

# Chapter 4

## ASA, CSSA, and SSSA Books

In addition to the scientific journals, ASA, CSSA, and SSSA publish books, including Agronomy Monographs, the SSSA Book Series, *Advances in Agricultural Systems Modeling*, and the ASA, CSSA, and SSSA Special Publication Series, as well as books on special topics, textbooks, professional guides, K–12 educational materials, multimedia, glossaries, and other miscellaneous publications.

All recently published books are available in print, in epub format, and on the publisher's website. The publisher's website also contains a digital library of all our past book publications.

### DEVELOPMENT AND PRODUCTION OF NEW PUBLICATIONS

#### The Book and Multimedia Publishing Committee

Approval of new publications is handled by the ASA, CSSA, and SSSA Book and Multimedia Publishing Committee (ACS320), which consists of a chair, the editors-in-chief of the three societies, and representatives of the societies. Ex officio members of the committee include the staff publications director and program manager. Committee members serve three-year terms and may be reappointed. The chair serves a three-year term and may be reappointed for a second three-year term but not a third without an intervening three-year period. The chair rotates among ASA, CSSA, and SSSA. One of the appointed members who has served at least two years on the committee is selected as chair after consultation with the retiring chair and the editors-in-chief. On behalf of the society presidents, the book committee chair appoints members from each of the societies to serve on the committee. On behalf of the president, the appropriate editor-in-chief appoints the chair. The editors-in-chief recommend a chair to the president.

#### Duties of the Book and Multimedia Publishing Committee

The committee's functions are as follows:

- To receive and review book proposals and approve or reject the proposed publication on the basis of:
  - importance of the subject to agronomic and environmental sciences,
  - quality of content,
  - scope and nature of content,
  - probable demand and need for the proposed publication, and
  - existence of, or plans for, publications on the same topic.

The committee may release a proposal and request it be resubmitted with improvements, such as inclusion of additional subject matter or chapter authors.

- To explore and prioritize topics for development and publication, with the goal of ensuring ASA, CSSA, and SSSA are leading publishers in the agronomy, crop, and soil sciences.
- To identify editors and authors who are experts in these fields and solicit manuscripts from them on these topics.
- To identify and prioritize potential derivative publications and new editions of existing titles.
- To recommend policy with respect to publishing activities for consideration by the ASA, CSSA, and SSSA Boards of Directors.
- To promote ASA, CSSA, SSSA publications with regard to sales, manuscript submissions, and general visibility to society members and others.
- To prepare an annual report of committee activities for submission to the ASA, CSSA, and SSSA Boards of Directors.
- When deemed appropriate, to review an ongoing project (i.e., outline of subject matter, selected authors, originality, and the status and quality of the manuscripts) to determine if it is consistent with the original intent of an approved proposal. The committee may recommend termination of a project on the basis of this review.

### Duties of the Book Editor

The lead book editor (in the case of multiple-author projects) is responsible for the proposal. All projects, even those solicited by the committee, require a written proposal. An online proposal form is available and can also be requested from the program manager. The program manager will assist with preparation of the proposal.

The book editor(s) or book author(s) do not need to be members of one of the societies, but there is a convenience charge for nonmembers. There is no charge for society members.

The book editor is responsible for preparation, peer review, and content editing of the publication. This includes determining the scope, organizing subject matter, and selecting qualified authors. There may be more than one editor on a book. The editor(s) may serve as author(s), and an author may prepare more than one chapter.

The editor's primary responsibility is ensuring the scientific review and technical editing of manuscripts. Quality peer review is the cornerstone of the ASA, CSSA, and SSSA book publishing program. See Chapter 2 for a general discussion of peer review.

The editor is responsible for ensuring the timely completion of the entire book. The editor informs authors of their responsibilities relating

to completion of manuscripts within a prescribed time and is responsible for maintaining the book development schedule.

The editor is also responsible for supporting marketing efforts and is asked to supply contacts for marketing and to engage in promotional opportunities, such as participating in promotional events and distributing marketing material at relevant meetings.

On occasion, the societies publish books by a single author. In this case, the program manager, with assistance from the book committee, takes on the role of editor to manage the peer review.

### Duties of the Program Manager

The program manager conducts a financial analysis of proposals, and viable proposals are forwarded to the Book and Multimedia Publishing Committee for review.

The program manager supports the editor during the proposal, development, and peer review of a title and oversees production of the final publication.

Once manuscripts have been accepted, a headquarters editor or a freelance copy editor corresponds directly with authors about questions requiring their attention. Proofs of each chapter are sent to authors for proofreading.

### Royalties

The lead editor (or author of a single-author book) of an accepted book project may be eligible for an honorarium and royalties, provided the final manuscript is submitted by the deadline agreed upon and specified in the contract. Contributing authors do not receive payment, but each contributor receives a complimentary epub (digital copy) of the published work.

## SERIES

### Agronomy Monographs

An Agronomy Monograph is a detailed, scholarly treatise written by experts on a single topic where a definitive reference is required by the community. Monographs are published on an irregular schedule, only after the Book and Multimedia Publishing Committee determines a need for monographic treatment of a topic.

### Advances in Agricultural Systems Modeling

The Advances in Agricultural Systems Modeling series includes the tagline “Transdisciplinary Research, Synthesis, and Applications,” and the focus of the series is on this view of the role of modeling in advancing the agricultural sciences. Books in this series look at particular topics and how modeling can be improved and implemented to solve practical problems in agriculture.

### SSSA Book Series

A book in the SSSA Book Series is a detailed, scholarly treatise written by experts on a single topic where a definitive reference is required by the soil science community. Books in this series are published on an irregular schedule, only after the Book and Multimedia Publishing Committee determines a need for monographic treatment of a topic.

### Methods of Soil Analysis

Methods of Soil Analysis is a well-known subseries of the SSSA Book Series. Methods books on a particular topic may be published in the SSSA Book Series. Also, individual methods articles addressing advances in methods techniques or introducing new methods are published on the Methods of Soil Analysis webpage, which is part of the *Soil Science Society of America Journal* website.

### Special Publications Series

Each society has its own Special Publication series. These represent a state-of-the-science look at a special topic. They often result from symposia on timely topics but may also be developed from an idea for a specific topic that is not associated with a symposium. The societies may jointly publish any of the series. Symposium organizers are urged to consider proposing a special publication and should do so as early in the symposium planning process as possible.

### Other Books and Book Series

The subject matter of other books published by the societies includes any topic within the publishing goals of the societies according to their missions and strategic plans. Appropriate book projects include audience-specific publications, such as textbooks, books for those in related disciplines, and professional guides. The style and format vary with each project.

### Multimedia

The societies encourage proposals for books that include complementary multimedia materials. The societies will also consider publication of stand-alone multimedia publications.