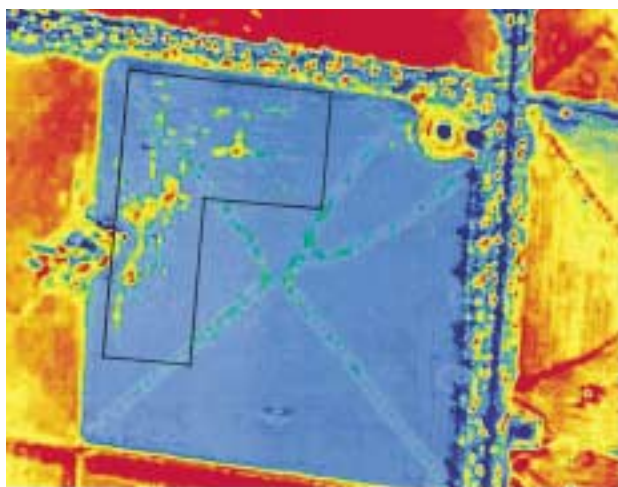


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Editorial

Overview

In 2001, the *Australian Journal of Experimental Agriculture* (AJEA) published 8 issues including two Special Issues one on 'Meeting Future and Current Needs for On-farm Nitrogen' (Issue 3) and the other on 'Producing and Processing Quality Beef from Australian Cattle Herds' (Issue 4).

The journal continued its close collaboration with the *Australian Journal of Agricultural Research*, *Australian Journal of Soil Research*, *New Zealand Journal of Agricultural Research*, and *New Zealand Journal of Crop and Horticultural Science*.

Impact Factor and Ranking

The *Australian Journal of Experimental Agriculture* had an **impact factor of 0.639** and was ranked 40/100 (Agriculture category) in the 2000 SCI Journal Citation Reports (go to <http://www.isinet.com/isi/products/citation/jcr/index.html>). This is a significant increase compared to the value recorded in 1999 (0.569) and represents strong support from AJEA's readership and for the content. The publication of Special Issues with international authorship continues to broaden the Journal's readership and has positioned AJEA as a leading applied agricultural journal.

World Wide Web & Electronic Edition of Journal

Information about the *Australian Journal of Experimental Agriculture* [print and electronic versions (.pdf and XML)] is accessible through the AJEA home page:

<http://www.publish.csiro.au/journals/ajea>

A subscription package that includes a full web edition of AJEA (with search engine) is available to subscribers.

Readers and browsers can now find out about recently accepted papers by subscribing to a free early alert service:

<http://www.publish.csiro.au/early.cfm>

With this service readers are notified by email when a new issue of AJEA is about to be published, usually 2–3 weeks in advance of the print publication.

Accessing Individual Electronic Papers Online

You can now purchase individual papers online, if you don't have a subscription to the journal. Browsers can access the tables of contents of any journal, find a paper of interest, and read its online abstract. If you decide to purchase the paper (AU\$15), you should choose 'add to basket' from the table of contents, and follow the simple instructions to download the paper to your desktop.

<http://www.publish.csiro.au/journals/access.cfm>

Submission Rate

There were 196 manuscripts (and 2 cultivar descriptions) submitted in 2000; this is higher than the number of papers submitted in 1999 (170 manuscripts). With the present submission rate, there will be sufficient material to continue the publication of 8 issues in 2002.

The Field Crops category was the largest with 24% of manuscripts received (29% in 1999). Compared with 1999, more Animal Production [44 (22%) v. 26], Animal-Plant Interaction [5 (3%) v. 1], Pasture, Fodder Crops [42 (21%) v. 24] and Review (15 (8%) v. 4) papers were received, however the number of Horticulture [32 (16%) v. 44] and Extension [9 (5%) v. 18] was less. The number of Agroforestry papers was about the same in 1999 and 2000.

The sources of manuscripts are shown in Table 2, along with the numbers of papers received, accepted, rejected, lapsed and pending. More papers were contributed in 2000 than in 1999 from Agriculture NSW (37 v. 28), DNRE Victoria (30 v. 19), CSIRO (30 v. 15) and Agriculture WA (14 v. 5), whereas fewer papers originated from SA Research and Development Institute (5 v. 8) and overseas authors (20 v. 33). The Department of Primary Industries Qld (19 v. 19), the Universities-Colleges (42 v. 46), and the Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries Tasmania (1 v. 1) contributed about the same number of papers in 2000 and 1999.

Published Papers and Acceptance Rate

The journal published 126 papers (1250 pages) in 2001, compared with 122 papers and 1211 pages in 2000. More Animal

Table 1. Statistics for subject categories of manuscripts submitted in 2000

Category	Submitted	Accepted	Lapsed ^A	Pending	Reason for rejection ^B					
					OS	BP	PD	PI	NN/NS	OT
Animal Production	44	37	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	5
Animal-Plant Interaction	5	4	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Pasture, Fodder Crops	42	31	4	0	0	0	2	0	3	2
Field Crops	46	34	2	3	2	0	1	0	3	1
Horticulture	32	23	1	1	0	0	3	0	4	0
Review	15	11	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Agroforestry	3	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Extension	9	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cultivar descriptions	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	198	153	8	4	2	0	10	0	11	10

^A Author has been unable to return a revised manuscript within 6 months of receipt of referees' reports.
^B OS, outside scope; BP, bad presentation; PD, poor design; PI, poor interpretation; NN/NS, not new and/or substantial; OT, other reasons for rejection (e.g. papers withdrawn or two papers combined).

Table 2. Statistics for sources of manuscripts in 2000

Source	Submitted	Accepted	Lapsed	Pending	Reason for rejection ^A					
					OS	BP	PD	PI	NN/NS	OT
State Departments:										
New South Wales	37	32	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	2
Victoria	30	26	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
Queensland	19	17	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Western Australia	14	11	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
South Australia	5	4	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Tasmania	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northern Territory	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Universities and Colleges	42	30	1	1	0	0	4	0	4	2
CSIRO	30	24	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Overseas ^B	20	8	1	0	2	0	3	0	5	1
Total	198	153	8	4	2	0	10	0	11	10
^A OS, outside scope; BP, bad presentation; PD, poor design; PI, poor interpretation; NN/NS, not new and/or substantial; OT, other reasons for rejection (e.g. papers withdrawn or two papers combined).										
^B Overseas papers (20) originated from: South Africa (1), India (2), China (1), North America (2), Mexico (1), New Zealand (2), Japan (2), Ethiopia (1), Yugoslavia (1), Korea (2), Pakistan (1), Kenya (1), Brazil (1), Morocco (1) and Egypt (1).										

Production, Field Crops, and Review papers and fewer Horticulture and Pasture, Fodder Crops papers were published in 2001 than previously. Animal Production accounted for 35% of papers, Pasture, Fodder Crops 19%, Field Crops 24%, Extension 2%, Review 9% and Horticulture 12%. Ten review papers were published 2001. Topics covered include: ryegrass in sheep pastures, effective grazing management systems, nitrogen fixation and rhizobial ecology, dairy cow production, genetic influences on beef quality, and grazing effects on soil physical characteristics.

The acceptance rate was about 77% in 2000.

Most papers have been accepted or rejected within 3–4 months of submission (except for papers requiring adjudication or further review by a biometrician). The time from submission to publication has remained at 8–9 months in 2001.

Desktop publishing and more rapid processing of manuscripts by the editors before revision has minimised the time from submission to publication, and all artwork (i.e. line figures) for 2001 issues has been taken directly off computer disc using imported graphics files (.eps format).

Cultivar Descriptions

Three cultivar descriptions have been published in 2001: cv. Reid and Kretschmer in Issue 4, cv. Mink in Issue 5, and cv. Casbah in Issue 6 (all herbage).

<http://www.publish.csiro.au/journals/ajea/cultivar.cfm>

Source of Reviewers

The quality of the published papers depends on the quality of the refereeing system. In 2000 the journal editors consulted 423 referees (35% overseas) from 25 countries [cf. 1999 where 306 referees (26% overseas) were used]. This breadth not only allows for a wide range of opinions, but also serves to bring the journal to the attention of an increasing number of scientists, some of whom may submit their work for publication.

Forthcoming Special Issues in 2002

The journal publishes Special Issues on topics that are actively being debated in the research community. Three Special Issues scheduled for publication in 2002 are:

'Sodiccity Issues in Agricultural Industries - current research and future directions' (42-3)

'Trees on Farms' (42-6)

'Application of Sustainability Indicators to the Management of Soil and Catchment Health' (42-8)

Electronic Mail

Electronic mail is available for faster communication with Journal editors. Email addresses for AJEA are:

chris.anderson@publish.csiro.au

lalina.muir@publish.csiro.au

2002 Editorial Advisory Committee

Dr Peter Sale retired from the Editorial Advisory Committee at the end of 2001. A new University representative will be appointed early in 2002.

The 2002 Committee comprises:

Dr Rob Dixon (Chair, Dept of Primary Industries Qld)

Dr Ian McPharlin (Agriculture WA)

Dr Norm Adams (CSIRO Animal Production)

Dr David Hennessy (NSW Agriculture)

Dr Leigh Sparrow (IAST representative)

New appointment (University)

C. A. Anderson (Managing Editor)

L. L. Muir (Associate Editor)

January 2002