CRITERIA for JNZG MANUSCRIPTS

Guidelines for Authors

Type of Paper

Research Articles - general:

- May be either question/hypothesis driven or descriptive, preferably the former although there will be situations where it is necessary to describe trends or processes so that credible questions or hypotheses can be proposed.
- Field studies should include a minimum of two years' worth of data.
- Replication is essential.
- Evidence that suitable control treatments have been included should be visible.
- Papers presenting preliminary results should not be accepted since conclusions may change after a full data set is collected and analysed, and interim conclusions may be misleading.

Research Articles – modelling:

Ideally should be based on models that have been published in peer-reviewed journals, or should supply information that the model has been validated against data in some way, for example by comparing predicted versus observed values for key variables where the observed values come from work conducted in a similar context to the one the modelling analysis is addressing.

Research Articles - technology:

- Must be more than a simple description of a piece of technology – e.g. a gadget, or a chemical, or a new forage cultivar
- Evidence for the 'performance' of the technology should be based on a clearly described and well-designed study/comparison
- For technologies that are designed for the purpose of supporting farmer adoption of improved practices (e.g. decision support tools), there should be evidence of end-user engagement in the design or testing of the product
- Advertorial submissions are not accepted

Agricultural Practices:

- Must be a novel and practical on-farm demonstration of previously published science.
- Must contain new knowledge of factors influencing farmer learning, decision-making and change that are relevant to NZ pasture-based industries: not a re-hash of what is already well known and practiced.
- Case studies must include evidence of the change relative to baseline data, not just describe what was done.
- Case study approaches should be based on a reasonable representative number of cases. N=1 is unlikely to yield useful, generalisable information and should be avoided.
- Ideally there should be more than one year's worth of results.

Literature Review

- Provides a comprehensive review of relevant literature.
- Provides details of scope/limitations of the review.
- Contains an analysis of the current state of the art (i.e. is not just a list of previous work).
- Highlight's knowledge gaps and suggests areas for future research.

Perspective

- Provides a balanced overview of a topic of interest to the NZGA.
- Supported by published literature.

1. IMPACT (all categories)

Does it have the potential to lead to positive change or progress?

- Does the paper offer new knowledge, or new management practices/technology (and therefore likely to result in change/progress) – or is it mainly reinforcement or repetition of current knowledge, practices and technologies (less likely to lead to change/progress)?
- How significant is the issue being addressed? If it's a minor issue, then potential for change is also likely to be low.
- Consider the potential utility of the work for:
    - Farmers
    - Future R&D effort
- Is there a visible and credible route to implementation?