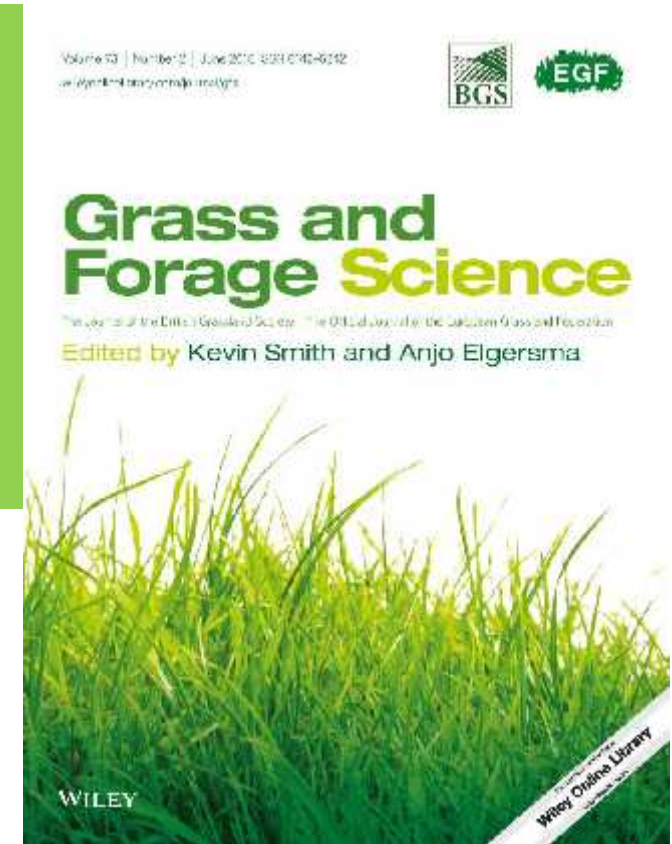
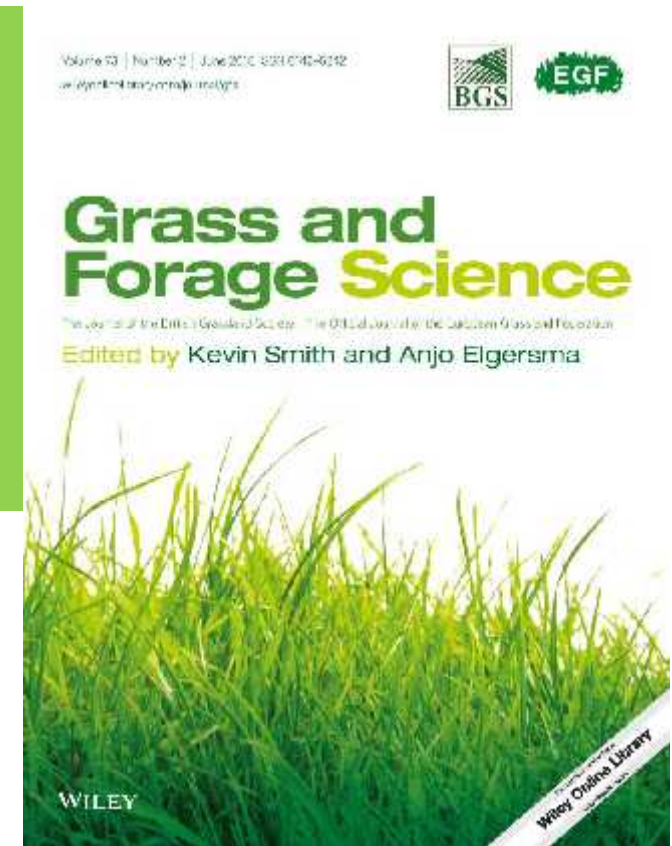


Factors affecting the publication of a scientific article: A view from an Associate Editor



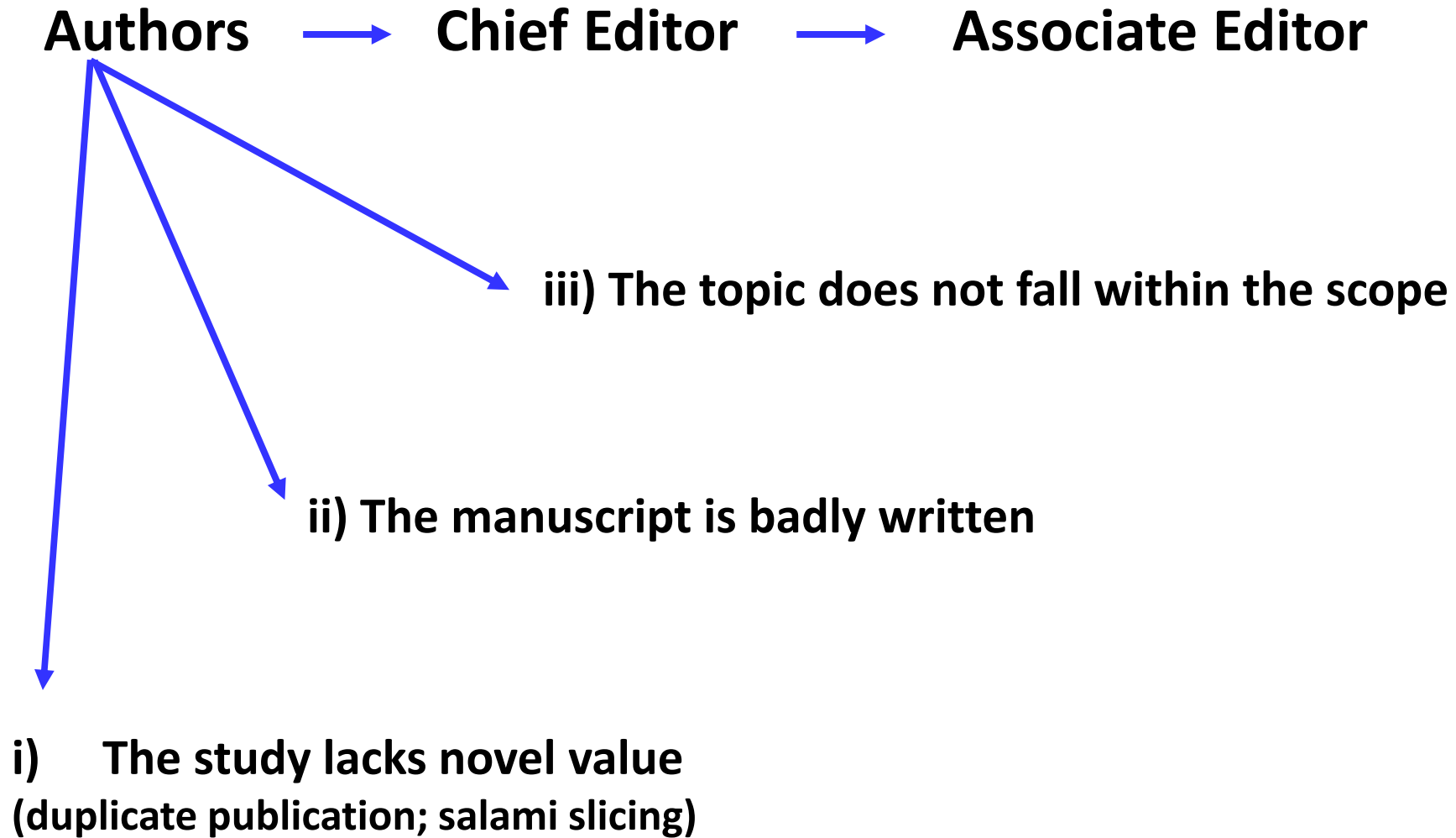
Thiago Bernardes
Associate Editor, **Grass and Forage Science**

The journal

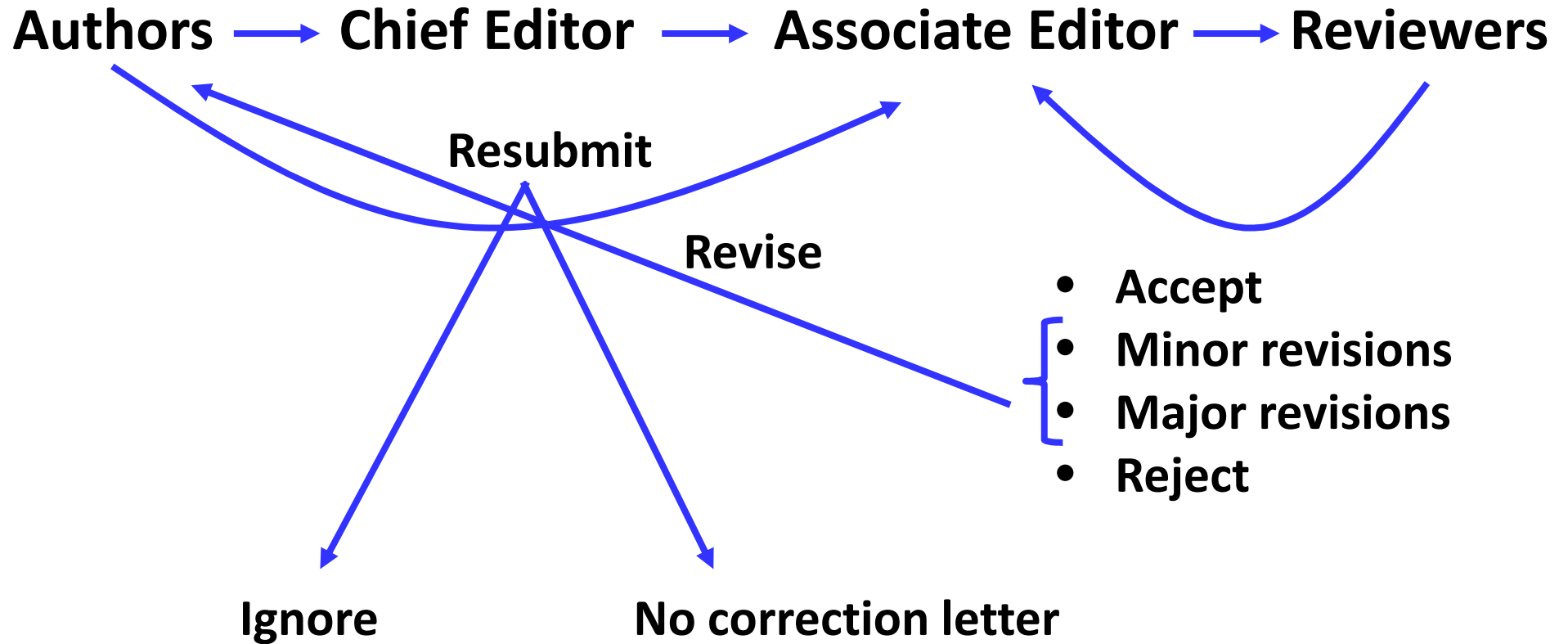


- **Wiley**
- **2 Chief Editors and 16 Associate Editors**
- **2017 impact factor: 1.575**
- **Manuscripts submitted: 370 per year**
- **Rejection rate: 76%**

Common reasons for rejection



“It's not over until it's over”



No correction letter

Author's Response to Decision Letter for

[REDACTED]

09-May-2015

Dear Dr. Hopkins:

We appreciate your and the reviewers comments on our manuscript and we have endeavored to implement the final revisions that have been recommended. We have prepared a "clean" copy of the manuscript in which all revisions to the paper have been made. [REDACTED]



Tips

i) The study lacks novel value

ii) The manuscript is badly written

iii) The topic does not fall within the scope

- Provide a balanced and informative **Abstract** (quick information)
- Provide an **Introduction** that leads from the background and rationale to identification of a knowledge gap and clear statement of objectives
- Provide a detailed **Methods section** that includes ALL the essential information (Example)

Tips

ever, tarpaulin cover is expensive for some producers, especially those with modest resource availability. Thus, to overcome this problem, a method that combines the thin OB film with a conventional PE sheet has been created for covering stack silos (Bernardes et al., 2009).

As the quality of film is not the full answer to preventing spoiled silage at the top because the film needs to be held to the forage (Muck, 2011) and the shoulders present a high risk of losses, we hypothesized that an effective way of reducing shoulder (top lateral) spoilage is to line bunker walls with the thin OB film before filling, overlap it onto the forage, and finally cover the entire silo using a PE sheet. Therefore, the aims of this study were to (1) evaluate the effect of a 2-step system on the fermentation end products, spoilage microorganisms, and nutrient losses of corn silage in dairy farm bunker silos; (2) determine how much OB film needed to be purchased for lining walls and protecting the top lateral by examining the effects of the 2-step system in different distances from the wall.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Experimental Design, Treatments, and Sampling

Eight commercial bunker corn silages were sampled during a 2-yr period, 4 in 2014 and 4 in 2015. Bunker

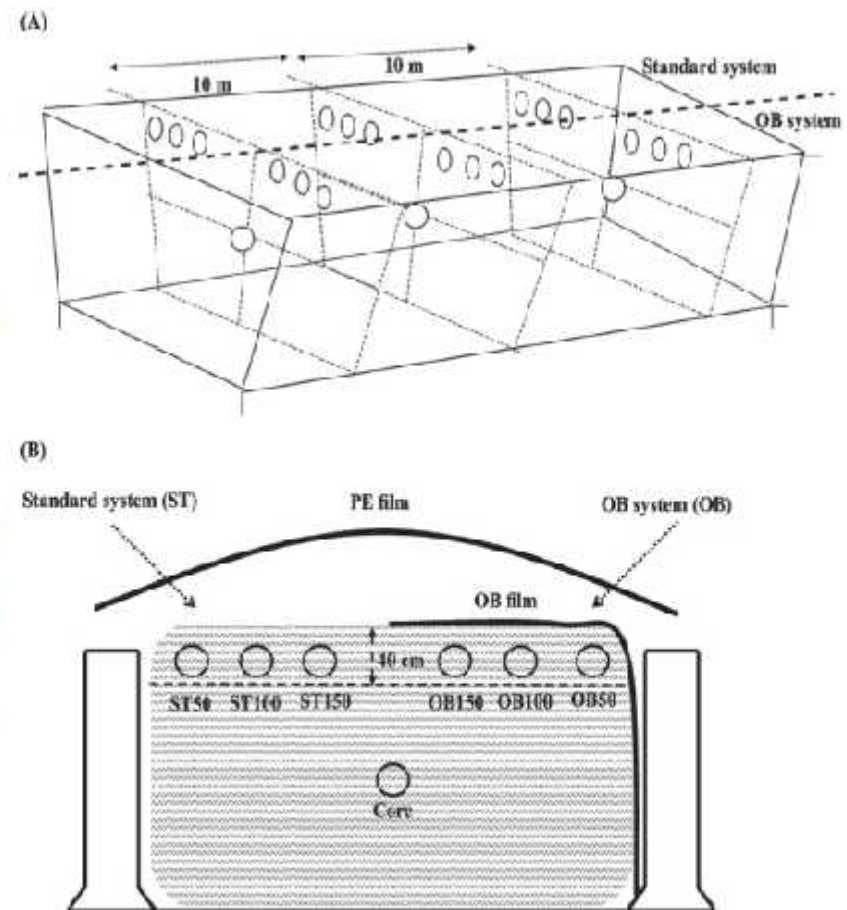


Figure 1. The 2 methods used to seal the bunker silos. (A) Bunker silos were longitudinally split into 2 parts to apply the 2 covering methods and transversally into 3 sections to bury the net bags. (B)

Tips

- Provide a well presented **Results section** with appropriate use of **tables** and **figures**
- Provide a **Discussion** that presents the findings in the context of previous knowledge (Practical implications might be important)

Some small points

- Types of articles: Full paper, Short communication, Research note...
- The number of authors listed should be appropriate (“entire department”). Use Acknowledgements section
- Split the text into headings and subheadings
- English language (American vs British; food vs feed)

Some small points

- Know the profile of the editors and talk to them
- Cover letter
- Suggested reviewers (**Do not** choose your friends!)
- Attend international meetings
- Try recognized journals (robustness; learn from reviewers)
- Be a reviewer

Good authors are good reviewers

Authors → Chief Editor → Associate Editor → Reviewers

iii) Long time in review

ii) Superficial review

i) No response



Superficial review

Referee: 2

Comments to the Author

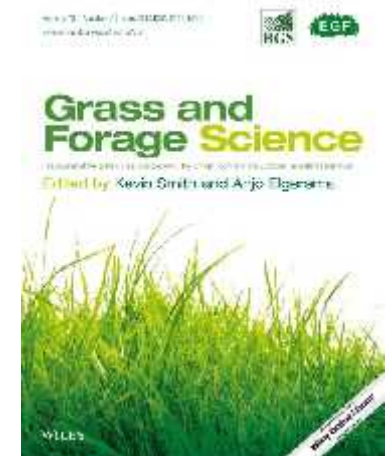
Well-written paper. The methodology is sound, and the conclusions are valid, based on the data. Thank you for inviting me to review.

Associate Editor's Comments to Author:

Associate Editor: Bernardes, Thiago

Comments to the Author:

Dear Authors,

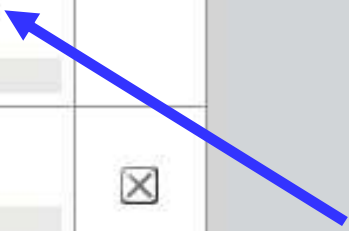
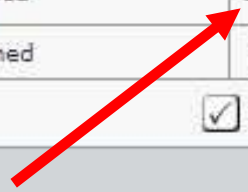


Referee List

Order	Name	Status	History	Remove
1 ▼	([REDACTED])	<u>No Response</u>	Invited: 21-Feb-2017 No Response : 01-Mar-2017 view full history	⊗
2 ▼	([REDACTED])	<u>No Response</u>	Invited: 21-Feb-2017 No Response : 01-Mar-2017 view full history	⊗
3 ▼	([REDACTED])	<u>Decline</u>	Invited: 21-Feb-2017 Decline : 22-Feb-2017 view full history	⊗
4 ▼	([REDACTED])	Reject  View Review rated	Invited: 22-Feb-2017 Agree : 24-Feb-2017 Due Date: 07-Apr-2017 Review Returned: 20-Apr-2017 Time in Review: 55 Days. # in Decision Letter: 1 view full history	⊗
5 ▼	([REDACTED])	<u>Unavailable</u>	Invited: 27-Feb-2017 Unavailable : 27-Feb-2017 view full history	⊗
6 ▼	([REDACTED])	<u>Decline</u>	Invited: 27-Feb-2017 Decline : 27-Feb-2017 view full history	⊗

Progress

# reviews required to make decision	2	
# active selections	3	✓
# invited	3	✓
# agreed	2	✓
# declined	17	
# returned	2	✓
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Save		



**Thank you for your attention!
Questions?**

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The Journal of the British Grassland Society The Official Journal of the European Grassland Federation

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