

# SASES 2012

## National Visual Presentation Contest



### I. Purpose

To develop student's abilities in preparing visual presentation materials that communicate an agronomic, soils, or environmental sciences story with the intent of educating a small audience on a technical topic. The topic could be generated from a senior thesis, internship experience, an independent study project, etc.

Skills and experience in developing electronic visual presentations are important in many careers. Professionals in cooperative extension, classroom and outreach education, research and industry are often asked to prepare and present electronic visual presentations. Employers appreciate, recognize and reward proficiency in the use of standard presentation software programs (i.e., Microsoft PowerPoint®) in communicating an educational message.

### II. Eligibility

Contestants must be a member of an active chapter of the Students of Agronomy, Soils and Environmental Sciences (SASES). **Contest entries can be made by an individual student or a group of students.** The student must be an undergraduate student. If entrants have qualified while as undergraduates, they may compete after graduation. The club advisor must submit a letter of eligibility for each contestant entering the national contest.

### III. Prizes

Prizes of \$325, \$150 and \$75, will be awarded to the top three placing entrants at the ASA, CSSA, and SSSA annual meetings. For group entries, prize money will be distributed equally among the number of students in the group. The winning entries will be posted on the ASA, CSSA, and SSSA Web site and will be retained by ASA, CSSA, and SSSA for use in promoting the contest, the SASES and the Societies.

Prizes of \$250, \$125 and \$75 will also be awarded to the clubs sponsoring the top three placing entrants. Our intent is for the clubs to encourage greater student participation in this contest.

### IV. Rules and Judging

*(Please note that failure to follow all rules will result in disqualification).*

- A. Entries must be submitted as a Microsoft Power Point® file. Please ensure that the presentation is saved as a PowerPoint presentation file with a file extension of .pps. or pptx.
- B. Guidelines for winning presentations.
  - i. The presentation should communicate a message concerning an industry or research topic appropriate for a farm, soils, or environmental sciences audience or readers of a popular farm or trade magazine.
  - ii. The title should be informative and generate interest in the topic.
  - iii. The presentation should contain an introduction, body and conclusion. Points will be deducted if it does not tell a story.
  - iv. Each image should be self-explanatory and contain text to 40 words or less.
  - v. Use the notes page in MS PowerPoint® and bullet additional speaking points, keeping the notes text to 40 words or less. Points will be deducted for extra words and for typing the full text of your presentation. The intent is to provide the speaking points you would use if giving the presentation.
- C. All presentations MUST include at least four (4) digital images that are the original work of the contestant.

- D. Each presentation entry will consist of at least 6, and no more than 16 separate slides. Points will be deducted if these guidelines are not followed.
- E. Each individual will be eligible to submit one entry.
- F. All inquiries concerning questions about the rules or contest judging should be documented (written or electronic mail) and should be directed to the contest chair.
- G. All entries must be submitted as a Microsoft PowerPoint® file through email or on a DVD or CD-ROM or flash memory card. A letter of eligibility must be signed and submitted for contestants by mail, email or fax to the contest chair.
- H. Entries must be received no later than Wednesday, (September 19, 2012).
- I. Points will be deducted for failure to follow rules and format.

### V. Procedures

- A. Qualifying presentation entries will be sent to a panel of judges within 7 days of the contest closing date. Judges will evaluate and score each entry individually prior to the ASA, CSSA, and SSSA annual meetings.
- B. The winning presentation will be retained by the ASA, CSSA, and SSSA and will be used to promote the contest for the following year.

### VI. Scoring Criteria

Judges will evaluate the presentations based on the following criteria:

#### Points

1. Topic and title adhere to the contest purpose (see section B)	10
2. All elements of a story (introduction, body and conclusion) are present	30
3. Image and visual quality (including layout)	15
4. Technical accuracy of information presented	15
5. Spelling and grammar (including text on the notes pages)	10
6. Follows the rules outlined in section IV	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

#### Send entries to Contest Chair

Brock Blaser, West Texas A&M University  
 WTAMU Box 60998, Canyon, TX 79016  
 Phone: 806-651-2555 Fax: 806-651-2938  
 bblaser@wtamu.edu

#### Student Committee

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