What is JOE?

JOE is the acronym for the *Journal of Extension*, the official refereed journal of the Cooperative Extension System, which has been continuously published since 1963. Articles and material published in JOE carry significant weight in promotion and tenure processes at land-grant institutions. The journal is also required reading in many graduate-level courses in Extension education programs.

What's in it for authors?

- **JOE** provides a refereed publishing outlet.
- **JOE** is a vehicle to share ideas with colleagues.
- **JOE** enhances writing skills.
- **JOE** documents program impacts.

What's in it for readers?

- **JOE** improves effectiveness as an educator.
- **JOE** is available for free online.
- **JOE** highlights programs across the nation.

What's inside an issue of JOE?

**Feature**
Reviewed by three reviewers.
Feature articles discuss concepts and research findings of interest and significance to U.S. Extension professionals and to U.S. Extension’s knowledge base, methodology, effective practice, and organization. The appeal of these articles is wide ranging. Maximum length of feature articles is 3,000 words.

**Research in Brief**
Reviewed by three reviewers.
These brief research summaries highlight results of studies and projects relevant to U.S. Extension professionals at a national or regional level. Information in these articles is specific and localized, and are a maximum of 2,000 words.

**Ideas at Work**
Reviewed by one reviewer.
Ideas at work describe new and interesting ideas, innovative programs, and novel methods of program delivery of interest to U.S. Extension professionals. These are a maximum 1,000 words in length.

**Tools of the Trade**
Reviewed by the editor.
These articles report on specific materials, books, techniques, and technologies that are particularly useful to U.S. Extension professionals.

**Commentary**
Reviewed by the editor.
Commentaries offer a challenge or present a thought-provoking opinion on an issue of concern to U.S. Cooperative Extension. Commentaries are accompanied by a comment forum to encourage discussion and engagement among readers and Extension professionals. Generally, these are a maximum of 1,500 words in length.

www.joe.org
What do JOE reviewers want in JOE submissions?

**Article Quality**: JOE reviewers can’t review your research or project, itself. They can only review what you have written. Ask several colleagues to read your article for clarity and correctness before you submit. Make sure they evaluate it as a journal article. Enlist the help of at least one colleague unfamiliar with your project to help ensure you’re communicating your ideas clearly to those unfamiliar with the subject area. Supply these colleagues with copies of the JOE Submission Guidelines (http://www.joe.org/-for-authors-submission-guidelines.php), and ask them to imagine themselves as reviewers and offer suggestions and edits.

**Rigor**: Some authors don’t follow sound sampling and statistical procedures. Don’t try to make your article seem more “research based” than it is. Nobody’s fooled, and unsound methodology can obscure good ideas and information.

**Content Relevance**: Some articles are too technical or specific to be relevant to many JOE readers. Make your article relevant to as broad an audience of Extension professionals as possible. Answer readers’ “so what?” question. Clarify how your article enhances Extension’s knowledge base and/or helps Extension professionals do their jobs better.

**Grounded Findings, Recommendations, & Conclusions**: Some authors treat personal opinions as findings or fact. Include personal opinions or values only when appropriate and necessary, make their personal nature clear, and make sure they are based on clear, sound reasoning. Also, separate your findings from your recommendations.

**Focus**: Some articles ramble because authors try to include too many ideas. Stick to one point or theme. A good way to clarify focus is to use a clear heading hierarchy.

**Appropriate Graphics**: Some authors include numerous photos and over-elaborate, multicolored charts and tables. This interferes with clarity and presents problems for readers trying to download articles. Include only graphics that serve an informational rather than aesthetic purpose. Keep your charts and tables as simple as possible. With graphics, less is often more.

**Effective Titles and Abstracts**: Some titles are dull and too long, and some abstracts are exhaustive recapitulations. Write attention-getting, interesting, and to-the-point titles and abstracts.