

2026 California Animal Nutrition Conference

Call for Abstracts

The California Animal Nutrition Conference (CANC) will be hosted on May 6-7, 2026 at the Embassy Suites Monterey Bay in Seaside, CA. To complement a compelling speaker lineup, we are inviting students and faculty to submit research abstracts for poster presentation to enhance the educational value of CANC and highlight the newest advancements being made in the areas of animal nutrition and management.

Since the 1940s, CANC has provided a venue for communication between industry, academia, and government on topics related to animal nutrition and management. To enhance the opportunities for students to participate in CANC and interact with the animal production industry, CANC will award prizes for the top 3 graduate and the top 3 undergraduate poster presentations. Additionally, a \$1,500 scholarship will be awarded to a student enrolled in a graduate program at a California university.

Please pass the following information on to relevant faculty and students in your department:

Graduate and Undergraduate Student Poster Competition

These two parallel competitions—one for graduate students and one for undergraduate students—are designed to promote research discussion among participants. Students are invited to submit one research abstract for participation in the poster competition. All **Graduate participants** will receive a monetary award. Both the abstract and poster presentations will be evaluated, and the following prizes will be awarded: 1st (\$1,250), 2nd (\$1000), and 3rd (\$750) for each of the competitions. **Undergraduate participants** are recognized through prize awards, with placements awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd. All abstracts of accepted posters will be published in the Proceedings of the California Animal Nutrition Conference. See the attached Abstract Guidelines for details on abstract submission and poster preparation.

Scholarship Award

This scholarship recognizes outstanding research conducted within a graduate program. Applicants must submit the following materials: a current CV, one letter of reference, an abstract summarizing their most significant research project, and a three-minute video presentation (similar in style to a lightning talk) that clearly explains the research problem being addressed and its relevance for the industry. See the attached Video Lightning Talk Guidelines for details on video preparation and submission.

Students may apply for the poster competition and the scholarship award. **The deadline to submit materials for the poster competitions and/or the scholarship award is March 6th, 2026 at 11:59 PT.** No late submissions will be accepted. Students will be notified by email of acceptance or rejection of their abstract by April 6th, 2026.



California Animal Nutrition Conference Graduate Student Scholarship and Poster Application

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email: _____

Telephone: _____

Major Professor: _____

Major Professor Email: _____

Current Graduate Institution: _____

Degree and Program: _____

Units Completed: _____

GPA: _____

Anticipated Graduation Date: _____

Which competition(s) would you like to enter? (You can check both)

Poster Competition _____ CANC Scholarship Award _____

For the Poster Competition, please submit an abstract (follow the instructions as outlined in the [Abstract Format](#)) and this application.

For the Scholarship Award, in addition to an abstract and this application, please submit a CV, one letter of recommendation, and a 3-minute video lighting talk ([Video Lighting Talk Guidelines](#)).

Submission:

Please combine all documents into one PDF and name file as such:

<LastName_FirstName_Poster Only or Scholarship Only or Poster and Scholarship>.

EX: Smith_John_Poster and Scholarship.

Please submit only the abstract as a separate Microsoft Word file, and name file as such:

<LastName_FirstName_AbstractTitleNoSpaces>.

EX: Smith_John_AbstractTitleExample.

Please submit a scholarship video lighting talk as .MP4 or .MOV file, and name file as such:

<LastName_FirstName_ScholarshipVideo2026.mp4>

EX: Smith_John_ScholarshipVideo2026.mp4.

The deadline for receiving poster and scholarship applications is **March 6, 2026**. Video uploads will be submitted through the CANC portal (see 2026 CANC guidelines for instructions). Please email all other materials to Jeremy Toews (jeremy@agamsi.com). Authors will be notified of acceptance or rejection by April 6, 2026.



California Animal Nutrition Conference Undergraduate Student Poster Application

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email: _____

Telephone: _____

Major Professor: _____

Major Professor Email: _____

Current Graduate Institution: _____

Degree and Program: _____

Units Completed: _____

GPA: _____

Anticipated Graduation Date: _____

For the Poster Competition, please submit an abstract (follow the instructions as outlined in the [Abstract Format](#)) and this application.

Submission:

Please combine all documents into one PDF and name the file as such:

<LastName_FirstName_Poster>.

EX: Smith_John_Poster Application.

Please submit only the abstract as a separate Microsoft Word file, and name the file as such:

<LastName_FirstName_AbstractTitleNoSpaces>.

EX: Smith_John_AbstractTitleExample.

The deadline for receiving poster application is **March 6, 2026**. Email all criteria to Jeremy Toews (jeremy@agamsi.com). Authors will be notified of acceptance or rejection by April 6, 2026.

California Animal Nutrition Conference

ABSTRACT GUIDELINES

An abstract is a concise scientific communication that enables readers to evaluate the significance of a study, method, or extension/teaching innovation. Because abstracts become part of the permanent scientific record, they must be written with clarity, precision, brevity, and scientific rigor. Use complete sentences and avoid vague or redundant statements.

An abstract should include:

1. **Introduction:** Briefly state the importance or context of the issue addressed by your study.
2. **Objective(s):** Clearly and concisely state the objective(s) at the beginning of the abstract.
3. **Methods:** Briefly describe essential methodological details (e.g., design, population, sample, instrumentation, and data analysis) sufficient to define the scope of the study.
4. **Results:** Present only key findings relevant to the objectives. Condense and summarize carefully. Any statistical inferences should be reported only if necessary to support interpretation.
5. **Conclusions:** Provide a clear interpretation of the main findings and their implications.
6. **Keywords:** Include up to **four** keywords at the end of the abstract.
7. **Ethical and Transparency Notes:**
 - **AI disclosure:** If AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT) assisted with writing or editing, disclose this in the submission notes (e.g., “AI-assisted editing for grammar and style; authors are responsible for all content and interpretation.”).
 - **Funding acknowledgment:** Include a brief statement of financial support (e.g., “This work was supported by the California Dairy Research Foundation.”).

Additional notes:

- Abstracts describing teaching or extension activities should present innovative approaches (e.g., a new idea, creative adaptation, or new application of an existing concept) and include an evaluation of effectiveness.
- Include only information that directly enhances the understanding of the methodology or interpretation of the results.

An abstract is unacceptable if it:

1. Contains grammatical errors or meaningless statements (e.g., “Results will be presented.”).
2. Presents data without appropriate statistical analysis or measures of variability.
3. Includes no data or results related to the stated objectives.
4. Uses non-metric units.
5. Contains typographical errors.
6. Fails to follow submission requirements.
7. Presents opinion or speculation without demonstrated application in research, teaching, or extension.

Format for abstract submissions:

1. **Length:** Maximum **2,300 keystrokes** (including title, spaces, punctuation, keywords, and any table). The AI and funding disclosure statement does **not** count toward the limit but should not exceed **250 keystrokes**.
2. **Tables:** Only one table is permitted if it effectively conveys results. Maximum **10 columns × 15 rows**.
3. **Submission:** Email both Word and PDF versions to jeremy@agamsi.com by March 6, 2026.

Please label files as:

LastName_FirstName_Abstract.docx

LastName_FirstName_Abstract.pdf

4. Use one side of an **8.5" × 11"** sheet for title and text. **Margins should be** Left 1.5"; Right/Top/Bottom 1". Use 12-point Times New Roman font.
5. **Examples:** Refer to pages 170 – 184 of the [2025 CANC Proceedings](#) for sample formatting and style examples.

POSTER PRESENTATION GUIDELINES

Accepted abstracts will be scheduled for poster presentation. Posters will be on display for attendees during the conference. Posters must be mounted **by 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 6th** and remain mounted for viewing through the following day.

Authors must be present for **judging and Q&A** at the 5:00 pm Industry Social hour on Wednesday, May 6th. During judging authors must be prepared to summarize their study in **2–3 minutes** and respond to questions. Awards will be announced on **Thursday, May 7th**.

Detailed setup, viewing, and judging times will be communicated to all participants in advance of the conference.

Poster Format and Display:

- Poster board dimensions: **4 ft (high) × 6 ft (wide)**.
- The top of the poster should display the **title, authors, and affiliations**.
- Title lettering should be at least **1 inch high** and legible from 8 to 10 ft away.
- Text and figure labels should be easily readable from 3 ft away.

Recommended Resources for Poster Preparation:

- [How to Make an Effective Academic Poster – UC Davis Undergraduate Research Center \(2021\)](#)
- [Poster Basics – NYU Libraries Research Guide](#)

VIDEO LIGHTNING TALK GUIDELINES **(only for Scholarship Applicants)**

All students participating in the scholarship competition should record a **3-minute video** summarizing their research. This brief presentation should clearly communicate your study's purpose, approach, key findings, and relevance in a format suitable for a non-expert audience.

You can use **Zoom**, **PowerPoint recording**, or a similar platform to capture your video. You may choose to present yourself on screen while sharing your slides or narrate your slides with voice-over (your face does not need to appear).

- **File format:** .MP4 or .MOV preferred.
- **Naming convention:** LastName_FirstName_ScholarshipVideo2026.mp4
- **Submission:** Upload your presentation video using this CANC Student Submission [OneDrive](#) portal by **March 6, 2026**. For issues accessing the upload portal or other questions, email jeremy@agamsi.com.

Recommended Resources for Lightning Talk Preparation:

[Lightning \(3 Minute\) Talk Guidelines.pdf](#)

[Creating a Video Presentation for a Virtual Conference | Undergraduate Research Center](#)

For questions regarding Abstracts, Poster Presentations, or Video Lightning Talks, please contact the CANC Coordinator, Jeremy Toews, at jeremy@agamsi.com or call 916-621-9799.

CONFERENCE
NAME, YEAR

TITLE
AUTHOR NAMES
AUTHOR AFFILIATION

ABSTRACT

MATERIALS & METHODS

BACKGROUND

RESULTS

OBJECTIVE/ HYPOTHESIS

CONCLUSIONS

RELEVANT REFERENCES

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS