

# Communications

Extension Information • University of Missouri-Columbia • 1-98 Agriculture • Columbia, Missouri, 65211

## NEWSLETTER SCORE SHEET by Linda Benedict, Information Specialist

How does your newsletter rate? Take a few minutes to score your evaluation of your newsletter. A perfect score is 170. Anything below 100 means you need to make some drastic changes. Look to see where you're strong and weak. Build on your strengths and improve your weaknesses.

If your newsletter is great circle a 

1	2	3	4	5
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If your newsletter is bad circle a 

1	2	3	4	5
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### Purpose

- Goals clear \_\_\_\_\_ 

1	2	3	4	5
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  - Content related to goals \_\_\_\_\_ 

1	2	3	4	5
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  - Audience clearly defined \_\_\_\_\_ 

1	2	3	4	5
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  - Gives reader sense of belonging \_\_\_\_\_ 

1	2	3	4	5
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- total** \_\_\_\_\_

### Mailing List

- Reaches defined audience \_\_\_\_\_ 

1	2	3	4	5
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  - Systematic way to add and re-move names \_\_\_\_\_ 

1	2	3	4	5
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  - Readers queried on opinions \_\_\_\_\_ 

1	2	3	4	5
---	---	---	---	---
- total** \_\_\_\_\_

### Layout

- First page grabs attention \_\_\_\_\_ 

1	2	3	4	5
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  - Origin easily identifiable \_\_\_\_\_ 

1	2	3	4	5
---	---	---	---	---
  - Simple, attractive nameplate \_\_\_\_\_ 

1	2	3	4	5
---	---	---	---	---
  - Complete information about publisher, date and audience \_\_\_\_\_ 

1	2	3	4	5
---	---	---	---	---
  - Length appropriate for audience \_\_\_\_\_ 

1	2	3	4	5
---	---	---	---	---
  - Appropriate paper color and size \_\_\_\_\_ 

1	2	3	4	5
---	---	---	---	---
  - Type size suitable to clientele \_\_\_\_\_ 

1	2	3	4	5
---	---	---	---	---
  - Sufficient margins \_\_\_\_\_ 

1	2	3	4	5
---	---	---	---	---
  - Reproduction clean, not muddy \_\_\_\_\_ 

1	2	3	4	5
---	---	---	---	---
- total** \_\_\_\_\_

### Subject Matter

- Timely \_\_\_\_\_ 

1	2	3	4	5
---	---	---	---	---
  - Relevant and useful to audience \_\_\_\_\_ 

1	2	3	4	5
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  - Some items of interest to all readers \_\_\_\_\_ 

1	2	3	4	5
---	---	---	---	---
  - Length and prominence of each article reflects its importance \_\_\_\_\_ 

1	2	3	4	5
---	---	---	---	---
  - Headlines informative, catchy \_\_\_\_\_ 

1	2	3	4	5
---	---	---	---	---
  - Information in each issue not readily available elsewhere \_\_\_\_\_ 

1	2	3	4	5
---	---	---	---	---
  - Topics specific enough to cover fully \_\_\_\_\_ 

1	2	3	4	5
---	---	---	---	---
  - Accurate, well-documented \_\_\_\_\_ 

1	2	3	4	5
---	---	---	---	---
- total** \_\_\_\_\_

### Writing Style

- Simple, direct language \_\_\_\_\_ 

1	2	3	4	5
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  - Informal tone, personal approach \_\_\_\_\_ 

1	2	3	4	5
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  - A variety of sentence lengths \_\_\_\_\_ 

1	2	3	4	5
---	---	---	---	---
  - A variety of paragraph lengths \_\_\_\_\_ 

1	2	3	4	5
---	---	---	---	---
  - Avoids excessive use of formal, legal or academic language \_\_\_\_\_ 

1	2	3	4	5
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  - Uses active voice \_\_\_\_\_ 

1	2	3	4	5
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  - Avoids cliches \_\_\_\_\_ 

1	2	3	4	5
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  - Clear, active and complete headlines \_\_\_\_\_ 

1	2	3	4	5
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  - Interesting opening sentences \_\_\_\_\_ 

1	2	3	4	5
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  - Free of grammatical errors \_\_\_\_\_ 

1	2	3	4	5
---	---	---	---	---

    - dangling modifiers
    - non-parallel sentences
    - shift in verb tense
    - subject-verb disagreement
    - noun-pronoun disagreement
    - misspelling
- Total** \_\_\_\_\_

## Total your scores

- Purpose \_\_\_\_\_
- Mailing List \_\_\_\_\_
- Layout \_\_\_\_\_
- Subject Matter \_\_\_\_\_
- Writing Style \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Score**

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