



## American Society of Agronomy

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Dear Authors and Readers:

The *Journal of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Education* (JNRLSE) is published by the American Society of Agronomy, along with the following cooperating societies that consider JNRLSE their primary source for education-type articles: American Association for Agricultural Education, American Institute of Biological Sciences, American Phytopathological Society, American Society for Horticultural 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.

JNRLSE covers all disciplines in the life sciences, natural resources, 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 submission of manuscripts and for downloading published papers is <http://www.jnrlse.org/>

A number of times each year we are asked why JNRLSE does not have an impact factor. JNRLSE is not eligible for a Thomson Scientific® impact factor due to its non-technical content. Recently impact factors are being looked at from various angles. Impact factors are not always a genuine means to measure a journal's worth. In fact, some deliberate manipulation of impact factors has occurred to falsely inflate some journals' impact. 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 how frequently the papers are cited by other researchers beyond the two year period used to calculate an impact factor.

Why should you publish your research in JNRLSE? What benefit will you gain, and the wider scientific educational community gain, when you publish a paper in JNRLSE? Articles in JNRLSE are written by people, like you, who are the world's top natural resources and life 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, curricula, science-fair projects, and teaching philosophy.

Other important facts about JNRLSE 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 JNRLSE website in 2008 averaged approximately 5600 hits per month.
- There are 1085 subscribers to the JNRLSE email alert.

- The top most requested PDF file in 2008 had 2127 hits.
- Search engine referrals come from Google, Scijournals.org, Live.com, Yahoo, Eurekalert.org, AOL Search, MSN Search, and USDA.gov.
- The journal is available in electronic, print, and CD formats.
- Each submission undergoes a rigorous, timely review by at least three scientists/educators.
- The JNRLSE acceptance rate has ranged from 57 to 76% 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 month after acceptance.

If you would need a letter from me for a promotion and tenure document stating that JNRLSE is a peer reviewed, highly cited educational 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 contributed manuscript for publication consideration in JNRLSE. You have something to share that can benefit others.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Warren Dick". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Warren A. Dick  
ASA Editor-in-Chief  
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*May 7, 2009*