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## Book review

**Growth of Farm Animals.** T.L.J. Lawrence and V.R. Fowler (Eds.) Wallingford, Oxon, CABI Publishing, 2nd ed., 2002. 368pp. £29.50 (soft) ISBN 0851994849.

Growth is a defining characteristic of life, and we regularly use the word in a sense near-synonymous to health, vigour, or well-being when we speak of the plants in our gardens, of our pets, or, often in a figurative sense, even of ourselves. A similarly broad concept of the growth of farm animals, encompassing many different aspects of life from embryonic development to the production of meat, milk or hair for human use underlies this book by Lawrence and Fowler.

The first part of the book examines growth processes at the cellular and tissue level, providing the mechanistic basis for the phenomena discussed in many later chapters. There is a particular focus on the tissues that are directly relevant to production, namely muscle, adipose tissue, and the mammary gland. A detailed chapter reviews the available information on hormonal influences on growth, and also gives the reader a feeling for the complexity of growth regulation with its interconnected feedback loops and multiple links to the condition of the animal and its environment. Two brief chapters examine genetic effects and influences of the immune system on growth. Another series of chapters follows growth through life stages, from fertilization and embryonic development through fetal and postnatal growth. A chapter on metabolic efficiency and an extensive review of compensatory growth follow. Further topics are the effects of growth on puberty and reproduction in breeding animals and the techniques for measuring

growth. The book concludes with a brief discussion of feed additives enhancing growth and an outlook on future developments to be expected in the field of animal growth.

The book is intended as a textbook for courses on growth in animal science curricula and veterinary schools. The text is informative and readable, and sufficient explanations for the subjects covered are provided, so that the book is self-contained and can be used by students with a basic biological background. The authors give a broad overview of the field, with figures well chosen to illustrate important examples or to depict complex networks of interactions (e.g., on the hormonal control of growth). Selected examples of data are presented as tables or diagrams, and should provide a useful resource for discussions in class. The authors also mention subjects that remain unclear and are challenges for future research. The references at the end of each chapter indicate the most pertinent literature on the respective subject as a point of entry for further study. Given the breadth of the topics covered, there are clear limitations of space, and the book therefore cannot serve as a comprehensive reference text. As an introduction to animal growth, however, this textbook is an excellent resource that will be useful to students and instructors.

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Wallingford, Oxon, CABI Publishing, 2nd ed., 2002. 368pp. £29.50 (soft) ISBN 0851994849 | Find, read and cite all the research you need on ResearchGate. T.L.J. Lawrence and V.R. Fowler (Eds.) Wallingford, Oxon, CABI Publishing, 2nd ed., 2002. 368pp. £29.50 (soft) ISBN 0851994849. November 2003. The Veterinary Journal 166(3):264-264. ISBN 10: 0851994849. ISBN 13: 9780851994840. Growth of Farm Animals Second edition. T.L.J. Lawrence formerly of the Faculty of Veterinary Science University of Liverpool UK and V.R. Fowler formerly of the Scottish Agricultural College and of the Rowett Research Institute Aberdeen UK. CABI Publishing. CABI Publishing is a division of CAB International CABI Publishing CAB International Wallingford Oxon OX10 8DE UK Tel: +44 (0)1491 832111 Fax: +44 (0)1491 833508 E-mail: [cabi@cabi.org](mailto:cabi@cabi.org) Web site: [www.cabi-publishing.org](http://www.cabi-publishing.org). CABI Publishing 10 E 40th Street Suite 3203 New York, NY 10016 USA Tel: +1 212 481 7018 Fax: +1 212 686 7993 E-mail: [cabi-n...](mailto:cabi-n...) Growth of Farm Animals, 2nd Edition (T.L.J. Lawrence and V.R. Fowler). 1. 2. CABI Publishing is a division of CAB International CABI Publishing CAB International Wallingford Oxon OX10 8DE UK Tel: +44 (0)1491 832111 Fax: +44 (0)1491 833508 E-mail: [cabi@cabi.org](mailto:cabi@cabi.org) Website: [www.cabi-publishing.org](http://www.cabi-publishing.org). The subject matter of farm animal nutrition is covered in a large number of text books – most are referred to in the entries of this encyclopedia – but their arrangement does not lend itself to the rapid recovery of specific pieces of factual information and it was with that object in view that this encyclopedia was devised and written. Propionic acid can be added to hay or cereal grains to prevent the growth of moulds and the formation of mycotoxins.