

ASHS Graduate Student Poster Competition (*Entry Deadline: 15 February 2006*)

Each graduate student is eligible to enter one poster in the competition. Graduate students wishing to participate in the poster judging competition must sign up for the competition at the time they submit their electronic abstract. Submission of an abstract is not an automatic registration for the competition.

Prior to the 2006 Conference. a list will be posted to the ASHS website of all individuals who have signed up for the graduate student poster competition. Please double check to see that you are listed. If you are not on the list, please contact Mary McGuire, (mmcguire@ashs.org) to be added to the competition prior to the conference. Due to scheduling difficulties, students will not be added to the competition last minute as in past years.

Evaluation Guidelines. There are several types of poster topics displayed for the ASHS graduate student competition. These include standard research reports, extension activities and education. Although, these are diverse topics, they are all judged on common criteria.

Judging Criteria:

1. Appearance of the poster display (~15%).

The poster should be attractively displayed. Try to select complimentary colors. Leave enough space between items in the poster so it does not become “cluttered”. Make the text, figures and tables large enough to be easily read from a suitable viewing distance (see ASHS poster instructions in inset). Try to avoid excessive text. This is a poster, not a paper. Check your spelling. Although appearance is only a small part of the overall evaluation of the poster, it is used to separate posters of equal substantive merit.

2. Poster organization (~20%)

The poster should be organized into a logical presentation. Do not make the reader “hunt” for information. Posters should include a title, abstract, introduction, methods, results and discussion, and literature cited. Obviously, this is best suited for research reports, but for extension and teaching posters to be competitive, they should also test a hypothesis, and evaluate collected data. Strictly, “informational” posters will not be judged as highly as those that use the scientific method.

3. Originality and Merit (~30%).

The judges will be looking for posters that describe original studies with high substantive merit. Were the objectives or hypothesis clearly stated? Were the methods used appropriate and the experimental design adequate to test the Hypothesis? Are the conclusions substantiated by the data? Are

statistics included to help the reader evaluate the data? Did the introduction, discussion, and literature cited demonstrate that the student had a current view of the subject?

4. Knowledge/Presentation (~35%).

A poster should stand on its own merit, but the judges will also be visiting with each student to evaluate the student’s enthusiasm for their study and their competence in the subject area. Due to time constraints (there are usually over 60 posters to judge), students will only be permitted 3 minutes to present poster highlights to the judges. The student should be prepared to quickly and clearly discuss the overall focus of the study, novel methods, results and conclusions during this brief time period. Following the students presentation the judges may ask the student one or two additional questions. If the student is not present at the scheduled time the poster will not be judged. Please remember that the poster judging time is different and in addition to the scheduled poster session based on research area or commodity group.

ASHS Poster Specifications:

Poster presentations are to be approximately 1.2 x 1.2 m (47” x 47”) in size.

Abstract titles, names, and affiliations should appear on the top of the poster.

A simple sans serif-face font (e.g., Helvetica) should be used.

Lettering for the title should be at least one inch tall. The authors’ names and affiliations may be somewhat smaller.

Authors are urged to include photographs to assist in author identification.

Content. Do not prepare a poster as if it were a manuscript. Primarily, use tables and figures and limit verbiage. Details of the work can be provided in discussions with interested parties. Lettering for text and illustrations should range in size between 6 mm and 12 mm.

Display. Numbered board space [1.2 x 1.2 m (47” x 47”)] is assigned for each poster. Presenters will receive an assigned space number prior to the conference.

Push-pins or Velcro buttons may be used to hang posters. Pins/Velcro must be supplied by presenter—they will not be available on-site.