

CANADIAN AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING

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IN DIVERSITY THERE IS STRENGTH

Leonard M. Staley
Past President

It has been my great privilege to have had the opportunity of serving as President, and this past year as Past President, of the CSAE. I regret, however, that I broke a sequence of fifteen consecutive years of attendance at CSAE Annual Meetings. During this fifteen-year period, CSAE has grappled with many important questions. Probably the most important has been whether our affiliation should be with AIC, EIC or even the ASAE. Joint meetings with a larger body are essential, at least until our membership is much larger than it is at present. Maintaining a wide perspective and encompassing membership with a diverse professional background who are focussed on the food production and delivery system are necessary to building a dynamic and vital professional society that meets the needs of Canada's renewable resource industries.

I missed the Charlottetown meeting because I was on the opposite side of the world teaching at an engineering college in the Peoples Republic of China. The events and experiences that I encountered there, I believe, hold a message for Agricultural Engineers in Canada. The college was built in the late 1950s to provide engineering training to qualified Chinese students. The engineering departments all had a responsibility to develop the resources of the region. In the case of the Agricultural Engineering Department, it focussed very narrowly on the design of internal combustion engines for agricultural tractors. Under a centralized controlled economy, this system worked well, as China had a need for tractors in their large state-operated farm communes. However, when the central government decided to allow farmers to husband their own small parcel of land and to sell on the free market any produce over their quota to the state, the need for farm tractors was dramatically decreased. The factories making engines have had to find alternative manufacturing opportunities and the need for graduates with specialization in internal combustion engines also vanished. This in turn has forced the closure of enrolment of new students to these specialized programs until alternative curricula are developed.

The need for engineering expertise applied to the food system in China, however, is enormous. Soil erosion control, irrigation and drainage, food preservation and storage systems appear to offer unlimited opportunities for engineering research, development and manufacturing.

As the CSAE matures in its second quarter century, I believe we need to continually re-emphasize that "in diversity there is strength", and our society must continually be alert to change. The development of a Food Engineering section is an example that, I feel, offers enormous potential for building CSAE membership. Another area is aquacultural engineering. The B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Food has just announced that aquaculture activities in the province are now part of its mandate. How long will it be before we as a technical society, respond to the needs of aquaculture, reforestation and biotechnology?

Canadian Agricultural Engineering publishes papers covering the general field of Agricultural Engineering that fit into one of the following classifications: (1) a scientific paper based on original research; (2) a technical paper based on design, development, testing, or analysis of machines, equipment, structures, processes, or practice; (3) a general paper on education relative to curricula and philosophy or trends in science, on a survey or investigation of some phase of research or research methods, or on extension or extension methods. The Editorial Board may also publish abstracts published elsewhere and interesting news items from members of Agricultural Engineering.

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The Editorial Board will assess suitability and essential detail of papers submitted for publication in *Canadian Agricultural Engineering*. One or more reviewers will be used. Their comments and suggestions will be compiled and submitted to the author. The review will ensure that:

1. A *research paper* represents a piece of research carried to a well-defined stage of advancement and the conclusions are adequately supported by the experimental results.
2. A *technical paper* represents a clear, concise, and factual outline and interpretation of the development, design, test, or analysis under consideration and that it is a contribution in the field of agricultural engineering.
3. A *general paper* on education, research, or extension is pertinent to major changes in curriculum, research, or extension or to forward-looking developments in these areas.
4. A *technical note*, of one journal page or less, on equipment development, technique of measurement, or method of analysis will have an application for other workers in the field of agricultural engineering.

MANUSCRIPT

The manuscript should be typed double-spaced on paper 8½ × 11 inches (21.6 × 27.9 cm) with margins not less than 1¼ inches (3.3 cm). The first page should contain only the title, authors' names, addresses (including postal codes), and contribution number where applicable. Tables and captions for illustrations should be on separate pages, placed after the text. Manuscript paper with numbered lines is preferred. The original and two copies are required.

The title of the paper should be capitalized and centered on the page; it should give an accurate description of the article, using key words that can be used for computer-indexing.

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Major headings — Center on the page with all words in capital letters.

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Technical and detailed information should be included only in the form of description, table, graph, chart, or photograph. In general,

follow the *Council of Biological Editors Style Manual*, 3rd ed., published by the American Institute of Biological Sciences, 1401 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, Va. 22209.

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