



California Chapter
AMERICAN SOCIETY OF AGRONOMY

To promote human welfare through advancing the acquisition and dissemination of scientific knowledge concerning the nature, use, improvement, and interrelationship of plants, soil, and the environment.

2008/2009 SCHOLARSHIP DESCRIPTION:

The California Chapter of the American Society of Agronomy will award a total of \$1,500 in scholarships to two eligible California residents enrolled in 2009 in a 4-year California College or University offering studies in crop production, plant science or soil science.

ELIGIBILITY:

1. The applicant must be an undergraduate of at least sophomore-level standing and be enrolled full-time the semester or quarter of the award or the semester or quarter immediately following the award. Enrollment must be at one of the following schools: California State University, Chico or Fresno; California State Polytechnic University Pomona or San Luis Obispo; or the University of California Berkeley, Davis, Riverside, or Santa Cruz.
2. Be a resident of California.
3. Have a minimum GPA of 2.5 (based on a 4.0 scale) calculated through the last quarter or semester prior to application. A certified official transcript is required.
4. Candidates must submit two letters of recommendation; at least one from a college or university faculty member and the other can be from an agricultural industry representative or employer.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE:

1. All application materials are to be submitted no later than **December 1, 2008**. Letters of recommendation are to be sent separately by the respective individuals providing references by **December 1, 2008**. All materials should be mailed, FAXed or sent by e-mail to the address below.
2. Complete the attached application form and return it with your essay on the topic provided. The application form is also available electronically. Please look for the CA-ASA Scholarship link on the CA-ASA Web Site at: <http://calasa.ucdavis.edu>
3. Essays from scholarship recipients may be published in the 2009 Proceedings of the society or made available to the press.
4. Scholarship funds will be released upon selection and proof of enrollment. Recipients will be notified by mail with the monetary award available after February 4th, 2009. The scholarship award winners will be recognized at the annual California Plant & Soil Conference, which will be held at the Piccadilly Inn University in Fresno on February 3-4, 2009. A complimentary Conference registration is also provided.

5. A good quality black and white or color photograph of the recipients may be required for publicity.

EVALUATION CRITERIA:

Applications will be evaluated based on:

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| • Essay narrative content and quality | 50% |
| • Leadership and extracurricular activities | 20% |
| • Letters of recommendation | 20% |
| • Work or business experience in agriculture | 10% |

Checklist: A complete application will contain:

- Completed application form.
- College transcripts.
- Essay on the subject provided.
- Two letters of recommendation (under separate cover).
- All application materials are to be postmarked, FAXed or received electronically (E-mail) no later than **December 1, 2008** to:

Suduan Gao, ASA Scholarship Committee
USDA-ARS
San Joaquin Valley Agricultural Sciences Center
9611 S. Riverbend Ave.
Parlier, CA 93648
FAX: (559) 596-2800
E-mail: Suduan.Gao@ars.usda.gov

2. Essay (50 % of score)

Using essay format, answer the following question as fully and completely as you can in 300 words more or less (one typed page - 12 font size). Type your response on a separate sheet and submit with the application. Scoring is based on the essay's content, originality, and thoughtful response.

Please use the following topic and formulate an original essay response to the following question:

Who benefits from biotechnology?

3. Leadership and extracurricular activities (20 % of score)

Summarize your personal development and leadership activities.

4. Work or business experience in agriculture (10 % of score)

Summarize your agricultural and other relevant work experience. Include any research, directed work experiences or projects involving plant, soil, or water related management topics.

5. Letters of recommendation (20 % of score)

Submit under separate cover (e-mail is okay) two letters of recommendation; at least one must be from a college or university faculty member and the other can be from an agricultural industry employer or leader.