

## 2024 Annual Research Forum Poster Competition

### GRADUATE/PROFESSIONAL GUIDELINES

The Ohio State University is one of the world's best public research universities, offering about 280 graduate study programs in all. Research is a key component of graduate education, and the College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CFAES) translates this cutting-edge research to stakeholders across the state. By engaging with our stakeholders, we provide research, technology, and knowledge to support safe, sustainable, and viable agricultural practices across Ohio and the world. Each year, the research done by our students and research scientists is put on display at the CFAES Annual Research Conference and Poster Competition.

#### POSTER COMPETITION ELIGIBILITY

The Graduate and Professional Poster Competition is open to any currently enrolled or recently graduated (Summer 2023 or later) students, including M.S., Ph.D., and professional students, working on a CFAES supported project. Post-docs and Research Assistants/ Associates/ Scientists, including Visiting Scholars that are not currently enrolled in an advanced degree program, are also invited to participate. There will be separate competitions held for Master's students, Doctoral students, Post-doctoral Scholars, and Research Assistants/ Associates/ Scientists (also referred to as Research Staff).

Entrants may present only posters on original research they have conducted while at The Ohio State University. Students don't need to have completed their research to participate in the poster competition. For research in progress, rather than including your final results, we will ask you to discuss initial observations about the progress you have made.

#### REVIEW PROCESS & AWARDS

Separate competitions will be held for Master's students, Doctoral students, Post-docs, and Research Staff. The guidelines for the undergraduate competition can be found here:

All posters will undergo a review process during which they will be scored. Poster judges are recruited from a variety of fields within CFAES, so it is recommended that content is clearly explained for the non-technical audience. Evaluations will be based on the abstract, poster content, design, and the poster presentation according to a rubric developed by the Conference Committee, which can be found at [go.osu.edu/CFAESposterrubric](https://go.osu.edu/CFAESposterrubric).

First, second, and third place winners in each graduate and professional competition level will receive awards of \$500, \$300, and \$150, respectively. Winners will be announced at the CFAES Research Forum



Awards Ceremony on Thursday, April 11, 2024. Winners must participate in all aspects of the competition to be eligible for award (including attending the in person session).

Excused absences for non-moveable obligations or challenges (e.g., a final exam or unexpected illness) will be allowed with written explanation from the entrant's advisor or supervisor. If a participant is unable to complete the requirements of the competition, their advisor needs to provide a justification by emailing the Graduate Education Coordinator, Kayla Arnold (arnold.1065@osu.edu) or they will be disqualified from the competition.

## POSTER AND ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Participants in the poster competition must submit their abstract and a PDF of their poster by **5:00pm on Monday, March 18, 2024** at [researchforum.cfaes.osu.edu](https://researchforum.cfaes.osu.edu).

An e-mail confirmation will be sent to the entrant to acknowledge receipt of submission. The website will be closed for submission at the deadline and **no late submissions will be accepted**.

The following will be required during the submission process:

- **Poster registration form:** Participants must submit their name, degree sought, department, advisor's name and email address.
- **Abstract:** Must include title, authors, and a maximum 350-word summary of the study and findings.
- **Poster:** All posters must use a university approved poster template, which can be found at [brand.cfaes.ohio-state.edu/brand-template-categories/research-posters](https://brand.cfaes.ohio-state.edu/brand-template-categories/research-posters). **Failing to use the pre-approved template will result in elimination from the competition.** Each poster should be uploaded in PDF format.

All abstracts can be published in the Knowledge Bank and made available online, allowing the abstracts to be listed in the authors' curriculum vitae. In order to have their posters uploaded, participants must complete the [Knowledge Bank License Agreement](#) and submit this to the Graduate Education Program Manager via email. Otherwise, posters will not be posted online.

## POSTER PREPARATION GUIDELINES

- **Poster Size:** One sided, no larger than 48" x 36" displayed horizontally or vertically.
- **Format:** All posters must use the university approved poster template, which can be found at [brand.cfaes.ohio-state.edu/brand-template-categories/research-posters](https://brand.cfaes.ohio-state.edu/brand-template-categories/research-posters).
- Each poster should include:
  1. **Title Banner** – Including the title, author(s), and department(s). The entrant must be the first author listed.
  2. **Introduction** – A clear and concise statement of the rationale, hypothesis, and justification for the project, the objectives of the research, and general approach.

3. Materials and Methods – An outline of the key materials and methods defining how the experiment or study was conducted.
4. Results – Tables, figures, photos, etc., showing and documenting experimental findings and analyses.
5. Conclusions and Discussion – A statement of the conclusions from the study results and a brief explanation of the study's scientific rigor, discoveries and their significance, and congruence (or lack of) with the body of scientific knowledge.
6. Acknowledgments and References – A brief acknowledgment of other contributors who are not authors, and key literature references to the study, if required.

**Note: Students pursuing a professional degree who would like to submit a poster that may not follow these exact content guidelines, please contact the Graduate Education Coordinator, Kayla Arnold for further details.**

- Legibility: All text and figures should be readable from a distance of one meter, including captions and figure legends. Illustrations should be relatively large with heavy lines. Colors may be used to accent features or visibility.
- Continuity: The presentation should be a coherent series of statements and supporting illustrations, with each leading to the next, which show the flow of the presentation and the progression of the study.

## **AWARDS CEREMONY**

Participants may indicate their desire to attend the awards ceremony in the poster competition registration available via Qualtrics.

## **DAY OF THE POSTER PRESENTATION**

Posters must be set up by the beginning of poster the session time (1:00pm). All presenters should plan to attend the poster session at the Nationwide & Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center (2201 Fred Taylor Dr, Columbus, OH 43210). Access to the area will begin approximately 1-hour before the poster session is scheduled to begin (12:00pm).

During the event, participants should stand by their posters and be prepared to answer questions and discuss their research. Judges will walk around the event and provide written feedback and scores for poster participants.

Display boards and clips mounting will be provided to display your poster. Posters must remain up throughout your assigned session. Posters should be removed immediately following your poster session.

**IMPORTANT DATES**

Wednesday, January 17, 2024	Registration portal opens
Monday, March 18, 2024	Deadline to register and submit PDF of poster online along with abstract
Tuesday, April 9, 2024	Poster presentations in Columbus, to be held at the Nationwide & Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center (Ballroom) Graduate and Professional presenters will setup beginning at 12:00pm, with judging from 1:00-3:00pm.
Thursday, April 11, 2024	Research Forum Awards Ceremony

**AWARD PRESENTATION**

Awards will be presented at the CFAES Research Award Ceremony and Celebration, to be held in Columbus, Ohio on Thursday, April 11, 2024 at the Nationwide & Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center (2201 Fred Taylor Dr, Columbus, OH 43210). Transportation will be provided from Wooster to Columbus. Lunch will be served.