



5585 Guilford Road  
Madison WI 53711-5801  
Tel. 608-273-8080 • Fax 608-273-2021  
[www.agronomy.org](http://www.agronomy.org) • [headquarters@agronomy.org](mailto:headquarters@agronomy.org)

Dear Authors and Readers:

The journal *Natural Sciences Education* (NSE) is published by the American Society of Agronomy, along with the following 11 additional cooperating societies that consider NSE their primary source for education-type articles: Agricultural & Applied Economics Association, American Association for Agricultural Education, American Institute of Biological Sciences, American Phytopathological Society, American Society for Horticultural Science, American Society of Animal Science, American Society of Plant Biologists, Crop Science Society of America, Ecological Society of America, Entomological Society of America, and Soil Science Society of America.

NSE covers all disciplines in the natural sciences, natural resources, animal science, and agriculture. Educators in extension, universities, industry, administration, and grades K–12 share teaching techniques, concepts, and ideas. Written by and for educators, articles published include research, notes, case studies, software, letters, editorials, newsfeatures, profiles, and media received. Special sections of the journal emphasize K–12 education, undergraduate education, and graduate education. The web address for general information about NSE, for downloading published papers, and where manuscripts can be submitted for publication consideration is <https://dl.sciencesocieties.org/publications/nse>.

A number of times each year we are asked why NSE does not have an impact factor. NSE is not eligible for a Thomson Scientific® impact factor due to its non-technical content. In reality, impact factors are just one way to measure a journal's importance. Other significant measures include the influence it has on education policy, how widely its papers are distributed and read, and the overall number of times a paper is cited by other researchers, even beyond the two-year period used to calculate an impact factor. For educators who have a university appointment with a large teaching assignment, publishing in NSE clearly indicates study and research in the pedagogy of education.

Why should you publish your research in NSE? What benefits will you gain – and the wider scientific educational community gain – when you publish a paper in NSE? Articles in NSE are written by people, like you, who are the world's top natural sciences educators. Sharing your experience and creativity with others is important in maintaining high-quality education in a very important area. Readers benefit from interchange of teaching ideas on lab exercises, case studies, approaches to large lecture classes, new technologies, curricula, science-fair projects, and teaching philosophy.

Other important facts about NSE included the following:

- The publication reaches scientists/educators and K–16+ teachers.
- The journal is indexed by ERIC ([www.eric.ed.gov](http://www.eric.ed.gov)) – the Education Resources Information Center – which is an online digital library of education research and information. ERIC is sponsored by the Institute of Education Sciences (IES) of the U.S. Department of Education.

- Electronic activity generated by the NSE website in 2014 averaged more than 10,000 hits to the abstracts, and more than 5,000 PDF downloads.
- Search engine referrals come from Google, Scijournals.org, Live.com, Yahoo, Eurekalert.org, AOL Search, MSN Search, and USDA.gov.
- The journal is available continuously online in html and PDF formats.
- Each submission undergoes a rigorous, timely review by at least three scientists/educators.
- The NSE acceptance rate averages 58% over the last three years.
- Authors value the speed and efficiency with which we process accepted papers.
- Articles are usually posted to the website approximately one week after acceptance.

If you would need a letter from me for a promotion and tenure document stating that NSE is a peer reviewed, highly cited education journal, I would be happy to provide such a letter.

Our natural resources are finite and we must be careful stewards of them. I look forward to your involvement with NSE and to your contributed manuscript for publication consideration in the journal. You have something to share that can benefit others.

Sincerely,



Beth Guertal  
ASA Editor-In-Chief  
guertea@auburn.edu

*June 15, 2015*