



SEPT
15-16,
2026
IALR
Conference Center
Danville, VA

Competition Guidelines

Competition Eligibility

- The poster competition is open to any currently enrolled or recently graduated (Spring 2026 or later) graduate students, including M.S., Ph.D., and professional students.
- Entrants may present only posters on original research they have conducted.
- Students must submit an abstract by the deadline to be reviewed for selection to present at the CEA Summit East.
- Research must be CEA-related.

Competition Process and Rules

Abstract Submission

- Eligible entrants will submit abstracts by 11:59 PM on July 22, 2026
- Presenter information, poster title, abstract, and authors will be submitted via a fillable form at <https://indoor.ag/cea-summit-east-2026/cea-summit-poster/>
- Abstracts are limited to 250 words.

Selection Process

- Abstracts will be reviewed by a panel of experts based on abstract completeness, clarity, and quality for the selection of 10 students to present at the poster competition at the CEA Summit East.
- Students will be notified by email of talk acceptance into the competition.
- Abstracts will count toward 10% of the overall score.

Poster Guidelines and Set up information

- Students are responsible for printing posters and bringing to the Summit.
- Posters must be set up in the poster viewing area by 8:30 AM on the first day of the event (September 15, 2026).
- Poster stands and pins will be provided.
- Upon arriving at the IALR Institute Conference Center, students will need to check in at the registration desk to receive a name badge and any additional details.

Poster Presentation and Evaluation

- Students must be present at their poster at the designated time slot (TBA) to give a short (5-minute) presentation on the poster to the judges and be prepared to answer any questions.
- In addition to the abstract, competition scoring will be based on the poster's content, research project merit, and overall appearance. In addition, competitors will be scored on the short presentation including clarity in the 5-minute time frame, use of poster, and ability to answer questions on the project. This portion of the competition will comprise the remaining 90% of the score.
- The top presenter will be announced at the breakfast session on Day 2 of the Summit and will receive a prize to be announced.

Please reach out with any questions to Kaylee South at kasouth@vt.edu or phone 434.766.6618