

Editorial

Overview

In 2002, the *Australian Journal of Experimental Agriculture* (AJEA) published 8 issues including two Special Issues one on 'Sodicity Issues in Agricultural Industries—Current Research and Future Directions' (Issue 3) and the other on 'National Windbreaks Program—Current Research on Farm Trees' (Issue 6).

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 0.647** and was ranked 7/28 (Agriculture multidisciplinary category) in the 2001 SCI Journal Citation Reports. This is a slight increase compared to the value recorded in 2000 (0.639) 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.

[<http://www.isinet.com/isi/products/citation/jcr/index.html>]

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 published 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 published online, 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\$18), 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 201 manuscripts (and 4 cultivar descriptions) submitted in 2001; this is slightly higher than the number of papers submitted in 2000 (196 manuscripts). With the present submission rate, there will be sufficient material to expand the journal to **12 issues** in 2003.

The Field Crops category was the largest with 25% of manuscripts received (24% in 2000). Compared with 2000, more Pasture, Fodder Crops [47 (23%) v. 42], Horticulture [48 (24%) v. 32] and Extension (18 (9%) v. 9) papers were received, however, the number of Animal Production [21 (11%) v. 44] and Reviews [9 (5%) v. 15] was less. The number of Animal-Plant Interaction and Agroforestry papers was about the same in 2000 and 2001.

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 2001 than in 2000 from Dept of Agriculture WA (16 v. 14), SA Research and Development Institute (9 v. 5) and overseas authors (48 v. 20), whereas fewer papers originated from NSW Agriculture (31 v. 37), DNRE Victoria (24 v. 30), the Universities-Colleges (37 v. 42) and CSIRO (19 v. 30). The Department of Primary Industries Qld (20 v. 19) and the Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries Tasmania (1 v. 1) contributed about the same number of papers in 2001 and 2000.

Table 1. Statistics for subject categories of manuscripts submitted in 2001

Category	Submitted	Accepted	Lapsed ^A	Pending	Reason for rejection ^B					
					OS	BP	PD	PI	NN/NS	OT
Animal Production	21	13	3	1	0	0	2	0	1	1
Animal-Plant Interaction	6	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pasture, Fodder Crops	47	37	2	0	3	0	2	0	2	1
Field Crops	51	27	10	3	1	0	4	0	5	1
Horticulture	48	21	5	1	4	0	6	0	9	2
Review	9	4	1	2	0	0	0	0	2	0
Agroforestry	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Extension	18	6	2	7	1	0	0	0	2	0
Cultivar descriptions	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	205	118	24	14	9	0	14	0	21	5

^A Author has been unable to return a revised manuscript within 6 months of receipt of the 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 2 papers combined).

Table 2. Statistics for sources of manuscripts in 2001

Source	Submitted	Accepted	Lapsed	Pending	Reason for rejection ^A					
					OS	BP	PD	PI	NN/NS	OT
State Departments:										
New South Wales	31	24	5	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Victoria	24	17	2	1	0	0	0	0	2	2
Queensland	20	14	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Western Australia	16	10	2	2	1	0	0	0	1	0
South Australia	9	7	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Tasmania	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Northern Territory	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Universities and Colleges	37	23	4	6	0	0	2	0	2	0
CSIRO	19	15	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
Overseas ^B	48	8	7	1	8	0	11	0	11	2
Total	205	118	24	14	9	0	14	0	21	5

^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 (48) originated from: India (5), Turkey (5), China (5), Iran (4), Korea (4), New Zealand (3), South Africa (3),
Pakistan (3), Ethiopia (2), Egypt (2), Taiwan (2); and Japan, Kuwait, Italy, Israel, Yugoslavia, Switzerland, Indonesia
Thailand, Norway, and Greece (1 submission/country only).

Published Papers and Acceptance Rate

The journal published 123 papers (1144 pages) in 2002, compared with 126 papers and 1250 pages in 2001. More Pasture, Fodder Crops, Field Crops, and Horticulture papers and fewer Animal Production and Review papers were published in 2002 than previously. Animal Production accounted for 15% of papers, Pasture, Fodder Crops 25%, Field Crops 28%, Agroforestry 6%, Extension 1%, Review 3% and Horticulture 22%. Four review papers were published 2002. Topics covered include: the Australian National Windbreaks Program, cutflowes, sodification of irrigated soils, and soil salinity in dryland farming systems.

The acceptance rate was about 70% in 2001.

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 2002.

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 2002 issues has been taken directly off computer disc using imported graphics files (.eps format).

Cultivar Descriptions

One herbage cultivar description has been published in 2002: cv. Grasslands NuSiral in Issue 7.

[<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 2002 the journal editors consulted 389 referees (39% overseas) from 23 countries [cf. 2000 where 423 referees (35% 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 2003

The journal publishes Special Issues on topics that are actively being debated in the research community. Three Special Issues scheduled for publication in 2003 are:

‘Application of Sustainability Indicators to the Management of Soil and Catchment Health’

‘Sustainable Grazing Systems Program’

‘Efficiency of Feed Utilisation in Beef Cattle’

Electronic Mail

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

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2003 Editorial Advisory Committee

Drs David Hennessy and Leigh Sparrow retired from the Editorial Advisory Committee at the end of 2002. New members of the committee will be appointed early in 2003.

The 2003 Committee comprises:

Dr Rob Dixon (Chair, Dept of Primary Industries Qld)
Dr Ian McPharlin (Agriculture WA)
Dr Norm Adams (CSIRO Animal Production)
Dr Anna Ridley (DNRE Victoria)
Professor David Coventry (University)
New member (IAIST representative)

C. A. Anderson (Managing Editor)
L. L. Muir (Associate Editor)

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