LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

The annual editorial board meeting of the Agronomy Journal (AJ) was held on 9 Nov. 2005 in Salt Lake City, UT. A number of issues were presented and discussed, and a few resolutions were voted on by the Editorial Board. The intent of this letter is to inform our readership on the current activities of the AJ Editorial Board.

Continuous Publication

We began continuous publication of AJ with the May–June 2005 issue. New articles are posted online monthly. Thus, for our bimonthly print journal, approximately half of the issue is posted online 1 mo early, and the other half is posted the following month, at the scheduled time of publication. Articles posted online contain all of the elements necessary for citation—volume number, page numbers, etc. To get to the site for continuous publication, go to http://agron.scijournals.org and click on the left menu bar that says “Email alerts” and make additional selections as you desire.

Acquisitions Editor Discussion

I proposed to the AJ Editorial Board at our meeting in Salt Lake City that we add an Acquisitions Associate Editor, who would work with members of the AJ Board to identify topic areas and would identify and solicit authors to prepare manuscripts on these topics. Most of the content sought would likely be review articles. It was moved and seconded to add an Acquisitions Associate Editor to the AJ Editorial Board. The motion carried.

Executive Summaries in Agronomy Journal

The topic of including short summaries of about 100 words in AJ was discussed. If the Editorial Board favors the idea, the Manuscript Tracker administrator would add a field for authors to submit a summary when submitting manuscripts. It was moved and seconded to not include executive summaries in AJ. The motion carried.

Monetary Units

Monetary units that would be acceptable in AJ were discussed. It was agreed that U.S. dollars should be used, with the option of including other units in parentheses; however, no motion was adopted. The Editorial Board, based on those editors present at the Board meeting, agreed to handle the use of monetary units on a case-by-case basis.

Centennial Anniversary of AJ

During 2008, AJ will celebrate its centennial anniversary. To commemorate this important occasion, the AJ Editorial Board will conduct various activities. During 2008, we established four committees and chairs of each committee responsible for their associated activity. The chairs are encouraged to add members to their committees as needed. Committee members may be found on the website or from outside the Board.

- AJ Centennial Cover Committee—Chair, Mark Brick.
- AJ Centennial Calendar Committee—Chair, Bob Duvick.
- AJ Centennial Poster Committee—Co-Chairs, Jeremy Singer/Dan Sweeney and Bill Payne.
- AJ Centennial Bookmark Committee—Chair, Albert Sims.

Custom Content

Given that all volumes of AJ are now in an electronic format, it is now possible to conveniently prepare custom booklets. In fact, orders can be filled that include mixed content from any of the Society journals. Booklets containing custom content can have a color cover and include a photo of the authors and customer-selected text. Headquarters can fill large custom-content orders at an affordable price by spring of 2006. These custom booklets can be used for a variety of applications including classrooms and lab days, short courses, and various technical meetings. Contact ASA Headquarters if you are interested in preparing a custom content booklet to meet your particular needs.

Publishing Supplemental Information

I remind authors that video, color, animation, data sets, and other information can be published in the online version of AJ. Often this information is too expensive, too large, or simply not possible to publish in the print version of AJ. At this time, there is no additional charge to publish supplemental information online. If the information itself for submission with the original manuscript, authors should notify me as Editor of their interest.

Table 1: Average number of days to complete various activities during the editorial process for manuscripts submitted to AJ (Table 1).