

2015 Awards Program

Northeastern Branch American Society of Agronomy • Crop Science Society of America Soil Science Society of America

The Northeastern Branch of the American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America, and Soil Science Society of America (NEBCSA) is pleased to announce its 2015 Awards Program. This program recognizes exceptional achievement in eight realms:

- Teaching
- Research
- Extension-Industry
- Career Service
- Outstanding Senior student
- Outstanding Graduate Student
- Outstanding Support Staff
- Graduate Student Research Presentation

A description of each award, evaluation criterion, and procedures for nominating worthy candidates is included in this announcement.

These awards are conferred by the NEBCSA in recognition of exceptional contributions to the agronomic, crop or soil sciences, education, and or service. They represent the highest in personal achievement and are not based on nature or source of employment. Any active member of the American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America, or Soil Science Society of America may nominate candidates. Nominations must come from individual members of the Society.

Members are urged to initiate nomination papers for their candidates without delay. **All nomination materials must be received by October 15, 2015.** Send these materials to the **2015 Chair of the NEBCSA Awards Committee: (electronic submissions only)**

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Description and Nomination Procedures

Candidate Eligibility

Any member of the American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America, or Soil Science Society of America who has been active in the Northeastern Branch and in some aspect of agronomic, crop or soil science in the northeastern United States. Candidates for the Senior Student Award are exempt from the requirement of ASA-SSSA-CSSA membership.

Selection Committee

Separate sub-committees are to be named each year by the Past President of the NEBCSA for the Undergraduate student, Graduate Student, Teaching, Research, Extension-Industry and Career Service Awards. The Past President shall serve as overall chairman of the Awards Committee.

Criteria Followed by the Awards Committee

A. Outstanding Senior Student Award

1. Any senior student with at least 30 hours from a four-year program or 15 hours from a two-year program of academic courses in the plant and soil sciences who has declared an interest in a career in plant sciences, soil science or a related environmental area.
2. The suggested criteria of selection shall be as follows:
 - a. Scholarship: 50%
 - b. Leadership activities: 35%
 - c. Personal traits: 15%

B. Graduate Student Award

Any student enrolled in a program leading to a graduate degree in a plant science or soil science field. Demonstrated creative research and communication of the significance of his or her research results. Skill to communicate scientific knowledge as shown by the student's grasp of teaching mechanics and philosophy. (This may be demonstrated in seminars, lectures, laboratory teaching, or other contacts with students and faculty.) Ability to interact with other students and faculty in academic, research and/or extension activities.

C. Teaching Award

1. Ability to inspire students to make the most of their talents and to serve humanity.
2. Ability to influence students to acquire the commonly admired attributes of good judgment, sound thinking, objectivity, integrity, cooperativeness, etc.
3. Excellent in the classroom and proficiency in teaching.
4. Overall quality of teaching.

D. Research Award

1. Special significance, importance and originality of the candidate's research.
2. Excellence in logic and creative reasoning, and skill in obtaining significant data.
3. Overall influence on the advancement of scientific knowledge.

E. Extension-Industry Awards

1. Leadership qualities, including the ability to inspire others.
2. Skill in leading people to mastery of new and useful knowledge and the ability to use it in their judgments, decisions, and planning.
3. Overall excellence in the educational activities in which he or she is engaged.

F. Career Service Award

An important goal of the NEBCSA is to improve the effectiveness of plant and soil science professionals within the Northeast by providing avenues for interaction among research, teaching, and extension faculty, graduate students, and industry personnel. The purpose of the Career Service Award is to recognize those individuals who, during their career have not only distinguished themselves through contributions and service to the discipline and/or industry, but have also contributed to this goal.

G. Graduate Student Scientific Presentation Award

1. All graduate students making oral presentations at the annual meetings of NEBCSA are eligible. Only one presentation per student may be judged.
2. Presentations will be judged on originality, delivery, and content by a panel of judges.
3. The presentations will be scheduled during the regular technical paper sessions.
4. Contestants must indicate their desire to participate on the enclosed "Call for Titles of Contributed Papers" form.

There will be six graduate student awards (assuming a minimum number of participants). Oral and poster presentation categories for Crops and Soils may be separate or combined. Monetary award amounts will be determined before the annual meeting.

Graduate Student Presentation Award Explanation of Criteria

The Graduate Student Presentation Award will be based on:

- I. PRESENTATION TECHNIQUE (35%)
which includes:
 - a) statement of problem and objectives
 - b) logical organization
 - c) quality of visuals
 - d) an effective summary
 - e) finishing presentation within 10 to 12 minutes
- II. QUALITY OF RESEARCH (30%)
which includes:
 - a) knowledge of subject
 - b) study designed to meet objectives
 - c) sound interpretation of results
 - d) discussion of pertinence of research

- III. AUDIENCE AWARENESS (15%)
which includes:
a) responsiveness to questions
b) appropriate language and technical descriptions

- IV. SPEAKER ATTRIBUTES (20%)
which includes:
a) enthusiasm
b) voice level and eye contact
c) professional appearance and mannerism

H. Outstanding Support Staff Award

This is a new award designed to enable our Branch Society to recognize the excellent contributions made by professional research, Extension, and support staff. Those eligible include research and Extension associates, technicians, support scientists, field research staff, and laboratory support personnel. Include with the nomination packet two support letters along with the nomination letter and any supporting documentation that might be useful to the selection committee. The criteria and areas covered by the award are listed below. In addition to a plaque from the Branch, the Societies will provide one year free membership to the winner plus a one year on-line subscription to a Society Journal of the winner's choice.

1. The nominee should be a full-time employee with at least 5 years experience as a technician, support scientist, research associate, Extension associate, or similar professional classification.
2. Nominations will be accepted from any professional colleague but additional credit will be given to nominees who are members of ASA, CSSA, or SSSA (membership for the nominee is not a requirement).
3. Preference will be given to those performing their duties with less than a Ph.D. degree.

Nomination Instructions

1. The nominator is to send four (4) copies of each of the nomination papers, nominating letter and supporting letters to the Chair of the Awards Committee by **October 15, 2015**. Electronic submissions are encouraged, in which case a single copy suffices.
2. In addition to the letter of the nominator, there must be at least two (2) supporting letters. These letters should be addressed to the Chair of the Awards Committee.
3. Information to provide in nomination papers (a current curriculum vita will normally suffice):
 - A. Personal Data
 1. Name of person nominated and the award
 2. Date of birth
 3. Place of birth
 - B. Education
 - a. Degree: Institution, date degree was granted, major field (repeat for each degree);
 - C. Experience in Agronomic Field
 1. Duration of appointment
 2. Name of employer
 3. Nature of work
 4. Title of position
 - D. Citation of selected publications
 - E. Professional activities
 1. Membership in NEBCSA and other professional organizations
 2. Offices held
 3. Program participation
 - F. Honors received
 - G. Significant contributions to agronomy