

AC318 *AGROSYSTEMS, GEOSCIENCES & ENVIRONMENT* EDITORIAL BOARD

The *Agrosystems, Geosciences & Environment* (AGE) editorial board meeting met on Monday, 11 Nov. 2019 in San Antonio, TX. The Editor and Chair Jerry Hatfield called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. Those present introduced themselves and the meeting began.

1. Wiley Transition

Representatives of Wiley Publishing met with the AGE Editorial Board to describe the transition process. As part of this process, the journal covers have been reformatted to create an appearance of a family of journals across ASA-CSSA-SSSA. The one major change to the articles will be the shift of the reference style to APA style and this needs to be communicated to potential authors and incorporated into the Style Manual as quickly as possible. A marketing strategy for AGE will be developed by the Wiley Marketing Department to help increase awareness of the journal.

A discussion was held about the difficulty in recruiting reviewers for articles. This is a concern across all journals and continues to be a topic of concern about how to attract good reviewers.

Matt Wascavage, Publications Manager, provided an overview of the publications in the societies and urged everyone to consider how to improve the journal and communicate the journal scope to a broad audience of potential authors. A short discussion was held on the journal scope and what was covered under the environment area and by consensus it was agreed that the journal scope should extend beyond agronomic papers to include range management, pest management, and other topics that the authors felt this journal would satisfy their goals as a positive outlet.

Overall, the Editorial Board was positive about the number of submissions and the diversity of submissions to AGE this first full year. As of 11 November this year, the total number of submissions was 108.

2. Publications Manager's Report – Matt Wascavage

2019 Publications Update: A Year of Transition

Wiley Partnership. After signing the journals and magazines agreement in May 2019 and the books agreement in June 2019, the transition of institutional subscriber information, archive information and article files began very quickly. Currently, we are on track for launch of the journals, books and magazines on 1 Jan. 2020 on the Wiley Online Library. Transition of the online publications and archives is proceeding. A planned soft launch will be in December to allow time for quality control checks and corrections. Wiley is already managing all institutional (non-member) marketing and subscription and archive sales in the United States and worldwide.

The Author Profiles feature and English Abstracts of the Chinese Society of Agricultural Engineering Meetings currently on the Digital Library will be discontinued at the end of the year. The Meeting Notes and Presentations will not be moving to the Wiley platform, but will become free-to-read and linked via the three society web pages. The AMSA *Meat & Muscle Biology* Journal will be leaving ACSESS for a new publishing home before the end of the year.

For Editorial Board members, ScholarOne will retain much of the current format and structure, but with updated workflows. Also, Editorial Board members will be gaining a summary dashboard for their journal to allow site searches and individual reporting. Authors will experience minor change on the submission side with a shift to a more standard Wiley format to accommodate many of Wiley's Open Access initiatives. Corresponding authors will gain access to the Author Services online dashboard which will allow them to make payments, view proofs, and simplify journal submissions. The switchover for each journal to Wiley will be determined per journal title and will be communicated in detail by Managing Editors.

Submission and Peer Review Management Systems. The Publications team has been working towards drawing together the submission and peer review processes across all 13 of our journals to provide a more efficient and positive customer experience. The team engaged in group discussions and learning opportunities to arrive at a consensus for topics such as task timelines, decision workflows, author communication and peer review reporting.

Our ScholarOne submissions system portals have been upgraded to operate with greater efficiency, while becoming compatible with the Wiley publishing platform. The team has also worked to formalize Editorial Board appointments, aligning with current ASA, CSSA, and SSSA committee guidelines.

These improvements will be reviewed moving forward and additional improvements may be recommended to encourage authors to return.

Annual Meeting. In January, we piloted a "Meet the Editors" event in the Society Center at the Soils Meeting in San Diego to allow researchers and authors to discuss their research and ask our Editors questions about the journals. Participation was mixed, but we are moving forward with a repeat of this event in November. In San Antonio, all Editors will gather on Sunday evening at labeled tables in the Society Center during the opening reception to take questions and feedback.

Also, at the upcoming annual meeting, Wiley staff will be on hand to meet researchers and our Editorial boards. Lauren Coleman and Abby Morrison will offer ScholarOne help sessions for Editorial Board members on Monday Nov. 11 from 7:30 to 9:00 am and on Tuesday, Nov. 12 from 11:30 to 1:00 pm and we will be holding our last annual meeting book sale in the Society Center.

Downloads Summary. In 2019, the downloaded article numbers have leveled after experiencing a decline in downloaded articles from 2017 to 2018. Through September 2019, there have been over 2.225M journal article and book chapter downloads. This compares to 2.250M downloads through September 2018. Moving forward with Wiley in 2020, I expect to see the download and usage statistics rise with the exposure of our publications to additional institutions.

Editor's Conference. In May, ACSESS hosted the Fourth Annual Editor's Conference in Madison, a very successful gathering of Society Editors-in-Chief, journal Editors and ACSESS Publications staff. Our keynote speakers from Wiley, Colette Bean, Steven "Otto" Ottogalli and

Fiona Sarne provided in depth information on Wiley's history as a publisher along with current policies and an outlook into their strategy and vision for the future.

The committee discussed and adopted a data policy for all journal titles: "ACSESS Data Policy encourages the storage and availability of data necessary to understand and evaluate phenomena reported in our publications. Data should be stored or archived in domain repositories that are recognized widely and available to the community. Archiving should follow best management practices for metadata and data curation. Data not stored in such a repository should be available upon request to the authors. Additional guidance or requirements may be provided by individual journals."

There was also lively discussion and information shared detailing recent initiatives like uniform submission standards, manuscript transfers, the English Language Editing Service, data reporting, and open access. The committee will meet again at the Annual Meeting in November to address additional topics and action items.

Impact Factors. ACSESS currently has 7 of our 13 journals receiving Impact Factors. Two ACSESS journals experienced significant gains and six out of seven ACSESS journals receiving an impact factor showed improvements for 2018. TPG showed the most significant increase by more than 38% to an Impact Factor of 4.042 while VZJ increased its Impact Factor to 3.634, an increase of more than 34%.

The Impact Factor is a measure of the frequency with which the average article in a journal has been cited over a year. The Impact Factor is one tool used to evaluate a journal's relative importance when compared with other journals in the same study area.

Podcasts. Led by staff member Abby Morrison, ACSESS has released 10 new podcasts in 2019 through September and plans to release three additional episodes before the end of the year. *Field, Lab, Earth* promotes the science published in our journals through audio interviews. Since the show's beginning in June 2018, there have been more than 13,300 downloads on iTunes and "listens" on Spotify. With more than 150 Twitter followers, the show highlighted the OSU hand planter, precision and sustainable agriculture and turfgrass colorants in 2019. To celebrate the one-year anniversary of the podcast, Abby published a blooper reel episode.

Books. The books program continued to draw readers and researchers to the Digital Library, with just under 209K book, TOC and chapter downloads across more 330 titles in 2019 from January through August. Hard copy book sales, through the end of August, have already generated more than \$79,600 in gross sales. Of that amount, *Precision Agriculture Basics* has accounted for just over \$12,600, almost 16% of the total, in print sales.

This year's three releases to date are *Agroclimatology*, *Bridging Among Disciplines by Synthesizing Soil and Plant Processes* and *Industrial Hemp as a Modern Commodity Crop*. Fall continues to be a very busy time for books, with four new books slated to debut before the end of 2019. The titles are: *Animal Manure, Crops and Man, 3rd Edition*, *Fieldwork Ready* and *Guidelines for Analysis and Description of Regolith Thin Sections*.

Magazines. Both *CSA News* and *Crops & Soils* magazines began a redesign of the mastheads, covers and all news and feature pages mid-year under the direction of Matt Nilsson,

with assistance from the Wiley design department. The launch of the new magazine designs is planned in conjunction with the Wiley platform launch in January 2020. The designs will also debut in print in January.

Advertising. In 2019, Eric Welsh retained all responsibility for selling advertising for the magazines as well as space at the annual meeting, corporate sponsorships, online webinars and other online opportunities. With great success through the year, Eric will keep this responsibility with the Publications transition to Wiley in 2020. Even with expanded advertising opportunities available from Wiley, the Societies will continue to retain all advertising revenue.

2. Managing Editor’s Report –Sue Ernst

Production Summary. A summary of papers published and article length for 2019 compared with 2018 is presented in [Table 1](#).

TABLE 1. Summary of papers published in AGE.

Contribution	2019†	2018
Articles/Notes		
Agrosystems	53	13
Geosciences	2	2
Environment	7	1
Statistics	0	0
Notes	1	0
Miscellaneous		
Editorial	0	1
Withdrawn	0	1
Erratum	1	
Total articles	63	16
Total pages	536	148
Average length/paper	8.5	8.3

† Data through October 2019.

Submissions. [Table 2](#) shows the number of submissions in 2019 (January–October), location of corresponding author (US, international), and number of paper types.

TABLE 2. Submissions report.

Year	2019†	2018
Total submissions	102	69
US	82	49
International	22	20
% International	22%	29%

† Data through October 2019.

Online Usage Statistics. Table 3 shows the online usage statistics for 2019 (January–September).

TABLE 3. Usage statistics for ASA, CSSA, and SSSA journals (2019).†

Journal	Full-text Downloads	Abstracts	Table of Contents
<i>Agricultural & Environmental Letters</i>	27,395	12,225	3,530
<i>Agronomy Journal</i>	379,318	516,210	44,553
<i>Agrosystems, Geosciences & Environment</i>	10,446	5,873	3,394
<i>Crop Science</i>	436,506	570,631	40,479
<i>Crop, Forage and Turfgrass Management</i>	17,456	14,571	2,915
<i>Crops and Soils</i>	20,670	6,873	3,026
<i>Journal of Environmental Quality</i>	351,504	635,116	27,623
<i>Journal of Plant Registrations</i>	18,187	21,362	4,804
<i>Natural Sciences Education</i>	14,715	12,922	2,610
<i>Soil Horizons</i>	24,245	12,469	1,783
<i>Soil Science Society of America Journal</i>	381,879	698,070	39,547
<i>The Plant Genome</i>	95,530	48,904	6,186
<i>The Plant Phenome Journal</i>	3,768	2,008	1,177
<i>Urban Agriculture</i>	3,151	849	1,263
<i>Vadose Zone Journal</i>	118,297	94,548	12,840

† Data through September 2019.

Headquarters Staff. If you have any questions or regarding AGE, please contact us.

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3. Magazine and Podcast Promotion

Our Science Communication Editors (SCEs) and journal Editors as well as our *Crops & Soils* Editorial Board help magazine staff select journal papers and books to be promoted in the magazines (*CSA News* and *Crops & Soils*) and our podcast (*Field, Lab, Earth*), which launched in June of 2018 and features 30-40 minute long interviews with authors, released monthly. Article promotion in the magazines (*CSA News* and *Crops & Soils*) includes feature stories and 200-word summaries (for the purposes of this report, we are not counting book advertisements as promotions). All of the *CSA News* content promoting research is posted to Society social media accounts (Facebook/Twitter). Select *CSA News* summaries and features are also posted in the monthly *Crops & Soils* “new articles” email to all CCAs. See [Table 4](#).

TABLE 4. Summary of magazine and podcast promotions (1 Oct. 2018–30 Sept. 2019).

Journal	Total papers promoted	Magazines			Podcast
		CSA News (for scientists and students)		Crops & Soils (for certified professionals and students)‡	Field, Lab, Earth (for scientists, certified professionals, students and others)
		Feature†	200-word summary	Features (for CEU credit)	
AJ*	32	4	23	5	1
Crop Sci*	31	6	25	0	1
JPR*	2	0	2	0	0
JEQ*	29	8	21	2	3
SSSAJ*	26	5	20	1	1
NSE*	5	0	5	0	0
VZJ*	15	1	14	0	3

AEL*	14	2	12	0	0
TPG	3	0	3	0	0
CFTM	1	0	1	5	0
UARF	0	0	0	0	0
AGE	4	0	4	0	1
TPPJ	0	0	0	0	1
Books	1	0	1	0	1
<i>Total articles promoted: 182</i>					

*Indicates journal has an SCE or an Editor who serves the function of an SCE.

† A Feature story ranges from 800 to 2,500 words. Note that 6 of the Feature stories were journal special section promotions, which are counted as one promotion here but point to numerous articles included in that special section.

‡ In addition to the CEU Feature stories in *Crops & Soils* magazine, 48 of the 157 stories (mostly 200-word summaries) that were written for *CSA News* and promoted in that magazine were also promoted to CCAs in the monthly *Crops & Soils* “new articles” email.

Social Media. Most of the articles promoted in the magazines are also promoted via the Societies’ social media accounts. We see a spike in readership of the promotion on the day that it is posted to social media. The Facebook and Twitter accounts for the Societies are also constantly growing and are a platform to engage with an audience beyond membership.

Field, Lab, Earth has its own Twitter account (@fieldlabearth) which regularly posts content to promote each episode, including sneak peek “audiogram” videos, links to the articles featured on the show, and other relevant content. Each episode is also promoted on the Society Twitter and Facebook account and in both its own e-newsletter and the Society-wide *News Flash*.

Additional Promotion. Recommendations are also used to identify papers for promotion to the media or public by the Public and Science Communications Department. **Figure 1** provides a simple overview of how recommendations are used at headquarters.

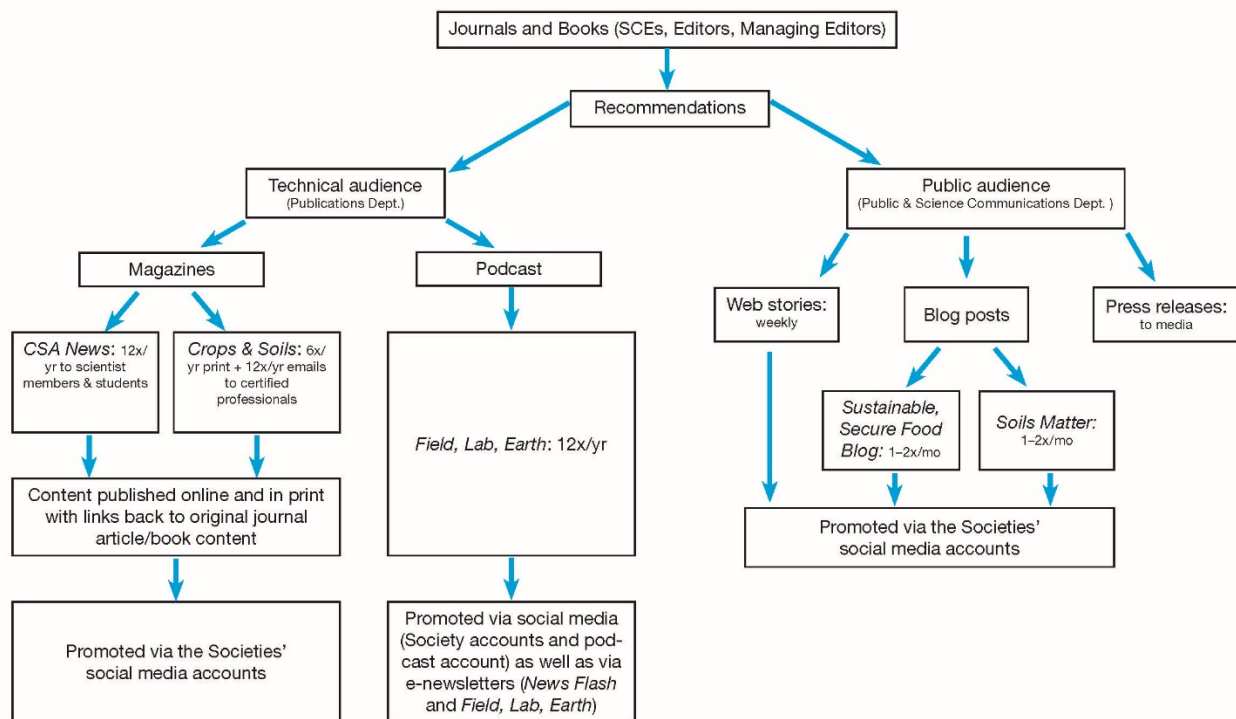


FIGURE 1. A flowchart shows an overview of how recommendations are used at headquarters.

New Staff Member. This year, we bid farewell to Tracy Hmielowski, who served the Societies as *CSA News*–Science Editor from 2016 through mid-2019. We welcome DJ McCauley as the new *CSA News*–Science Editor. DJ received her M.S. in Communication this year from the University of Delaware and obtained her B.S. in biology from DeSales University. She works closely with journal SCEs and Editors to develop and write science content for *CSA News* magazine and post promotions to our social media accounts. If you have any questions about promoting an article in our magazines, please contact DJ at dmccauley@sciencesocieties.org or Matt Nilsson (managing editor of magazines) at mnilsson@sciencesocieties.org. For more information about our podcast, please contact Abby Morrison at amorrison@sciencesocieties.org.

—Jerry L. Hatfield, Editor, and Sue Ernst, Managing Editor