

FINAL PROJECT TITLE AND ABSTRACT

Due: September 19, 2012, Midnight

Title

Titles should clearly indicate your paper's content. The terms used in the title should provide significant information about the study and the title itself should be free of unusual or esoteric terminology. It is worth reviewing the advice by ASA-CSSA-SSSA (1998), "A good title briefly identifies the subject, indicates the purpose of the study, and introduces key terms or concepts. It must do this briefly, or lose its point. The recommended limit is 12 words."

Abstract

Typically, an abstract is the last thing that you would write when preparing a technical paper since it is essentially the paper in miniature, reflecting everything important that follows it. The abstract will include: (1) a statement on the importance of the topic (why should anyone care about the topic?); (2) a statement describing what specific question you were answering and the goal(s) of your paper; (3) brief statements of the methods used to answer that question; (4) a few statements listing the important findings of your study; and (5) a statement clearly interpreting your findings for the scientific community. Since you are not yet at the stage to complete parts (4)-(5) of the list above, your abstract at this point will only contain parts (1)-(3). It is essentially a half-abstract and should contain between 4 to 8 sentences.

Format

The title and abstract must be typed (double-spaced with 1 in. margins using a 12-point font). The title should be listed in all caps, centered at the top of the page. Your name should be listed directly under the title with your first and middle names initialed, also centered between the margins immediately followed by the abstract with the first line of the paragraph indented. An example of the format for this title and half-abstract is given to you on page 2.

Resources

Publications Handbook and Style Manual (1998), Published by ASA-CSSA-SSSA.

Scientific Writing for Graduate Students (1968), Edited by F. Peter Woodford.

EFFECTS OF LAND USE ON SOIL ORGANIC CARBON AND HYDRAULIC
PROPERTIES IN UPLAND LANDSCAPES OF EASTERN KANSAS

J.A. Decker

An estimated 60% of the soil organic carbon (SOC) pool has been depleted in temperate regions via the conversion of natural to agricultural ecosystems. It has been suggested that soils have the potential to regain more than half of this depleted stock through the use of appropriately chosen management practices. However, management decisions of land use also affect soil hydraulic properties that govern the rate of accumulation and distribution of SOC and the potential for erosion. My objectives were to (1) examine the effects of land use on soil moisture retention, hydraulic conductivity, and the distribution of SOC and (2) evaluate potential effects of land use on erosion. Four long-term management treatments were investigated (springtime burning, grazing, mowing, and untreated) on plots that were previously cultivated. These plots were compared to an adjacent native prairie, which had not previously been plowed. Undisturbed samples were taken from each plot in triplicates using a trailer-mounted hydraulic corer. These samples were analyzed for morphological properties (horizonation and structure), physical properties (i.e., particle size distribution, bulk density, and porosity), hydraulic properties (i.e., water retention), and SOC. Additionally, infiltration was measured in the field using a mini-disk infiltrometer.