

BioAg World Congress (BAW)
Science Poster Contest
“AGRO-VATORS”

BIO AGRICULTURE: a term that is used for organic farming, which means an agricultural method to produce food using natural substances and processes. The aim is to grow plants and raise animals with biological solutions while having a limited impact on the environment. This covers the use of organic fertilizers, biological pest control and a high standard of animal welfare.

This integrated farming system strives for sustainability, the enhancement of soil fertility and biological diversity while (with rare exceptions) prohibiting synthetic pesticides, antibiotics, synthetic fertilizers, genetically modified organisms and growth hormones.

PURPOSE

This year, BAW 2020™ is very excited to introduce “**BioAgro-Vators**” a special initiative developed in collaboration with **UC Davis, Utah State University, UC Riverside, Purdue, Cal Poly, and many others**. This contest will recognize the next generation of innovators: current students of agriculture or a related study who demonstrate an innovative spirit by developing a concept, product, service, technology or idea that solves a specific problem for the BioAg Industry. The idea can be a breakthrough innovation of a product or service, or also an idea that can generate a local/global societal impact.

ELIGIBILITY

To qualify for this contest, you must meet all of the following criteria:

- 1- *Be studying Agriculture or a related field to receive a bachelors, masters, phd, or post grad degree.*

Here is a list of studies that might be included, though it is not comprehensive.

Please reach out if you are unsure if your field qualifies:

Agricultural Engineering	Food Science	Organic Agriculture Systems
Agricultural Economics	Ecology, Evolution & Conservation Biology	Microbiology
Animal Science	Forestry	Milling
Aquaculture/Aquatic Science	Horticulture	Natural Sciences
Biological Engineering	Landscape Architecture	Nutrition
Botany	Plant Breeding	Translational Plant Science
Entomology	Plant Pathology	Weed Science Specialization
Environmental Studies	Plant & Soil Science	Zoology

- 2- *Must be in good academic standing*

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Before the poster

1) Report

Please submit a PDF report of your project in APA format with a maximum of 5 pages. Those that exceed that length will not be considered.

The paper must contain the following sections:

- Title
- Name(s) of author(s) and affiliated organization(s)
- Abstract (brief summary of objectives, methods, results, and conclusion(s))
- Background Information
- Project Objectives
- Materials and Methods
- Results (tables, graphs, charts)
- Conclusions
- The relevance for BioAg Industry to invest in their project & impact regarding sustainability of the innovation

2) Video

You will be requested to create a one-minute video summarizing your paper. This should be uploaded to YouTube. The video should cover:

- Your idea
- The Abstract
- Why do you think the idea is commercially viable

3) Two letters of recommendation from a professor/dean/faculty

A one-page letter from a member of university staff will be required upon submission.

4) ID

A digital copy of a valid student ID should be provided.

The Poster

The poster should be 48"x36" (122cm x 91cm) and should have the following:

- Name (personal and team members names when applicable)
- Title
- Abstract
- Research

CRITERIA

All applications will be judged based on the following criteria:

Commercial Viability (25%): All ideas must be financially viable in some form. If it is too expensive to do, there is no market, or if no money can be made from it, it's not viable. You will be speaking to experts in the industry and they will be considering this above everything else.

Content (15%): This is looking at your poster. The poster should be able to be understood even if there is no one to explain it. This means that the way it flows should make sense and that everything on it should strengthen the content, not distract or confuse. Pitch your idea!

Industry Impact (15%): This segment will be based on how it supports the goals of sustainability and should relate to something in the field. i.e. soil health, plant health, land use, water management, safe food etc.

Overall Impact (15%): This has to do with how much your topic and poster stick out. This will be based more on whether the topic and visuals grab the audience and draw people in before you explain anything. Make it an eyecatcher!

*Presentation (12.5%): Oral-*This will be based on a number of factors. Your diction needs to be audible and clear. Your explanations should also easily guide the audience through the presentation in one minute. Avoid filler words, i.e. *uh, ah, um, er, like*, etc.

Visual- This relates to how relevant all the content is. It should match your oral presentation in its structure.

Abstract (10%): This will be your elevator pitch. Concisely and clearly explain what your poster/project is and how it will benefit sustainability. This should cover all key points of your project quickly.

Grammar/Spelling/ Comprehension (10%): Make sure your wording is clear, and free of grammatical and spelling errors.

Please also keep in mind that you will be marked for following the basic structure outlined above.

SELECTION PROCESS

Preliminary Round

Contest is open from **Nov. 1- March 13**. All submissions will be submitted online and reviewed by committee, half from the industry and half from academia. Entries will be scored on a weighted point system from seven categories with a total of 1.0 points possible. The breakdown will be as follows:

<i>Commercial Viability/Applicability to field</i>	.250
<i>Content</i>	.150
<i>Industry Impact</i>	.150
<i>Overall Impact</i>	.125
<i>Presentation (Oral/Visual)</i>	.125
<i>Abstract</i>	.100
<i>Grammar/Spelling/Comprehension</i>	.100

Ten finalists will be selected to come to **BioAg World Congress (BAW)** in Sacramento, CA at the DoubleTree on **May 11-13**. Finalists will be announced **April 13, 2020**.

While admission fees and hotel cost (two nights) to the conference will be covered for the 10 finalists, travel will be at their expense.

For those on a team: all of the team is invited to attend, but only one member will be given free admission and a room. The team must decide who will represent them at the conference.

Final Round

Finalists will be given a day and a half to display and explain their projects to the conference delegates. In addition to the judging panel, attending delegates will be given access to the judging form to fill out on the event app with the name of the contestant (or team) listed. They will judge the projects from a weighted-scale of 1 – 5 for each of the criteria. The judging will be closed by 4PM on May 12. The votes will then be tallied and two runners-up and grand prize winner will be announced at the gala dinner the same night (May 12). The cash prize will be directly deposited into the winner's account before within two weeks of the end of the conference.

AWARDS

While also having the opportunity to network, the ten finalists will receive a certificate for placing in the contest. They will also be invited to the gala dinner on May 12.

The top three finalists will all receive a trophy stating their ranking in the contest along with their certificate.

The grand prize winner will receive all of these items along with a cash reward and they will also all be invited to the research/wine tour that will be held at the end of the conference.

DISCLAIMER

BioAg World Congress is not responsible for the re-appropriation of any ideas used, seen, or heard at this conference. While the purpose of this contest is to promote transitioning from life as a student to a career, contestants should not expect to be compensated, reimbursed or otherwise involved in the development or commercialization by any of the participating entities for the ideas that the contestants themselves presented at the conference.

If you have any questions, please contact Katherine Stolpe at [*katiestolpe@bioaglinkages.com*](mailto:katiestolpe@bioaglinkages.com)