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ACRONYMS USED IN AGRICULTURAL LITERATURE

Eileen K. Schofield*

An acronym is defined as a word formed from the initial letters of each of the successive parts or major parts of a compound term. We're used to seeing them printed in capital letters, for example, NATO to replace North Atlantic Treaty Organization. However, the word radar is a true acronym derived from "radio detecting and ranging." An abbreviation is a shortened form of a word or name that does not make a new word, for example, KS or Kans. The term initialism has been proposed for the category in between: an abbreviation that is composed of the initial letters of the parts in a compound term but cannot be pronounced as a word. A familiar example is USDA to replace United States Department of Agriculture. However, initialism has not been accepted widely, and most people continue to refer to such abbreviations as acronyms. The definition of acronym has been expanded further to include abbreviations based on syllables of one word, for example, HP for horsepower, or a combination of syllables and initial letters, for example, PVC for polyvinyl chloride. Although most acronyms in all categories are printed in capital letters, the words they represent should be capitalized only if they are proper names.

Most areas of agricultural research have a set of accepted acronyms for commonly used terms. Authors also can make up acronyms for treatment groups, variables tested, and/or responses. Because using too many of these along with the standard acronyms can reduce readability, some publishers ask authors to avoid them. Acronyms sometimes are not defined, and most cannot be found in a dictionary.

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I compiled a list over a period of 3 years while editing manuscripts dealing with more than 20 subjects in agriculture and related areas. The list includes acronyms of all categories defined above that are used frequently in those subjects. The same acronym sometimes is used for more than one term but in different subject areas. Less frequently, two acronyms are used for the same term. To avoid repetition, some secondary meanings of acronyms are shown in parentheses. Additional words to clarify the meanings are shown in brackets. The list does not include acronyms made up for specific studies, those for agencies (NSF) or companies (IBM), or chemical abbreviations (N for nitrogen). Capitalized terms are proper nouns, such as the names of industry or government programs, procedures, systems, or people or trade names. All agricultural areas may not be represented equally, because I saw fewer manuscripts from some. Also, printing limitations determined the final number of acronyms that could be included in this publication. So this is not an exhaustive list, but I hope it will be useful to editors, county agents, producers, and anyone else who reads agricultural literature.

AA—amino acid, ascorbic acid
ABA—abscisic acid
ACTH—adrenocorticotrophic hormone
ADF—acid detergent fiber
ADFI—average daily feed intake
ADG—average daily gain
ADIA—acid detergent insoluble ash
ADICP—acid detergent insoluble crude protein
ADIN—acid detergent insoluble nitrogen
ADP—adenosine diphosphate
AE—acid equivalent, assimilation efficiency
AET—actual evapotranspiration
AFDM—acid-free (ash-free) dry mass
AFLP—amplified fragment length polymorphism
AFO—animal feeding operation
AGP—acid glycoprotein
AI—artificial insemination, active ingredient, artificial intelligence
AM—arbuscular mycorrhiza (mycorrhizal)
AMD—age-related macular degeneration
AMP—antimicrobial peptide
ANN—artificial neural network
ANOVA—analysis of variance
ANU—apparent nitrogen uptake
AO—*Aspergillus oryzae* [Latin name of fungus]
AOC—analysis of covariance (also ANCOVA)
APC—aerobic plate count
ASD—aggregate size distribution
ATP—adenosine triphosphate
AU—animal unit
AUDPC—area under disease progress curve
AV—apparent viscosity

BC—body condition
BCAA—branched-chain amino acid
BCS—body condition score
BCV—bovine coronavirus
BGM—Banks grass mite
BHI—brain heart infusion [broth]
BHV-1—bovine herpes virus-1
BMI—body mass index
BMP—best management practice
BOD—biological oxygen demand
BRV—bovine rotavirus
BUN—blood urea nitrogen
BVD—bovine viral diarrhea
BVDV—bovine viral diarrhea virus
BW—body weight
BYDV—barley yellow dwarf virus
CA—cluster analysis
CAO—concentrated animal operation
CAT—catalase, chloremphenicol actyl transferase
CEA—cost-effectiveness analysis
CEC—cation exchange capacity
CER—cost-effectiveness ratio
CEW—corn earworm
CFU—colony-forming unit
CI—confidence interval
CL—corpus luteum (corpora lutea), confidence limit
CNS—central nervous system
COC—crop oil concentrate
CP—crude protein, capsid protein
CPC—coliform plate count
CPE—crude protein equivalent
CRD—completely randomized design
CRP—Conservation Reserve Program
CSB—concentrated separator by-product
CT—conventional tillage
CV—coefficient [of] variation
DA—discriminant analysis
DAP—days after planting
DAT—days after treatment
DBH—diameter [at] breast height
DDM—digestible dry matter
DE—digestible energy
DF—dry flowable
DHI—Dairy Herd Improvement
DIM—days in milk
DIN—dissolved inorganic nitrogen
DIP—degradable intake protein
DM—dry matter (mass)
DMA—dynamic mechanical analyzer
DMI—dry matter intake
DNA—deoxyribonucleic acid

- DO—dissolved oxygen
DOM—digestible (dissolved) organic matter
DOMI—digestible organic matter intake
DON—deoxynivalenol, dissolved organic nitrogen
DOT—date of termination
DOY—day of year
DS—dry soluble
DSC—differential scanning calorimetry (calorimeter)
DTH—delayed-type hypersensitivity
- EC—effective concentration, emulsifiable concentrate
ECB—European corn borer
ECM—energy-corrected milk
EDTA—ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid
EIPH—exercise-induced pulmonary hemorrhage
EL—electrolyte leakage
ELISA—enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay
EMC—equilibrium moisture content
EMG—electromyography
ER—endoplasmic reticulum
- FA—fatty acid
FAW—fall armyworm
FBS—fetal bovine serum
FCE—feed conversion efficiency
FCR—feed conversion ratio
FE—fallow efficiency
FFA—free fatty acid
F/G, F:G—feed to gain ratio [feed efficiency]
FHB—Fusarium head blight
FISH—fluorescent in situ hybridization
FL—free lipid
FSH—follicle-stimulating hormone
FT—Fourier transform (transformation)
FW—fresh weight
- GA—gibberellic acid
GB—greenbug
GC—gas chromatography (chromatograph)
GCA—general combining ability
GDD—growing degree day
GDP—gross domestic product
GDU—growing degree unit
GE—gross energy
GxE—genotype x environment [interaction]
G/F, G:F—gain to feed ratio [feed efficiency]
GI—gastrointestinal, gluten index
GL—glycolipid
GLAI—green leaf area index
GLC—gas-liquid chromatography (chromatograph)
GLM—general linear model
GMD—geometric mean diameter
GMO—genetically modified organism
- GMP—good management practice
GNP—gross national product
GnRH—gonadotropin-releasing hormone
GPD—growing point differentiation
GR—growth rate, glutathione reductase
GRAS—generally recognized as safe
GSD—geometric standard deviation
- HACCP—hazard analysis [of] critical control points
HAT—hours after treatment
HDD—heating degree day
HDL—high density lipoprotein
HE—hematoxylin [and] eosin
HI—harvest index
HKW—hundred kernel weight
HMW—high molecular weight
HP—horsepower (also hp), high performance
HPA—hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal
HPCE—high performance capillary electrophoresis
HPLC—high performance liquid chromatography
(chromatograph)
HPTLC—high performance thin-layer chromatography
(chromatograph)
HRSW—hard red spring wheat
HRT-18—human rectal tumor-18 [cells]
HRWW—hard red winter wheat
HSV—herpes simplex virus
HT—high temperature
HTST—high-temperature short-time
HU—heat unit
HUS—hemolytic uremic syndrome
HWW—hard white wheat
- IAA—indoleacetic acid
IBRV—infectious bovine rhinotrachitis virus
IBV—infectious bronchitic virus
ID—inner diameter
IGF-I—insulin-like growth factor-I
IGR—insect growth regulator
IHC—immunohistochemistry
IL-2—interleukin-2
IM—intramuscular (intramuscularly)
IMS—infrared microspectroscopy
IP—insoluble protein
IPM—integrated pest management
IR—infrared
IRT—infrared transducer
ITS—internal transcribed spacer
IV—intravenous (intravenously)
IVDMD—in vitro dry matter digestibility
IWM—integrated weed management
- JH—juvenile hormone
JGMV—johnsongrass mosaic virus

kDA—kilodalton

LAB—lactic acid bacteria

LAI—leaf area index

LC—liquid chromatography (chromatograph)

LDL—low density lipoprotein

LEPA—low energy precision application

LER—land equivalent ratio

LH—luteinizing hormone

LM—longissimus muscle

LMW—low molecular weight

LPS—lipopolysaccharide

LSD—least significant difference

LSM—least square mean

LT—low temperature

LTER—Long-Term Ecological Research

LVE—low-volatile ester

MAb—monoclonal antibody

MANOVA—multivariate analysis of variance

MAPE—mean absolute percent area

MAS—marker-assisted selection

MAT—months after treatment

MBW—metabolic body weight

MC—moisture content

MCL—maximum concentration level

MCP—microbial crude protein

MCV—mean coefficient [of] variation

MDMV—maize dwarf mosaic virus

ME—metabolizable energy

MEL—maximum exposure limit

MEM—minimum essential medium

MG—maturity group

MIC—minimum inhibitory concentration

MLR—multiple linear regression

MP—metabolizable protein

MPN—most profitable number

MS—mass spectroscopy, microsatellite, Murashige [and] Skoog [medium]

MSE—mean squared error

MTO—modified tall oil

MUN—milk urea nitrogen

MW—molecular weight

NA—not applicable, numerical aperture

NDF—neutral detergent fiber

NDFD—neutral detergent fiber digestion

NEFA—nonesterified fatty acid

NEg—net energy [for] gain

NFDM—nonfat dried milk

NI—near infrared

NIL—near isogenic line

NIR—near infrared, near-infrared reflectance

NIRS—near-infrared reflectance spectroscopy	PS I—photosystem I
NIS—nonionic surfactant	PS II—photosystem II
NL—nonpolar lipid	PSE—pale, soft, [and] exudative
NMR—nuclear magnetic resonance	PUE—precipitation use efficiency
NORG—norgestomet	PUN—plasma urea nitrogen
NPE—net production efficiency	PVC—polyvinyl chloride
NPN—nonprotein nitrogen	PW—peptone water
NS—not significant	
NSC—nonstructural carbohydrate	QTL—quantitative trait locus (loci)
NSL—nonstarch lipid	
NT—no tillage (no-till)	RA—relative abundance, retinoic acid
NUE—nitrogen use efficiency	RAPD—random amplified polymorphic DNA
	RBC—red blood cell
OA—osmotic adjustment	RBD—randomized block design
OD—optical density, outer diameter	rbST—recombinant bovine somatotropin
ODR—oxygen diffusion rate	RCB—randomized complete block
OM—organic matter	RCBD—randomized complete block design
OMI—organic matter intake	R&D—research and development
OP—organophosphate	RDS—ruminally degradable starch
ORF—open reading frame	RFLP—restriction fragment length polymorphism
ORP—oxygen reduction potential	RH—relative humidity
	RIA—radioimmunoassay
PAGE—polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis	RMSE—root mean squared error
PAH—polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon	RNA—ribonucleic acid
PAI—plant area index	ROI—return on investment
PAM—polyacrylamide, pulmonary alveolar macrophage	ROW—right-of-way
PAR—photosynthetically active radiation	RP—reversed phase
PAW—plant available water	RSE—residual standard error
PBS—phosphate buffered saline	RSM—response surface methodology (model)
PCA—principal components analysis	RT—room temperature, reverse transcriptase
PCR—polymerase chain reaction, principal components regression	RTE—ready to eat
PCV—packed cell volume	RUBISCO—ribulose 1,5-bisphosphate carboxylase
PDI—pellet durability index	RUP—rumen undegradable protein
PEG—polyethylene glycol	RVA—Rapid Visco-Analyser
PEL—permissible exposure limit	RVP—remaining value percentage
PER—protein efficiency ratio	RWA—Russian wheat aphid
PFU—plaque-forming unit	RWC—relative water content
PG—prostaglandin, propyl gallate	RY—relative yield
PHA—phytohaemagglutinin	
PI—plant introduction	SAA—sulfur amino acid
PIM—pulmonary intravascular macrophage	SAI—stem area index
PL—phospholipid	SAS—Statistical Analysis System
PLD—phospholipase D	SBM—soybean meal
PLS—partial least squares	SCA—specific combining ability
PMB—premature browning	SCC—somatic cell count
POM—particulate organic matter	SCFA—short chain fatty acid
PON—particulate organic nitrogen	SCMV—sugarcane mosaic virus
POST—postemergence	SD—standard deviation, spray-dried
PPI—preplant incorporated	SDAP—spray-dried animal plasma
PRE—preemergence	SDPP—spray-dried porcine plasma
PRID—progesterone-releasing intravaginal device	SDI—subsurface drip irrigation
PRRS—porcine reproductive [and] respiratory syndrome	SDS—sodium dodecyl sulfate
PRV—pseudorabies virus	SE—standard error
	SEC—size exclusion chromatography (chromatograph)

SEM—scanning electron microscopy (microscope),
standard error [of the] mean
SF—sorghum-fallow
SFE—supercritical fluid extraction
SI—saturation index
SKCS—Single Kernel Characterization System
SLB—Septoria leaf blight
SLU—standard livestock unit
SME—specific mechanical energy
S/N—signal to noise [ratio]
SNF—solids-not-fat
SP—swelling power, soluble powder
SPSS—Statistical Package [for the] Social Sciences
SRL—specific root length
SrMV—sorghum mosaic virus
SRWW—soft red winter wheat
ST—somatotropin
STD—standard deviation
STP—sodium tripolyphosphate
SWC—soil water content
SWCB—southwestern corn borer
SWW—soft white wheat

TA—titratable activity
TAI—timed artificial insemination
TBARS—thiobarbituric acid reacting substance
TBS—Tris-buffered saline
TDF—total dietary fiber
TDN—total digestible nutrients
TDOMI—total digestible organic matter intake
TDS—total dissolved solids
TEM—transmission electron microscopy (microscope)
THI—temperature humidity index
TKW—thousand kernel weight
TL—total lipid
TLV—threshold limit value
TMDL—total maximum daily load
TMR—total mixed ration
TN—total nitrogen
TNC—total nonstructural carbohydrate
TP—total phosphorus
TPC—total plate count
TSA—tryptic soy agar
TSB—tryptic soy broth
TSM—twospotted spider mite
TU—thermal unit
TWA—time-weighted average

UAN—urea ammonium nitrate
UF—ultrafiltration
UIP—undegradable intake protein
UTR—untranslated region
UV—ultraviolet

VAM—vesicular-arbuscular mycorrhiza (mycorrhizal)
VSV—vesicular stomatitis virus

WAT—weeks after treatment
WBS—Warner-Bratzler shear [force]
WCF—wheat-corn-fallow
WCM—wheat curl mite
WEPS—Wind Erosion Prediction System
WF—wheat-fallow
WSBMV—wheat soilborne mosaic virus
WSF—wheat-sorghum-fallow
WSI—water stability index
WSMV—wheat streak mosaic virus
WUE—water use efficiency

ZO—zinc oxide

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