2021 Student Competition Descriptions

For more details on a section or division award, please contact the Community Leader or Section/Division Chair.

*CSSA and SSSA will be holding Society-Wide Student Competitions on Wednesday, November 10. Each division will select one student to represent their division. The names of those sessions/competitions from which the selection will be made are indicated in red at the end of the division competition description (and in the abstract submission session listing).

Any monetary awards will be issued by check and mailed after the Annual Meeting.

Agronomy

ASA Community – Applied Soybean Research
ASA Section: Agronomic Production Systems
The Applied Soybean Research Community sponsors a Graduate Student Oral Competition, which allows students to increase their visibility within the Applied Soybean Research Community and participate in professional interactions. All graduate students (MS and PhD) working in applied soybean research are encouraged to participate. Monetary awards will be given for first ($500), second ($250) and third place ($150) winners for two categories: PhD and MS. Interested graduate students should submit abstracts online through the normal abstract submission process and mark that they wish to enter into the graduate student competition. Presenters will be judged based on the quality of their presentation, interpretation and impact of research results, and ability to answer questions based on criteria developed by community leaders. Students will be judged by volunteers who are a part of the Applied Soybean Research Community. The judging criteria can be requested from Dr. Rachel Vann (rachel_vann@ncsu.edu). The winners will be announced at the Applied Soybean Research Community business meeting and via email to the community after the annual meeting.

ASA Community – Bioenergy Systems
ASA Section: Agronomic Production Systems
The Bioenergy Systems Graduate Student Oral Competition Session Description: The Bioenergy Systems Community will sponsor a Graduate Student Oral Competition that is open to all graduate students. Awards will be given for the oral competition, with certificates and cash prizes of $250, $200, and $150 given for first, second, and third place winners, respectively. The outstanding presenters will be recognized during the Community Business Meeting and/or via email to the Community after the annual meeting.

Bioenergy Systems Graduate Student Poster Competition
Session Description: The purpose of the Bioenergy Systems Graduate Student Poster Awards Program is to recognize outstanding scientific poster contributions presented by graduate students at the Annual Meetings. Three awards will be presented, First Place award ($250) and First Runner-Up ($200) Second Runner-up ($150), to the top three scores determined by the judges. The outstanding posters and authors will be recognized during the Community Business Meeting and/or via email to the Community after the annual meeting. A monetary award and a certificate will be presented to each one of the winners.
ASA Community – Crop Irrigation Strategies and Management
ASA Section: Agronomic Production Systems
Poster Session: The Crop Irrigation Strategies and Management Community will organize a Graduate Student Poster competition to recognize outstanding poster presentations made by graduate students. All poster presentations given by graduate students in the Community “Poster” competition session will be eligible for Poster Presentation Awards. Presenters will be judged based on the quality of their presentation, originality of the work, organization and interpretation of the experimental results, and response to questions asked by graduate student poster judges. The judges will be selected by the Community Leader and Vice Leader. A prescribed point system developed by the judges will be used to rank the posters. Certificates and monetary awards of $250, $200, and $150 for first, second, and third place winners, respectively, provided a minimum of five graduate students enter the competition. Certificates will be awarded during the Agronomy Production Section business meeting. Those graduate students interested in entering the competition must submit an abstract through the ASA website https://www.acsmeetings.org, selecting the poster competition session for the Crop Irrigation Strategies and Management Community and noting that you wish to enter the paper in the graduate student competition.

ASA Community – Organic Management Systems
ASA Section: Agronomic Production Systems
The Organic Management Systems Community will organize Graduate Student Oral and Poster competitions to recognize outstanding presentations made by graduate students. Presenters will be judged based on the quality of their presentation, originality of the work, organization and interpretation of the experimental results, and response to questions asked by graduate student poster judges. The judges will be selected by the Community Leader and Vice Leader. A prescribed point system developed by the judges will be used to rank the presentations. Monetary awards along with certificates will be given for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place (oral and poster), assuming a minimum of five graduate students enter the competitions. Those graduate students interested in entering the competition must submit an abstract through the ASA website https://www.acsmeetings.org, selecting the appropriate oral or poster session for the Organic Management Systems Community and noting that you wish to enter the paper in the graduate student competition.

ASA Community – Precision Agriculture Systems
ASA Section: Agronomic Production Systems
The purpose of the competitions is to promote the participation and activities of graduate students studying the development or use of precision agriculture technologies or decision support models. Graduate students working on precision agriculture technologies will submit abstracts online through the normal abstract submission process. As recognition of the outstanding work conducted by the students in this area, awards will be given for both the oral and poster competitions. We will have first, second, and third place awards, for the oral and poster sessions for a total of six graduate student awards.

ASA Community – Semi-arid Dryland Cropping Systems
ASA Section: Agronomic Production Systems
Poster Session: The Semi-arid Dryland Cropping Systems Community will again recognize outstanding poster presentations at a Graduate Student Poster competition. All poster presentations given by graduate students in the Community “Poster” session will be eligible. The best three poster presentations will receive a cash award of $300, $200, and $100 for first, second and third place along with certificates, if a minimum of five graduate students enter the competition and winners are present when awards are distributed at the Agronomy Production Section business meeting. In the event there are 3 or more but less than 5 posters in the competition, one award will be given. Presenters will be judged based
on the quality of their presentation, originality of the work, organization and interpretation of the experimental results, and response to optional questions asked by judges selected by the Community Leader and Vice Leader. A prescribed point system developed by the judges will be used to rank the posters. Graduate students interested in entering the competition must submit an abstract through the ASA website https://www.acsmeetings.org, selecting the poster session for the Semi-arid Dryland Cropping Systems Community and noting that you wish to enter the paper in the graduate student competition.

ASA Community – Sensor-based Nutrient Management
ASA Section: Agronomic Production Systems
The Sensor-based Nutrient Management Community will sponsor two separate Graduate Student Oral Competitions, one for MS students and the other for PhD students. Awards will be given for the oral competitions, with certificates and cash prizes of $300, $200, and $100 given for first, second, and third place winners, respectively. Interested graduate students will submit abstracts online through the normal abstract submission process. The competitions will be announced on the ASA web site and through the community e-mail list. The Leaders of the community will develop and head a judging team comprising a minimum total of four persons to judge the competitions. Presenters will be judged based on the quality of presentation, originality of the work, and interpretation of the experimental results, based on criteria that are developed by the judging teams. Winners will be announced at the Section business meeting.

ASA Community – Soil and Water Management Professionals
ASA Section: Agronomic Production Systems
The Soil and Water Management Professionals community will sponsor a Graduate Student Poster Competition regarding soil and water management for conventional and organic farming systems in diverse agroecosystems to recognize the professional and outstanding achievements made by both MS and PhD students. The abstract must be submitted through the ASA Agronomic Production Systems Section, selecting within the SWMP Community the poster session with “Poster (includes student competition)” indicated in the title. Note that the abstract must be entered into the competition session to be considered. Evaluation criteria will include rationale and objective, research methodology, interpretation of results, contribution to knowledge and clarity of presentation. The graduate student awardees will be announced via email to the entire community and will receive a cash award and a certificate.

ASA Community – Agroclimatology and Agronomic Modeling
ASA Section: Climatology and Modeling
This community focuses on meteorology and atmospheric phenomena as they influence plant growth. This includes both measurement and modeling of biophysical interactions among crops, soil, and the atmosphere. We will sponsor a Graduate Student Poster Competition to recognize professional achievement and to foster opportunities for continued professional development. All abstracts lie in the community scope are welcome. Abstracts must be submitted through the ASA Climatology and Modeling Section, selecting the poster session within the Agroclimatology and Agronomic Modeling Community. Note that the paper should be entered into the poster session and the competition box must be checked. Evaluation criteria will include rationale and objective, research methodology, interpretation of results, contribution to knowledge and clarity of your presentation. The top three poster presentations will receive a certificate and a cash award of $200, $150 and $100 for first, second and third place.
ASA Community – Airborne and Satellite Remote Sensing
ASA Section: Climatology and Modeling
Session Title: “Airborne and Satellite Remote Sensing General Oral I (includes student competition)”

Graduate Student Oral Competition: The Airborne and Satellite Remote Sensing Community will sponsor a Graduate Student Oral Competition to recognize the professional and outstanding achievements made by graduate students (MS and PhD) in the topical sessions of the Community. All oral presentations made by graduate students in the Community session "Airborne and Satellite Remote Sensing General Oral I (includes student competition)" will be eligible for Oral Presentation Awards. Interested graduate students should submit the abstract through the ASA Section: Climatology and Modeling is to be entered into the Graduate Student Competition. Presenters will be judged by volunteers, who are a part of the community. Evaluation criteria will include the quality of the presentation, originality, and importance of the research, interpretation of experimental results, and ability to answer. The top three presentations will receive a certificate and a cash award of $200, $150 and $100 for first, second and third place. The graduate student awardees will be announced at the Climatology and Modeling Section Business Meeting and via email to the entire Community.

ASA Community – Evapotranspiration Measurement and Modeling
ASA Section: Climatology and Modeling
The Evapotranspiration Measurement and Modeling (EMM) Community will organize “Graduate Student Oral and Poster” competitions to recognize outstanding presentations made by graduate students in the topical sessions of the Community. Abstracts must be submitted through the website https://www.acsmeetings.org, selecting either of the aforementioned Community sessions and noting that you wish to enter the paper in the graduate student competition. Judges are to be selected by the Community Leader and Vice Leader. Two monetary awards will be given: one each for “Best Graduate Student Paper” in the Oral and Poster categories. Presenters will be judged based on the quality of presentation, originality of the work, and organization and interpretation of the experimental results. Rankings will be according to the prescribed point system developed by the judges. Award value will be decided based on the funding available to the EMM Community. The graduate student awardees will be announced via email to the entire Community.

ASA Community – Global Climate Change
ASA Section: Climatology and Modeling
The Global Climate Change (GCC) Community will organize "Graduate Student Oral and Poster" competitions to recognize outstanding oral and poster presentations made by graduate students in the topical sessions of the Community. All oral presentations made by graduate students in the Community session "Global Climate Change General Oral" will be eligible for Oral Presentation Awards. All poster presentations made by graduate students in the Community session "Global Climate Change General Poster " will be eligible for the Poster Presentation Awards. Presenters will be judged based on the quality of presentation, originality of the work, and organization and interpretation of the experimental results. Abstracts must be submitted through the website https://www.acsmeetings.org, selecting either of the aforementioned Community sessions and noting that you wish to enter the paper in the graduate student competition. Judges are to be selected by the Community Leader and Vice Leader. Rankings will be according to the prescribed point system developed by the judges. Four monetary awards will be given: two each for "Best Graduate Student Paper" in the Oral and Poster categories. Award value will be decided based on the funding available to the GCC Community. Runners-up for each category will be given certificates of recognition. The graduate student awardees will be announced via email to the entire Community.
ASA Community – Animal Agriculture and the Environment  
ASA Section: Environmental Quality

The Animal Agriculture and the Environmental Quality Community will sponsor a graduate student poster presentation competition. All graduate students are encouraged to participate. The graduate participants should submit the abstracts online through the normal submission process to the animal agriculture and the environment community poster competition session, and mark down the selection that they will participate in the graduate student poster presentation competition. Presentations will be judged based on the quality of the presentation, originality and importance of the research, interpretation of experimental results, and how well the presenter communicates with audience in Q&A section. The winners will be announced either at the Environmental Quality Section business meeting (if the result received before the scheduled meeting) or after the annual conference. Winners are expected to receive the monetary award and an award certificate.

ASA Community – Biochar: Agronomic and Environmental Uses  
ASA Section: Environmental Quality

The Biochar: Agronomic and Environmental Uses Community will sponsor a student Poster Competition at the annual meeting. All students working with biochar are encouraged to participate. Interested students should submit abstracts online through the normal abstract submission process and mark that they wish to enter into the student competition. Posters will be judged based on the quality of the poster presentation, originality and importance of the research, interpretation of experimental results, and how well the presenter communicates his or her findings. Cash prizes of $300, $200, and $100 will be awarded to the first, second, and third place of the winners. Each presentation will be evaluated by a minimum of three judges. Final results will be summarized and discussed by the community leader, vice-leader, and volunteers. To encourage student participation oral session, up to four additional honorable awards ($50) will be awarded to students who present in both oral and poster sessions organized by the Biochar Community. But poster competition winners will not receive the honorable award. All awards will be announced at the end or immediately after the annual meeting.

ASA Community: Nutrients and Environmental Quality  
ASA Section: Environmental Quality

The Nutrients and Environmental Quality (NEQ) Community will conduct one oral and one poster competition at the annual meeting. A student may participate in either the oral or the poster competition, but not both. Students who participate in sessions that have the NEQ Community designated as the first sponsor are eligible for the competition, but must register during abstract submission in order to be considered for the competition. Presentations in each category will be evaluated by volunteer members of the community. Cash prizes of $300, $200, and $100 will be awarded to the first, second, and third place in each category. Additional honorable awards ($50) may be awarded. Presentations will be judged based on originality and significance of the research, interpretation and presentation of results, the ability to address questions, and overall quality of presentation. Each presentation will be evaluated by a minimum of three judges. Final results will be summarized and discussed by the community leader, vice-leader, and volunteers. The awards will be announced at the end or immediately after the annual meeting.

ASA Community – Soil Carbon and Greenhouse Gas Emissions  
ASA Section: Environmental Quality

Funds will be provided from the “Program Enhancement Fund” of the community. Students need to submit an abstract online through the normal abstract submission process to one of the eligible sessions.
designated by the community. The Community Leader will designate the Incoming Leader or other community members to lead the judging team, composed of members of the community or co-sponsoring community.

**Graduate Student Oral Competition**

The Soil Carbon and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Community will sponsor a Graduate Student Oral Competition. Participants will be judged by at least three judges based on the quality of presentation, originality of the work, interpretation of the experimental results, and other criteria that are developed by the judging team. Awards will be given at the community business meeting at the annual meeting with cash prizes of $300, $200, and $100 for first, second, and third place winners. Students who graduated in Spring or Summer 2020 will not qualify for the competition.

**Graduate Student Poster Competition**

The Soil Carbon and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Community will sponsor a Graduate Student Poster Competition. Posters should be submitted in the poster session designated for the graduate student poster competition. Posters will be judged by three judges based on the quality of the presentation during the poster session, originality of the work, interpretation of the results, and visual appeal. Awards will be given at the community business meeting at the annual meeting with cash prizes of $300, $200, and $100 for first, second, and third place winners. Students who graduated in Spring or Summer 2020 will not qualify for the competition.

**ASA Community – Cover Crop Management**

**ASA Section: Land Management and Conservation**

This award will recognize outstanding oral or poster presentations made by graduate students in the Cover Crop Management sessions at the annual meeting. All graduate student presentations will be eligible; students may participate in either the oral or the poster session. Presentations will be judged by three independent reviewers. They will be evaluated based on the quality of the presentation, the originality of the work, and the organization and interpretation of results. Winners will be selected based on the prescribed point system developed by the community. Interested graduate students must submit abstracts to the appropriate competition session before the deadline to the online website and indicate their interest in the graduate student competition. The top three presentations in the Oral competition will receive a cash award of $300, $200, and $100 for first, second and third place, respectively. The top three posters in the Poster session will receive a cash award of $200, $100, $50. In the event that the number of entrants to either competition is low, the judges and community leaders may reduce the number of awards given. The outstanding presenters will be recognized at the Section business meeting and via e-mail after the annual meeting.

**ASA Community – Soil Health**

**ASA Section: Land Management and Conservation**

This year Soil Health Community will have three sessions that include student competition to encourage students who are doing research in soil health and agroecosystems. The three sessions are:

- Advances in Soil Health: Linking Properties, Management, and Function Oral
- Advances in Soil Health: Linking Properties, Management, and Function Poster
- Soil Health Management Practices Oral: An Economic Perspective

Competition is open to all graduate students. Oral presentations and posters will be judged on rationale and objective, relevance of work, research methodology, interpretation of results, contribution to knowledge and clarity of presentation. A monetary award (first place award: $300, first runner-up: $200, second runner-up $100) and a certificate will be presented to each one of the top three presenters. The outstanding presenters will be recognized during the Community Business Meeting and/or via email to the Community after the annual meeting.
**Crops**

**Div. C-1 – Crop Breeding and Genetics**

Div. C-1 will sponsor two Graduate Student Competitions: an oral and a poster. Students may enter both competitions but only one entry per student is permitted for each competition. Judging is based on title, clarity, graphics, organization, flow, and subject knowledge. Eligible participants must have student status during the 2021-2022 academic years, and the poster must represent their student research. All abstracts must adhere to the ASA, CSSA, and SSSA requirements. C-1 Graduate student contest winners will be awarded $500 for the first-place winner, $350 for second place, and $150 for third place. Please note that all students participating in the competition sessions are expected to attend the C-1 Business Meeting, as these awards to the winning students will be presented then.

**C1 - Graduate Student Oral Competition (includes Society-Wide Competition).**

Interested students should submit their abstract to the ‘Poster and 5 Minute Rapid--Crop Breeding and Genetics Oral (includes Society-wide student competition)’ session. Only one submission per student is allowed, and submissions must be received by the final abstract deadline of June 8, 2021. The Poster and 5 Minute Rapid--Crop Breeding and Genetics Oral (includes Society-wide student competition) will be held on Monday. All Five-minute oral talks must be loaded prior to the beginning of the session. Five-minute oral talks are limited to three slides and should follow CSSA rapid presentation guidelines. Presentations not selected for the oral competition will be moved to the poster session, but everyone will be expected to present a poster. Winners from this competition will be eligible to compete in the Society-Wide competition on Wednesday.

**C1 - Graduate Student Poster Competition.**

Interested students should submit their abstract to the ‘Crop Breeding and Genetics Poster (includes student competition)’ session. Only one submission per student is allowed, and submissions must be received by the final abstract deadline of June 8, 2021. Presentations not selected for the poster competition will be moved to the general poster session. The Crop Breeding and Genetics Poster (includes student competition) will be held on Monday and Tuesday evenings. Posters should be formatted according to instructions from meeting organizers and include title, authors, introduction, objectives/hypothesis, methods, results, conclusions, and key references. The abstract should not be included on the poster because it is available in the meeting notes and a poster is essentially a graphical abstract. A photocopy of the poster should be available. The student author must be present at their poster to be eligible for competition.

*This session, Poster and 5 Minute Rapid--Crop Breeding and Genetics Oral (includes Society-wide student competition) includes the Society-Wide competition selection.*

**Div. C-2 – Crop Physiology and Metabolism**

Abstract regulations and important dates can be found here: [https://www.acsmeetings.org/files/meetings/abstract-regulations.pdf](https://www.acsmeetings.org/files/meetings/abstract-regulations.pdf)

Tips for writing an abstract can be found here: [https://www.acsmeetings.org/files/meetings/tips-for-writing-abstracts-annual-mtgs.pdf](https://www.acsmeetings.org/files/meetings/tips-for-writing-abstracts-annual-mtgs.pdf)

Poster and oral presentation tips can be found here: [https://www.acsmeetings.org/files/meetings/poster-and-oral-presentation-tips.pdf](https://www.acsmeetings.org/files/meetings/poster-and-oral-presentation-tips.pdf)

Tips for 5-min rapid presentations can be found here: [https://www.acsmeetings.org/submit/rapidfire#Format](https://www.acsmeetings.org/submit/rapidfire#Format)
1. Graduate Student Oral Competition

Interested students should submit their abstract to the designated Oral Competition session. Only one submission per student is allowed, and submissions must be received by the deadline of June 1, 2021. A maximum of 15 presentations will be selected for the oral competition, based on the timeliness of submission and quality of the submitted abstracts (see description below). Presentations not selected will be moved to the poster session.

All abstracts must adhere to the ASA, CSSA, and SSSA requirements available at https://www.acsmeetings.org/submit/oral. Presentations will be judged based on the below evaluation criteria. Each criterion will be used as a metric, using a 1-5-point scale. The best presentation is the one with the highest number of points earned.

1) **Justification of the problem or rationale**: explain why the problem is important, relevant and timely and why the approach you are proposing is well-suited to address the problem.
2) **Hypotheses and objectives**: based on the previous step, outline your key hypotheses and connect them logically to your objectives.
3) **Technical merit and experimental design**: present key methodological aspects, and make sure that the audience understands your experimental design and particularly complex techniques, especially if they are new and highly relevant to understanding the significance of your results.
4) **Attractiveness, design of layout, tables, and figures**: your presentation should be well-balanced between text and figures/tables. If you think that you can make a font or picture larger, you probably should.
5) **Evaluation and interpretation of results, proper use of statistics**: present compelling, statistically robust results that tell a story. Make sure that your interpretation is sophisticated enough and that it builds not only on your findings but also on the extant literature.
6) **Conclusions**: outline conclusions without re-stating the results. Your conclusions should capture the key messages that address the problem and hypotheses mentioned in the introduction, emphasizing key take home messages.
7) **Overall student knowledge, insight, and ability to answer questions on topic within the time allotted**: be prepared to answer a large array of questions from people who are not from your field. Be familiar with the primary literature, to showcase your mastery of the key issues, keeping in mind that the best answers are short but insightful. If you do not understand the question, you should politely ask for clarification. Rehearse frequently before your presentation and make sure that you leave at least 2 minutes for questions.

Evaluation forms - which are based on the exact same criteria listed above - can be directly requested from Krishna Jagadish (kjagadish@ksu.edu, Chair of Div. C-2). The top three students in the oral competitions will be recognized with a cash award of $300, $200, and $100 for first, second, and third place, respectively. Please note that all students participating in the oral competition session are expected to attend the C-2 Business Meeting, as these awards to the winning students will be presented then.

2. Graduate student Poster Competition

Interested students should submit their abstract to the designated Poster Competition session. Only one submission per student is allowed, and submissions must be received by the deadline of June 1, 2021. A maximum of 15 presentations will be selected for the poster competition, based on the quality of the submitted abstracts. Presentations not selected for the competition will be moved to the general poster session.
All abstracts must adhere to the ASA, CSSA, and SSSA requirements available at https://www.acsmeetings.org/submit/poster. Presentations will be judged based on the below evaluation criteria. Each criterion will be used as a metric, using a 1-5-point scale. The best presentation is the one with the highest number of points earned.

1) **Justification of the problem or rationale**: explain why the problem is important, relevant and timely and why the approach you are proposing is well-suited to address the problem.

2) **Hypotheses and or objectives**: based on the previous step, outline your key hypotheses and connect them logically to your objectives.

3) **Technical merit and experimental design**: present key methodological aspects, and make sure that the audience understands your experimental design and particularly complex techniques, especially if they are new and highly relevant to understanding the significance of your results.

4) **Attractiveness, design of layout, tables, and figures**: your presentation should well-balanced between text and figures/tables. If you think that you can make a font or picture larger, you probably should.

5) **Evaluation and interpretation of results, proper use of statistics**: present compelling, statistically robust results that tell a story. Make sure that your interpretation is sophisticated enough and that it builds not only on your findings but also on the extant literature.

6) **Conclusions**: outline conclusions without re-stating the results. Your conclusions should capture the key messages that address the problem and hypotheses mentioned in the introduction, emphasizing key take home messages.

7) **Overall student knowledge, insight, and ability to answer questions on topic within the time allotted**: be prepared to answer a large array of questions from people who are not from your field. Be familiar with the primary literature to showcase your mastery of the key issues, keeping in mind that the best answers are short but insightful. If you do not understand the question, you should politely ask for clarification. Treat your poster presentation as a classical oral presentation and to not forget to rehearse!

Evaluation forms - which are based on the exact same criteria listed above - can be directly requested from Krishna Jagadish (kjagadish@ksu.edu, Chair of Div. C-2). The top three students in the oral competitions will be recognized with a cash award of $300, $200, and $100 for first, second, and third place, respectively. Please note that all students participating in the oral competition session are expected to attend the C-2 Business Meeting, as these awards to the winning students will be presented then.

3. Poster and 5-minute rapid

Only one submission per student is allowed, and submissions must be received by the deadline of June 1, 2021. One presentation will be selected to move forward for the society-wide competition. Please note that a poster must accompany the oral presentation.

All abstracts must adhere to the ASA, CSSA, and SSSA requirements for the 5-min rapid available at https://www.acsmeetings.org/submit/rapidfire#Format. Oral and poster presentations will be evaluated based on the below evaluation criteria. Each criterion will be used as a metric based on a 0-10-point scale that is used in the society-wide competition. The top presentation is the one with the highest number of points earned.
Oral presentation criteria

- Statement of Problem & Justification
- Study Design & Methods
- Data Analysis & Interpretation
- Discussion & Conclusion
- Presentation Organization, Coherence & Use of Visual Aids
- Speaking Style, Audience Eye Contact & Professional Appearance

Poster presentation criteria

- Statement of Problem & Justification
- Study Design & Methods
- Data Analysis & Interpretation
- Discussion & Conclusion
- Poster Organization & Coherence
- Overall Graphic Layout & Design
- Interaction with Judge, Professional Appearance

*The Poster and 5 Minute Rapid-Crop Physiology and Metabolism Oral includes the Society-Wide competition selection.

Div. C-3 – Crop Ecology, Management and Quality

The Graduate Student Poster Contest for CSSA Division C-3 (Crop Ecology, Management & Quality) offers students opportunities to increase their visibility within the Society and receive professional interaction and feedback from judges on their posters. The top 3 MS and PhD students will receive cash awards and be recognized during the C-3 Business Meeting.

*The Poster and 5 Minute Rapid PhD competition includes the Society-Wide competition selection.

Graduate students need to register for the competition when submitting their abstract. The student must be the lead author of the entry and must be a member of CSSA to participate (the submission system will not allow a non-member of the CSSA Society to submit to a CSSA session). Information presented in the contest is to be original and unique. If a topic has been used in another presentation at previous meetings, or in a prior publication, additional data must be included to constitute a unique presentation.

All posters will be half size (44.5” x 44.5”) at maximum. Students in the PhD competition will also be required to present a 5-Minute Rapid Talk to introduce the topic and present key points, and must register accordingly. Changes in point categories and values from previous years are considered flexible and may be modified pending Society-Wide guidelines released closer to the annual meeting.

Abstracts are not required to be printed on the poster to save space for greater detail in other sections (abstracts available to judges prior). Reference citations should be included where appropriate, especially to defend or refute results previously seen in literature (not necessary to create a full literature review in the Introduction section).

Div. C-4 – Seed Physiology, Production and Technology

The C-4 Division will sponsor a Poster and 5-Minute Rapid Oral Competition as a part of the session ‘Poster and 5 Minute Rapid--Seed Physiology, Production and Technology Oral’. The competition is open to current graduate students presenting completed aspects of their thesis/dissertation research. To be eligible for competition, the presenting graduate student must be the primary author on the poster, must be present at their poster during the scheduled poster session and must deliver the 5-minute rapid oral presentation. All posters should be formatted according to instructions from meeting organizers and should be presented as a graphical abstract that includes the title, authors, introduction, objectives/hypothesis, methods, results, conclusions and key references (if applicable). The 5-minute rapid talks are limited to three slides and should follow the CSSA rapid presentation guidelines. The C04 Poster and 5-Minute Rapid Oral Competition winners will be awarded $500 for the first place winner, $350 for second place, and $150 for third place (based on fund availability). Winners will be announced at the C-4 Business Meeting (or after the session) and the winner will be eligible to compete in the CSSA Society-wide Student Competition.

*This competition will serve as the Society-wide competition selection.
**Div. C-5 – Turfgrass Science**
Div. C-5 sponsors awards in multiple categories. There are the Graduate Student Poster and Oral Competitions. These provide cash awards to the first place winner in each of several categories. While second and third place finishers may be acknowledged, awards are contingent on available funds. The judging is based on the quality of the science, clarity of presentation, and skill with which the presenters answer questions posed by the judges. The presentations are judged by volunteer judges who are members of Div. C-5. Categories include four poster and four oral competitions in General Turf Ecology, Golf Course Management (sponsored by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America), Turf Breeding (sponsored by the Turfgrass Breeders Association), and Applied Turf/Pest Management (sponsored by the Industry Committee). Awards are announced at the C-5 Business Meeting.
*The C-5 representative to the Society-Wide Competition will be selected from the 2019 student competition.*

**Div. C-6 – Forage and Grazinglands**
The Robert F. Barnes Graduate Education Awards recognize graduate students who make outstanding oral (Ph.D. students only) or poster presentations (MS students only) in Division C-6. Selection as an award recipient will be based on quality of the oral/poster presentation and the contribution of research to the Division’s fields of study. Awards for oral presentations will be 1st $500, 2nd $250 and 3rd $100 and for poster presentations: 1st $500, 2nd $250, and 3rd $100. Awards are presented at the C-6 Division business meeting.
*The Robert F Barnes oral competition will be used to select the Society-wide competition representative.*

**Div. C08 – Plant Genetic Resources**
The C08 division will sponsor a graduate student competition as part of the session titled “Plant Genetic Resources Characterization and Evaluation includes student competition 5-minute Rapid Oral and Poster”. Student competition is open to current graduate students presenting research contributing to their thesis/dissertation projects. The presenting student must be the primary author on the poster, must be present at their poster during the poster session, and must deliver a 5-minute rapid oral presentation. The first-place winner will be awarded $250. Second and third-place winners will be awarded $150 and $100 and will depend on the total number of participants. Winner(s) will be announced at the C08 business meeting, or immediately following the annual meeting.
The past division chair will coordinate the judging committee, and this committee will rank the students based on the poster presentation (20%), the oral presentation (20%), scientific merit of their work (40%, including problem justification, experiment design, data analyses and interpretation, discussion and conclusion), and their responses to questions during the oral and poster presentations to judges and audience (20%).
*This session (Plant Genetic Resources Characterization and Evaluation) includes student competition and the selection of the C08 representative to the Society-wide competition.*

**Div. C09 – Biomedical, Health-Beneficial and Nutritionally Enhanced Plants**
To encourage student participation and provide students with opportunities to develop presentation skills, C-09 is sponsoring a student poster/rapid oral presentation contest. Participants must be enrolled as a student at the time of a meeting, present a poster in the C-09 poster session, and present a rapid oral presentation about their poster in the C-09 session. The division chair will coordinate the judging committee, and this committee will rank the competitors based on the poster presentation (25%), the oral presentation (25%), scientific merit of their work (25%), and their oral presentation of the poster to
judges in the poster session (25%). The top presenter will be awarded $300, second place will be awarded $200, and third place will be awarded $100. Winners will be announced at the business meeting.

*This competition will serve as the Society-wide competition selection.

Soils

**SSSA Division – Education and Outreach**

*Poster and 5 Minute Rapid – Soil Education and Outreach session will include the student competition and Society-wide student competition selection.

**SSSA Division - Forest, Range and Wildland Soils**

Forest, Range, and Wildland Soils strives to make graduate students feel welcomed and included in our division. We value and recognize their work as peers and encourage them to present their work during regularly scheduled sessions where they can compete for best presentation awards along with the rest of the community. In addition, several students each year will be recognized with the Robert J. Luxmoore Graduate Student Travel Award or Jeff L. Smith Graduate Student Travel Award to help defray the expenses of attending the meeting to present their research. Applications are due each year on August 1 and will be made available through the division email distribution list.

*The Poster and 5 Minute Rapid – Forest, Range and Wildland Soils session will be used to select the division representative to the Society-wide competition.

**SSSA Division – Nutrient Management and Soil and Plant Analysis**

**SSSA Division – Soil Fertility and Plant Nutrition**

These divisions will cosponsor a Graduate Student 5-minute Rapid Oral and Poster Competition for both PhD and MS students. Topics may include any aspect of Soil Fertility, Plant Nutrition, Nutrient Management, or Soil and Plant Analysis. Graduate students will submit abstracts online to their appropriate degree level (MS vs PhD) of the 5-minute rapid with poster competition sessions. Cash prizes will be given, the number of places awarded a cash prize and the dollar amount of those prizes will be determined by the Division Chairs based on the number of sessions and the total amount of prize money available. Companies conducting business in areas related to these divisions will donate the money used for cash prizes. The competition will be announced through the division email lists. In order to be eligible for the competitions the student must have listed either Soil Fertility and Plant Nutrition or Nutrient Management and Soil and Plant Analysis as their division of primary interest in their membership. The Past Chairs of the divisions will develop and head up judging teams. Presenters will be judged based on the quality of presentation, originality of the work, and interpretation of the experimental results. Winners will be announced at the Division business meeting and the Walsh Lectureship.

*Both Divisions will make their Society-Wide competition selection from the 5-minute rapid oral with poster competition.

**SSSA Division – Pedology**

The Pedology Division presents awards each year for outstanding graduate student oral and poster presentations, with cash prizes of $250, $150 and $100 and certificates from the Soil Science Society of America given for first, second, and third place winners, respectively, in each category. All graduate students presenting papers in Pedology sessions are eligible for these awards. Presentations are judged on scientific content, style and clarity, data synthesis, and knowledge of topic. Winners are chosen by a
committee made up of Pedology members and are announced initially through the Pedology group e-mail and formally through the CSA News.

*The Poster and 5 Minute Rapid Oral Competition will include the selection for the Society-Wide Student Competition.

SSSA Division – Soil and Water Management and Conservation
Awards will be given for the rapid oral/poster competition event at the annual meeting, with cash prizes of $300, $200, and $100 given for first, second, and third place winners, respectively. Funds will be provided from the ‘Program Enhancement Fund’ of the division. To enroll in the competition, a graduate student should submit an abstract online through the normal abstract submission process to the graduate student competition rapid oral/poster session. Presentations will be judged based on the quality of presentation, originality of the work, and interpretation of the experimental results.

*The Poster and 5 Minute Rapid Oral Competition will include the selection for the Society-Wide Student Competition.

SSSA Division – Soil Biology and Biochemistry
Each year, the Soil Biology and Biochemistry Division sponsors a Graduate Student Poster Competition to recognize outstanding research presentations. Cash awards are given for first, second and third place winners, and are kindly contributed by our sponsor. Posters are judged based on 1) the visual quality of the presentation as well as the presenter’s oral summary and ability to answer questions, 2) originality and importance of the study, and 3) interpretation of experimental results and conclusions reached. This year, the competition will consist of poster presentations, coupled with 5-minute rapid presentations. Oral presentations should be supported by three slides that introduces the main points of the poster. Divisional winners are announced at the Francis Clark Lecture and division business meeting. All students are encouraged to attend the business meeting to congratulate their peers, and to learn more about the Soil Biology and Biochemistry Division and Society functions.

* The Poster and 5 Minute Rapid--Soil Biology and Biochemistry Oral (includes student competition) session will be used to select the student to advance to the Society-wide competition.

SSSA Division – Soil Chemistry
The “Soil Chemistry Student Oral and Poster Presentation” Awards will recognize outstanding oral and poster presentations by undergraduate and graduate students in Soil Chemistry sessions at the SSSA annual meeting. At least six monetary awards will be given that recognize first-, second-, and third-place presentations in both the oral and poster categories. To be included in this competition, abstracts must be submitted through the meeting website, selecting the Soil Chemistry Division as the preferred division and noting that you wish to participate in the student competition. The presenting author for both oral and poster categories must be an undergraduate/graduate student at the time of the annual meeting. Unfortunately, because of limited time and resources for judging, not every session will have the student competition option.

To evaluate the presentations, the Soil Chemistry Division Student Awards Committee will form a team of judges from the Division members. Presenters will be judged based on criteria developed by the judging team. This criteria includes the quality of presentation, originality of the work, interpretation of the experimental results, and the contribution of research to the Division’s fields of study.

Winners of the presentation awards will receive certificates and monetary awards for first, second and third places in the oral and poster categories. Outstanding presentations will be recognized during the Soil Chemistry Business Meeting and through the Soil Chemistry Discussion Board. A short article about the awards recipients will be sent to CSA News and posted on soils.org.
The Student Awards Committee can elect to change the number of the awards or may defer the giving of awards if insufficient funds are available. The committee may also elect to utilize available funds from the “Program Enhancement Funds” of the Soil Chemistry Division.

*Students who place in the top three of the current year's oral and poster Soil Chemistry Division’s competitions will be considered (based on ranking, availability, and eligibility) to be the division’s representative to the next year’s SSSA Society-Wide Student Competition. Only one student will be selected to represent the division.

SSSA Division – Soil Mineralogy
There are two separate Joe B. and Martha J. Dixon Soil Mineralogy Awards available each year for students. The first awards are presented for the best oral or poster presentation by a student submitted to and presented in the Soil Mineralogy Division at the Annual Meeting. These presentations are required to address some aspect of soil mineralogy. Papers submitted to any other Division than the Soil Mineralogy Division are not eligible for the Dixon Award. The first, second and third place awards and check for $750, $250, and $100, respectively, are issued following the annual meetings. The second Dixon Award is a travel grant for $750 to assist a student studying soil mineralogy in attending the annual meeting. To apply for this award, the student must be enrolled in a graduate program and studying some aspect of soil mineralogy. Preference for this award is also given to students from Latin America and South America to encourage the development of research collaborations between scientists from the United States and these areas. Dr. Dixon has worked extensively in these areas during his career and developed many collaborative research partnerships that continue to this day. This award and check for $750 are issued following the annual meeting.

*The Poster and 5 Minute Rapid--Soil Mineralogy Oral session includes the Society-Wide Competition selection.

SSSA Division – Soil Physics and Hydrology
Soil Physics and Hydrology will hold its “Poster and 5 Minute Rapid--Soil Physics and Hydrology Oral (includes Society-wide student competition selection)” session comprised of 3-minute talks plus 2 minutes of questions to be linked with the Student Poster Competition. Combined lightning oral and poster presentations will be evaluated by judges selected by the Soil Physics Division Executive Committee. Guidelines for high-quality posters can be found on the abstract submission website. Oral presentations are limited to two slides only with no animations. To be included in this competition, abstracts must be submitted through the meeting website, selecting the Soil Physics and Hydrology Division as the preferred division and submitting to the session titled “Poster and 5 Minute Rapid--Soil Physics and Hydrology Oral (includes Society-wide student competition selection)”. The lead author on the abstract and presenting author must be a graduate or undergraduate student at the time of the annual meeting. The top 3 students will receive cash awards and will be recognized during the Soil Physics and Hydrology Division business meeting, via email to the Division, and in a short article to CSA News.

*The Soil Physics and Hydrology 5 Minute Oral and Poster presentation will be used for the Society-Wide Student Competition selection.

SSSA Division – Soil Physics and Hydrology: Robert Luxmoore Student Travel Award
The Robert Luxmoore Student Travel Award is designed to support travel of students to the Annual Meeting of the Soil Science Society of America. This award is supported by a generous bequest made by Robert Luxmoore to the Soil Physics Mentoring Fund, which has been established through the Agronomic Science Foundation and is administered by the Soil Science Society of America. Two $750 awards will be given to undergraduate or graduate students as travel support. Details on application procedures and deadlines can be found at: https://www.soils.org/membership/divisions/soil-physics-and-hydrology/robert-luxmoore-travel-award.
SSSA Division – Soils and Environmental Quality Graduate Student Award
The Soils and Environmental Quality Division will hold a graduate student competition for both oral and poster presentations. Awards will be made to outstanding graduate students who present at the SSSA annual meeting in the Soils and Environmental Quality Division. Six monetary awards will be made to students awarded first, second, and third place in the oral and poster categories. To be included in the competition, authors must submit an abstract through the ACS website and select the Soils and Environmental Quality Division. The presenting author must be present at the annual meeting. The Division will form a team of judges. Presenters will be judged on the quality of the presentation, originality of the work, interpretation of the experimental results, and research impacts to soil and environmental quality problems. Presentation winners will receive certificates and monetary awards of $200, $150, and $100 for first, second, and third places in either category. Outstanding presentations will be recognized during the Business Meeting (if possible), and via email following the annual meeting. The Division Chair reserves the right to change the number and amount of the awards (for instance, in the event of a tie). Funds will be provided from the Program Enhancement Funds of the Soils and Environmental Quality Division.

*The Society-wide competition selection will be from the Poster and 5 Minute Rapid--Soils and Environmental Quality Oral.

SSSA Division – Urban and Anthropogenic Soils
The Urban and Anthropogenic Soils Division will hold a graduate student competition for both oral and poster presentations. Awards will be made to recognize outstanding oral and poster presentations by students in Urban and Anthropogenic Soil sessions at the SSSA annual meetings. Two monetary awards will be given that recognize first and second place presentations by graduate students. Students may submit abstracts into any of the general competition sessions or regular topic competition sessions hosted by the division. To be included in this competition, abstracts must be submitted through the society website, selecting the Urban and Anthropogenic Soils Division as the preferred division and noting that you wish to enter the paper in the student competition. The presenting author for both oral and poster categories must be a student at the time of the annual meeting.

The Urban and Anthropogenic Soils Division Executive Committee will appoint a Graduate Competition Committee Chair each year who will form a judging team from the Division membership. Presenters will be judged based on the quality of presentation, originality of the work, interpretation of the experimental results and the contribution of research to the Division’s fields of study, based on criteria developed by the judging team. The executive committee can elect to change the number and amount of the awards or may defer the giving of awards if insufficient funds are available. The committee may also elect to utilize available funds from the “Program Enhancement Funds” of the Division.

Winners will receive certificates or other official recognition and monetary awards divided among first and second place winners as determined by the Graduate Competition Committee Chair. Outstanding presentations will be recognized during the Urban and Anthropogenic Soils Business meeting, if possible, and via email to the Division after the annual meeting.

*The Poster and 5 Minute Rapid – Urban and Anthropogenic Soils Oral will be used for the Society-Wide Competition selection.

SSSA Division – Wetland Soils
Awards will be made to recognize outstanding research presentations by undergraduate and graduate students in Wetland Soils Division. All student competitions will utilize a 5-minute rapid oral presentation coupled with a traditional poster presentation. Multiple monetary awards will recognize student contributions; awards amounts and the number of awards will be determined based upon the availability of funds. The winners will be recognized during the Wetland Soils Business Meeting and
will advance to the society wide competition also utilizing the 5-minute oral plus poster format. Presentations will be evaluated by volunteer judges from the Division based on the quality of presentation, originality of the work, interpretation of the experimental results and the speaker’s responses to questions. To be included in this competition, abstracts need to be submitted through the SSSA website, selecting Wetland Soils as the preferred division and selecting the option entitled "Poster and 5 Minute Rapid--Wetland Soils Oral (includes Society-wide student competition selection)". All students working in Wetland Soils are encouraged to participate.

*The winner of the 5 Minute Rapid Oral and Poster session will advance to the Society Wide Competition also utilizing the 5-minute oral plus poster format.

**Societies**

**ACS528 - Diversity Student Poster Competition**
The poster competition will highlight the scholarship of students from historically underrepresented groups and showcase current programs and efforts to increase diversity in the agricultural and environmental sciences. The poster session will be open to undergraduate and graduate students whose work fits either of those criteria. Posters in this competition can ALSO be submitted to a session through the formal abstract system. Poster abstracts must be submitted to the appropriate session within ASA, CSSA or SSSA by the deadline AND to the ACS528 Committee contact person Augustine Obour (aobour@ksu.edu), by **July 13, 2021** via the Diversity Poster Competition checkbox on the abstract’s “Title” step. Acknowledgment of receipt from the Diversity Committee indicates successful abstract submission and inclusion in the Diversity Poster Competition. Winners will be recognized during the ACS Diversity Social Hour and Student Poster Session at Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City, UT. Winners will receive certificates and monetary awards of $300, $250, and $200 for first, second and third places, respectively. The ACS528 Committee must receive completed posters electronically no later than November 1, 2021 for full consideration.