More Support for Metric Units

A quick survey of letters-to-the-editor in recent issues of *SSSA Proceedings* leads one to believe that only those "against" the new metric system policy of ASA will take time to write about it. I would like to submit a vote "in favor" of the policy requiring use of the metric system.

It is time that we admit that the English system is a sorry hodgepodge of units with little, if any, scientific basis. (Even England has launched an effort to convert to the metric system.) The English units have meaning to us who were reared with them in use, but they appear highly irrational to readers in metric-system countries. Our foreign membership is greatly increasing, and I believe we should not make ourselves look unintelligent to this audience by admitting that a system as simple and convenient as the metric is too difficult to comprehend. Anyone who has tried using the metric should agree that a bit of confusion and expense is a small price to pay for liberation from the onerous English system.

As an assist in minimizing this confusion for our non-scientific readers, may I suggest that a small table be placed in a convenient location (perhaps on the inside of the front or back cover). This table could present the comparative values and conversion figures of the more widely employed units of the two systems.

As I said in the opening paragraph, I would like to submit a vote in favor of this policy. I do believe we should be allowed to express our opinions on this matter in a membership-wide poll.

EARL O. SKOGLEY
Montana State Univ. and
IRI Research Institute, Brazil

I feel that it is about time to let you know that I am in complete agreement with the requirement that metric units be used. The writing is on the wall. Most countries will be on the metric system in the near future. Please, do not revert back to English units.

J. F. DORMAAR
Soil Science Section, Research Station,
Canada Department of Agriculture, Lethbridge, Alberta.