

Introduction

The American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America, and Soil Science Society of America (which will be referred to in this book as either the Societies, the three societies, or ASA–CSSA–SSSA) publish information concerning all aspects of the sciences they represent. Their extensive publishing activities offer opportunities for agricultural science-related professionals to communicate findings to colleagues and to larger, more general audiences.

The *Publications Handbook and Style Manual* is electronic at www.agronomy.org/publications/style and serves as a guide for authors who wish to prepare manuscripts and other material for submission to and publication by the Societies and for editors in evaluating the submitted material. This *Editors' Handbook* is intended to further guide editors in carrying out their responsibilities.

The three societies publish eight journals: *Agronomy Journal*, *Crop Science*, *Soil Science Society of America Journal*, *Journal of Environmental Quality*, *Journal of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Education*, *Journal of Plant Registrations*, *The Plant Genome*, and *Vadose Zone Journal*. The three societies also publish Agronomy Monographs, the SSSA Book Series, individual and joint Special Publication series, and other miscellaneous books, papers, booklets, and pamphlets. Three other titles, the *Annual Meetings Abstracts*, the monthly membership news magazine *CSA News*, and *Crops & Soils* magazine, are edited and published by the Societies' Headquarters staff and will not be discussed in this handbook.

The general editorial policies and practices of the three societies are determined by the respective boards of directors, whose members are elected by a vote of the membership of each Society.

The boards of directors of the three societies have delegated the responsibilities for review of manuscripts and the production of publications to the editors-in-chief, editors, editorial boards and committees, and to a full-time staff at the Societies' Headquarters office.

Day-to-day procedures and practices have evolved through the years and are still changing. All of the editorial production, printing, and distribution of publications are coordinated through the Societies' Headquarters office.

