

**Western Section, American Society of Animal Science  
Graduate Student Competition**

**I. Written Presentation (50 points)**

**A. Followed Journal of Animal Science Format** ..... (10 points) \_\_\_\_\_

- i. abstract length limit – 2,500 characters and spaces
- ii. introduction length limit – 2,000 characters and spaces
- iii. implications length limit – 1,000 characters and spaces
- iv. number of citations should be minimized to those pertinent only to the paper (< 3 references/concept)
- v. JAS standard abbreviations should be used whenever possible, or defined prior to first use
- vi. citations should follow JAS style
- vii. see 2002 JAS Style and Format requirements (<http://www.asas.org/jas/2002SandF.pdf>)

**B. Abstract** ..... (5 points) \_\_\_\_\_

Should include:

- i. clear statement of objectives
- ii. pertinent results
- iii. important conclusions
- iv. up to 6 keywords (Consult JAS author guide or CAB Thesaurus)

**C. Introduction** ..... (5 points) \_\_\_\_\_

Should include:

- i. justification of research
- ii. hypothesis to be tested
- iii. clear statement of objectives
- iv. no extensive review of literature.

**D. Materials and Methods** ..... (8 points) \_\_\_\_\_

Should be clearly descriptive (or cite original reference) for all:

- i. biological procedures
- ii. analytical procedures
- iii. statistical procedures
  - a. statistical procedures should be those readily accepted by the society at large or be fully justified and described
  - b. statistical model terms, including fixed main, interaction, covariate and random effects, and measures of variability or confidence (e.g. standard error), should be clearly stated
- iv. deviations from standard analytical and statistical procedures

**E. Results and Discussion (can be combined)** ..... 10 points) \_\_\_\_\_

Results:

- i. should be presented in tabular or graphic form with sufficient information to interpret results (i.e., table and graphs should stand alone)
- ii. tabular data should be explained in the text
- iii. table and figure numbers should not be repeated extensively

Discussion:

- i. should interpret results clearly and concisely in terms of biological mechanisms
- ii. should integrate pertinent results from the literature
- iii. should indicate if hypothesis was accepted or rejected and why
- iv. should include sufficient information for reader to infer a conclusion

**F. Implications** ..... (5 points) \_\_\_\_\_

Explains in lay terms, without abbreviations, acronyms, or citations, what the findings of the research imply for animal production and(or) biology in general.

**G. Scientific Merit** ..... (7 points) \_\_\_\_\_

The reported research will be evaluated on the basis of its potential impact on production agriculture or the advancement of important (i.e., key) scientific principles.

**Manuscript Score:** ..... (total 50 points) \_\_\_\_\_

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**II. Oral Presentation (50 points)**

**A. Delivery** ..... (10 points) \_\_\_\_\_

Includes:

- i. good eye contact
- ii. distinct voice
- iii. smooth presentation flow (i.e., organized presentation)
- iv. draws attention to important points on graphics during talk
- v. use of notes is appropriate and minimized

**B. Presentation** ..... (15 points) \_\_\_\_\_

Presentation should:

- i. follow the written paper
- ii. include sections on:
  - a. introduction
  - b. hypothesis
  - c. objectives
  - d. materials and methods
  - e. results and discussion
  - f. conclusions
  - g. implications
- iii. stimulate discussion
- iv. be limited to 12 minutes

**C. Visual Aids** ..... (10 points) \_\_\_\_\_

Should:

- i. be readable
- ii. have good color usage and, if appropriate, computer-enhancements (e.g. slide animation)
- iii. capture the audience's attention
- iv. limit information on a single slide to one or two points
- v. have slide titles that are descriptive but concise (i.e., not verbose)

**D. Knowledge of Subject Matter/Discussion of Research** ..... (15 points) \_\_\_\_\_

Communicated by:

- i. relating an appropriate amount of pertinent literature results in context of the presented research
- ii. a good explanation of the experimental and statistical methods/procedures being used and why
- iii. interpreting data correctly
- iv. answering questions concisely and accurately
- v. exhibiting confidence in answering questions

**Comments/Questions for Speaker:**

**Oral Score**

(total 50 points) \_\_\_\_\_

**Check List for Authors –Journal of Animal Science Format**  
<http://www.asas.org/jas/pre-edit.html>

**Abstract**

- Abstract is in JAS format and is a maximum of 2,500 characters and spaces to avoid truncation by abstracting services
- Abstract uses only the most necessary and universally understood abbreviations
- Abstract ends with one or two sentences that highlight important conclusions
- Key words (maximum of six, listed in the CAB Thesaurus) appear after abstract

**Text**

- Introduction is a maximum of 2,000 characters and spaces, including names
- Text uses active voice and first-person verb forms whenever possible
- Text does not use euphemism, regionalisms, or jargon
- Abbreviations are used sparingly and consistently
- Each author-defined abbreviation is spelled out at first use (the abbreviation follows the term, in parentheses)
- Abbreviations are not used to begin a sentence or (with very rare exceptions) in headings
- Literature citations in text are in JAS style, and citations in the text and the Literature Cited section match
- Supplier name and location (city and state or country) are given for all chemicals, feeds, software, and equipment
- Text concludes with a one-paragraph Implications section (maximum 1,000 characters and spaces, no literature citations, avoid or redefine all abbreviations)

**Literature Cited**

- Literature Cited is double spaced and in normal type size
- References are in proper format (check recent JAS issues), with inclusive page numbers given
- Journal names are abbreviated per BIOSIS
- Publisher name and location are given for books, handbooks, reports, and all other non-journal references
- Citations are in alphabetical order, by names of all authors
- Submitted papers not yet accepted are not listed in Literature Cited (cite in text as "unpublished data")

**Tables**

- Table format is clear and conforms to JAS style
- Information in tables does not duplicate data appearing in text (and vice versa)
- Tables and their footnotes are double spaced
- Abbreviations used in a table are redefined in that table

**Figures**

- Original figures of the best possible quality are submitted with the final, revised manuscript
- Legends are placed together on a separate page, not on the figures themselves, and double spaced
- Abbreviations used in a figure are redefined in that figure's legend
- Information appearing in figures is appropriate for figure format
- Lettering is clear, of proper size and proportions for figure, and without misspellings
- Symbols are of proper size and are distinct (avoid use of gray shading on figures)
- Abbreviations for units of measure conform to JAS and SI styles

**Note: This is only a subset of the checklist of items. It contains those items pertinent to the Western Section Proceedings.**