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Department of Agriculture, Western Australia (1971) "Publications of the Department of Agriculture," Journal of the Department of Agriculture, Western Australia, Series 4: Vol. 12 : No. 6 , Article 64.
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WITH the Journal of Agriculture no longer produced as a practical monthly farming magazine, some farmers may feel they have been deprived of valuable reference material.

This is not so. The Department of Agriculture Bulletin series, properly used, has always been a more convenient reference source than the Journal.

The Bulletins, issued free to farmers in Western Australia, comprise a comprehensive reference library.

As reference material, their main advantage over the Journal is that they can be filed under a simple subject index system. Two-ring binders, file boxes, flat files or simple folders are suitable for storing the Bulletins. Other material such as commercial leaflets, pages from farming magazines, field day notes, letters of advice and so on can be stored for easy retrieval in the same system.

The key word subject headings used in the list of publications have proved suitable for a simple, practical subject index; this can be refined for those who want a better system. Either way, it is much simpler to refer to a subject index system of this type than to leaf through two years’ back issues of the Journal of Agriculture looking for an article noticed “a few weeks ago”, which turns out to have been printed in a different publication back in 1967.

Now that we no longer have a monthly Journal to produce we plan to concentrate on improving the Bulletin series so that all important subjects are adequately covered in simple leaflet form. More comprehensive cover will be given in larger booklets or handbooks such as the new Soil and Water Conservation Handbooks.

Greater emphasis will be given to easy filing and reference in new Bulletins, which will be specifically designed for the best possible treatment of each subject, rather than reprinted from Journal articles.

The main drawback of our greater reliance on the Bulletin series will be, for some farmers, that the onus will be on the farmer to collect or write for the Bulletins he wants from his district office (or head office, South Perth) and will need to keep himself familiar with what is available. However, current lists and stocks of the Bulletins will be kept in all Department of Agriculture district offices and will be readily available to farmers. Production of new Bulletins will also be publicised.

The publications listed below are available on application to the Department of Agriculture, Jarrah Road, South Perth, 6151, or to district offices of the Department. Bulletin numbers should be quoted when ordering by letter.

Except where prices are stated the Bulletins are free. A charge may be made if large numbers or bulk supplies are requested. Bulletins are not available to individuals for school projects but will be supplied on request to school libraries.

The dates quoted in the list indicate dates of original publication in the Journal of Agriculture.
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2410 Ant Proofing the Apiary—Jan., 1957.
3108 An Introduction to Beekeeping—
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2495 Weight Trends in Fattening Cattle—Nov., 1957.
3598 Beef in the Wheatbelt—
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3809 Cattle Breeds for Beef Production in W.A.—June, 1971.

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3625 Tallow as a Substitute for Butterfat in the Diet of a Young Calf—Jan., 1969.
3663 High Stocking Rate on Kikuyu Dairy Pasture—June, 1969.
3712 Feeding Urea to Cattle—Jan., 1970.
3737 Supplementing Calves with Tallow—results of trial at Wokalup Research Station—May, 1970.

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