors are expected to uphold the highest standards of research integrity, ensuring originality, proper attribution, and accurate reporting of results. Cases of suspected misconduct are handled according to COPE guidelines and may result in rejection, retraction after publication, or notification to the authors' affiliated institutions

5. Manuscript Categories

JAFS accepts the following types of manuscripts: original research articles, short communications, review articles, invited reviews, case studies, book reviews, opinions, and commentaries.

Original Research Articles should present novel, scientifically rigorous research findings that make a clear contribution to the field. Manuscripts must not exceed 8,500 words, inclusive of tables and figures but excluding references.

Short Communications are intended for concise reports of one or two significant or timely research findings that do not warrant a full-length article. These submissions may include up to two tables or figures and should not exceed 4,000 words, inclusive of tables and figures but excluding references.

Review Articles should provide a comprehensive and critical synthesis of topics that fall within the journal's scope and are of current scientific relevance. The recommended manuscript length is 8,000–10,000 words, inclusive of tables and figures but excluding references. Authors are strongly encouraged to incorporate and critically evaluate recent and relevant literature.

6. Preparation of the Manuscript

6.1 Format and Style

All manuscripts must be submitted in English (British spelling) and written in clear, concise, and accessible language, ensuring readability for both specialists and non-specialists in the relevant field.

Manuscripts should be prepared in double-spaced format, using Times New Roman, 12-point font, with continuous line and page numbering throughout the document. Authors are encouraged to maintain a simple and consistent layout. Submissions must be provided in Microsoft Word format.

Special characters, including Greek letters, mathematical symbols, and other notation, should be inserted using the standard symbol set available within the selected font. Mathematical equations must be presented as editable text and should not be embedded as images.

Tables and figures should be submitted as separate files and appropriately cited within the main text. Table titles and figure captions must be provided on separate pages at the end of the manuscript.

To minimize errors and facilitate efficient review, authors are strongly advised to thoroughly check spelling, grammar, and overall language quality prior to submission.

6.2 Article Structure

6.2.1 Headings in Main Text

Major section headings must be aligned to the left, presented in uppercase letters, and boldfaced. Manuscripts should follow the sequence below, where applicable:

TITLE PAGE, ABSTRACT, INTRODUCTION, MATERIALS AND METHODS (or METHODOLOGY), RESULTS, DISCUSSION (or RESULTS AND DISCUSSION), CONCLUSION, ACKNOWLEDGMENT (optional), AUTHOR CONTRIBUTION, CONFLICTS OF INTEREST, ETHICAL APPROVAL, and REFERENCES.

Subheadings should be numbered sequentially (e.g., 1.1, 1.1.1, 1.1.2, 1.2, etc.), and each subsection must be assigned a concise and informative heading. All headings should appear on a separate line.

First-level subheadings should begin at the left margin following the numbering, with the first letter of all major words capitalized and the heading presented in bold. The corresponding text should start on the line immediately following the heading.

Second-level subheadings should be indented, presented in bold and italics, and placed on a separate line. The text should follow on the next line.

6.2.2 Title Page

The title should be concise, informative, and free of abbreviations and formulae. It must be centered and boldfaced, with the first letter of the title and all proper nouns capitalized, while the remaining words should be in lowercase.

Author names and affiliations must be clearly presented on the title page. Author names should be spelled accurately and provided with initials (e.g., *K.P. Song*). Each author's institutional affiliation, indicating where the work was conducted, should be stated. The full postal address of each affiliation, along with the e-mail address of each author, must be included.

The corresponding author, responsible for managing all correspondence during the peer-review and publication process as well as post-publication communication, should be clearly identified. The corresponding author's current e-mail address and contact details must be provided and kept up to date.

All authors are strongly encouraged to register for an ORCID ID and submit their ORCID identifiers at the time of manuscript submission. ORCID IDs must be indicated on the title page. Additional information on ORCID is available at <https://orcid.org/>

6.2.3 Body of Manuscript

ABSTRACT AND KEYWORDS

The abstract should provide a succinct overview of the study, clearly outlining the research objective, methodology, principal findings, and main conclusions. The inclusion of tables, figures, references, and non-standard or uncommon abbreviations should be avoided. Where abbreviations are essential, they must be defined at first mention within the abstract. The abstract must not exceed 300 words.

Authors should provide up to five keywords, listed in alphabetical order. Keywords should be specific, avoid general or plural terms, and represent single concepts rather than compound

expressions. Only acronyms that are widely accepted and well established within the relevant discipline should be used.

INTRODUCTION

The Introduction should provide an adequate scientific background and a clear rationale for the study, supported by recent and relevant literature. The objective(s) of the research must be explicitly stated. An exhaustive literature review and a repetition of the study's results should be avoided in this section.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This section must contain sufficient methodological detail to enable other researchers to replicate the study and verify the reported findings. Descriptions should include the preparation of materials, specifications of materials, and details of equipment used in the experiments.

The sources of materials, equipment, and software should be specified parenthetically by providing the model name, manufacturer, city, and country. A clear description of the experimental design and data analysis procedures must be included.

Methods that have been previously published should be described briefly with appropriate references, while any modifications to established methods must be reported in sufficient detail.

Nomenclature and Units: All organisms (including plants, animals, fish, insects, birds, and microorganisms) must be identified using their scientific names, which should be italicized. Chemical nomenclature should conform to the conventions of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) and the recommendations of the IUPAC–IUB Combined Commission on Biochemical Nomenclature.

Authors are encouraged to consult recent issues of the journal for additional guidance. Arabic numerals should be used in conjunction with units. All abbreviations must be defined at first mention in the text and should not be redefined thereafter. SI and metric units should be used wherever appropriate. A space must be inserted between numerical values and units, except % and °C (e.g. 50 mg not 50mg).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Findings should be clearly communicated using tables, graphs, figures, or plates wherever appropriate. To maintain clarity, avoid repeating the same data in the main text that is already presented visually. The discussion should interpret and emphasize the significance of the results, minimizing redundancy. Authors may present Results and Discussion either as separate sections or as a combined section. Extensive citations and prolonged discussion of previously published studies should be avoided.

CONCLUSIONS

The Conclusions section should succinctly summarize the key findings of the study. Avoid

reiterating data from the Results and Discussion section or restating material from the Introduction.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Acknowledgement should be given to sources of financial, technical, or material support. Individuals who contributed substantially but do not meet authorship criteria may also be recognized.

This work was supported by [Funding Agency] under Grant number [XXXX].

The authors sincerely thank [Name/Institution] for their valuable support in [specific contribution, e.g., laboratory analysis, fieldwork, statistical advice].

If there are no acknowledgements, simply indicate: Not applicable

Generative AI tools must not be listed as authors and should only be used to improve language clarity or readability. If such AI tools or AI-assisted technologies were utilized, include the following statement immediately preceding the References section:

Declaration of generative AI and AI-assisted technologies in the writing process

During the preparation of this manuscript, the author(s) used [NAME OF TOOL/SERVICE] to [REASON]. The author(s) subsequently reviewed and edited the content and take(s) full responsibility for the final content of the publication.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTION

For manuscripts with multiple authors, a brief statement specifying each author's contributions should be provided. Authors should be listed using their initials and surname (e.g., X.Y.Z. Silva – XYZS). Contributions should be described according to the following roles, as applicable: Conceptualization, Methodology, Software, Validation, Formal Analysis, Investigation, Resources, Data Curation, Visualization, Supervision, Project Administration, Funding Acquisition, Writing – Original Draft, Writing – Review & Editing, and Others (please specify).

Example: Conceptualization: XYZS, LMDN; Methodology: LMDN, TWS.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Authors are also required to disclose any financial or non-financial interests that may be directly or indirectly related to the submitted work.

“The authors declare no competing interests.” or

“The authors declare the following potential conflicts of interest: ...”

ETHICAL APPROVAL AND CONSENT STATEMENT

Authors submitting to the Journal of Animal and Food Sciences (JAFS) must adhere to high ethical standards in research. This includes studies involving human participants (including surveys or sensory evaluations), animal experiments, and certain plant studies. Key requirements include (1) obtaining appropriate ethical clearance from institutional review boards or ethics committees for studies involving human subjects or animals, (2) ensuring informed consent from all participants, (3) maintaining confidentiality and privacy of participants' data, (4) disclosing any potential conflicts of interest, and (5) upholding research integrity and credibility.

- A statement confirming ethics approval and consent must be included, even if approval was waived.
- The name of the approving ethics committee and its reference number must be provided.

For studies involving animals, authors must demonstrate that all procedures comply with national and institutional standards for animal care and use. Experiments must be reviewed by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) or an equivalent body, and the IACUC approval number must be indicated

For plant-related studies, authors must provide a statement confirming compliance with applicable local, national, and international regulations. Necessary permissions or licenses should be obtained, particularly for studies involving genetically modified organisms (GMOs), invasive procedures, collection from protected areas, or work with endangered plant species.

If a manuscript does **not** involve human data, animal experiments, human tissue, or plant data, authors should indicate “Not applicable” in this section.

DATA AVAILABILITY STATEMENT

Authors are required to indicate the availability of data supporting the findings of their study. This promotes transparency, reproducibility, and scientific integrity.

Possible statements include:

1. Data available upon request:

“The datasets generated and/or analyzed during the current study are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.”

2. Publicly available data:

“All relevant data are included within the manuscript and its supplementary files.”
“The datasets generated during the current study are available in the [Name of Repository] repository, [Persistent link or DOI].”

3. No data applicable / Not applicable:

“Data sharing is not applicable to this article as no datasets were generated or analyzed during the current study.”

REFERENCES

All in-text citations should follow the American Psychological Association (APA), Seventh Edition (2020). For detailed examples, refer to [APA Style References \(https://apastyle.apa.org/style-grammar-guidelines/references/examples\)](https://apastyle.apa.org/style-grammar-guidelines/references/examples).

Citation formats:

1. Single author: Include the author's last name and year of publication (Silva, 2025);
2. Two authors: Include both authors' last names and the year of publication (Chang & Jung, 2020);
3. Three or more authors: Include the first author's last name followed by 'et al.' and the year of publication (Cleark et al., 2021).

Order of citation:

When citing multiple sources parenthetically, list them in alphabetical order, separated by semicolons:

e.g. Parenthetical citations: (Park et al., 2024; Silva & Perera, 2018; Vikram, 2014)

Narrative citations: Park et al. (2024), Silva & Perera (2018), and Vikram (2014)

For multiple works by the same author(s), arrange them by year of publication in chronological order. The author's surname should appear only once; subsequent works list only the year.

e.g. Song et al. (n.d., 2012, 2019, in press)

Reference List

References should be listed in alphabetical order by the authors' last names. When multiple works by the same author(s) exist, arrange them chronologically. If an author has more than one publication in the same year, distinguish them by adding lowercase letters after the year (e.g., 2020a, 2020b, 2020c). Where available, include DOIs or URLs for references to facilitate access.

Journal publication:

Workneh, T. S., Osthoff, G., & Steyn, M. (2012). Effects of preharvest treatment, disinfections, packaging and storage environment on quality of tomato. *Journal of Food Science and Technology*, 49(6), 685-694. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13197-011-0391-3>

Book:

Fernando, S. N., & Jung, K. R. (2012). *Introduction to food science* (6th ed.). John Wiley & Sons.

Chapter in an edited book:

Song, M., & John, K. (2019). Introduction to culture meat. In N. J. Rivera (Ed.), *Advances in cultured meat technology* (pp. 1-25). Oxford University Press.

Website:

Food and Agriculture Organization. (2026). *Crop and Livestock Products*. Retrieved from <https://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#data/QCL> (Accessed date).

Conference papers:

Jackson, M. M., Thomas, K. R., & Kumar, C. (2023, March). The effects of irradiation on quality parameters of blue cheese. Paper presented at the *Annual Conference of the Animal and Food Sciences*, Thailand. (pp 175-176).

TABLE AND TABLE LEGENDS

All tables should be created using the MS Word table feature and submitted as a separate document. The location where each table should appear must be clearly indicated in the main text. Tables must be submitted as editable text, not as images, and should be numbered consecutively in Arabic numerals according to their order of appearance (e.g., Table 1).

- Any table notes should be placed below the table body.
- Each column should have an appropriate heading.
- Avoid using vertical lines and limit the use of horizontal lines.
- Use bold or *italic* typefaces only when necessary.
- For manuscripts containing multiple tables, maintain a consistent table format throughout.

Example of Table Heading:

Table 1. Content of bioactive compounds in different meat samples

FIGURES/ILLUSTRATIONS AND FIGURE CAPTIONS

All figures and illustrations must be submitted as separate files, with the intended placement clearly indicated in the main text. Each figure should include a caption placed below the image, consisting of a brief title and a concise description of the content. Minimize text within the figure itself, and clearly explain all symbols and abbreviations used. Figures should be numbered consecutively in Arabic numerals according to their order of appearance in the text (e.g., Figure 1).

Images must be submitted in high-resolution, acceptable formats (TIFF, JPG, EPS, JPEG) as follows:

- TIFF or JPEG (color or grayscale photographs/halftones): minimum 300 dpi.
- TIFF or JPEG (bitmapped line drawings, pure black and white): minimum 600 dpi.
- TIFF or JPEG (combinations of bitmapped line drawings and halftone images, color or grayscale): minimum 500 dpi.

Copyright statement for figures and drawings: Authors intending to include previously published figures, tables, or textual excerpts must obtain permission from the respective copyright holders for both print and online publication. Evidence of such permissions must be provided during manuscript submission. Failure to provide this documentation will be interpreted as confirmation that all submitted material originates from the authors themselves.

Supplementary Information

Supporting information allows authors to provide additional material alongside the online version of their article. This may include extra tables, datasets, figures, multimedia files (e.g., video or audio clips), 3D structures, or other relevant but non-essential content. All supplementary items should be cited in the text with appropriate legends. The supporting information is published as submitted by the authors, without editorial proofreading, so authors are encouraged to submit files in their preferred format.

7. MANUSCRIPT SUBMISSION

Submission Preparation

- Manuscripts should be double-spaced, use a 12-point font, and apply *italicization* only for emphasis (excluding URLs).
- Text must be submitted in a standard word-processing format, such as .docx.
- All relevant editable source files must accompany every initial submission and subsequent revision. Incomplete submissions lacking editable files will not be considered for review.
- Manuscripts should comply with the journal's peer-review policy. For submissions subject to peer review, files must be anonymized as required.
- All listed authors must meet the criteria outlined in the author guidelines and provide consent to be included as authors.

Submission of Author Declaration

By submitting a manuscript, authors confirm that the work:

- Has not been published previously (except as an abstract, part of a lecture, or academic thesis),
- Is not under consideration elsewhere,
- Has been approved for publication by all authors and relevant authorities,
- Will not be published elsewhere in the same form, in English or any other language, if accepted.

The Author Declaration Form must be submitted along with the initial manuscript. Manuscripts submitted without the necessary declarations will be returned as incomplete.

Once prepared in accordance with the Author Guidelines, manuscripts should be submitted to Editor-in-Chief at jafs@aitbm.edu.lk