

CALL FOR SECTION AWARD NOMINATIONS

Contact: Joe Sanford (sanfordj@uwplatt.edu)

This year the Wisconsin Section of the ASABE will recognize outstanding achievement during the 2026 spring meeting. Wisconsin Section awards scheduled to be given in 2026 include:

- Agricultural and Biological Systems Engineering Young Engineer Award
- Wayne G. Russell Award
- Biological Systems Engineering Graduate Student of the Year
- Biological Systems Engineering Student of the Year
- Agricultural Engineering Technology Student of the Year

The purpose, eligibility and nomination procedures for each award are listed below. All nominations/suggestions should be forwarded to **Joe Sanford** (sanfordj@uwplatt.edu) this year's Vice Chair of Awards.

The deadline for nomination of these awards is **February 2nd, 2026**.

If you are aware of someone who is deserving of an award, but need assistance or are unable to complete the nomination, please contact Joe Sanford (sanfordj@uwplatt.edu)!

Without your recommendations and assistance, those most deserving of our awards may go unrecognized.

Sincerely,

Joe Sanford

ASABE Wisconsin Section Vice Chair of Awards

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YOUNG ENGINEER AWARD

Wisconsin Section of the ASABE

Purpose: This award is to honor a young Wisconsin Section member for outstanding contributions to the advancement of the Agricultural and Biological Systems Engineering profession. The selection will be based on a candidates' total accomplishments as an engineer and not just on their activities during the past year.

Eligibility: The recipient must be a member of the Wisconsin Section of the ASABE in good standing and under the age of 40 as of January 1 of the year in which the award is to be made.

Nomination Procedures: Nominations can be made by an individual (member or nonmember), group, company, or organization. Suggested data and areas of activity to be considered in preparing a nomination include:

1. Candidate's name, address, and phone number.
2. Employment history including titles and duties.
3. Activities in ASABE. Offices held, committee activity, special awards, special duties, Section activities, etc.
4. Activities and membership in other professional and scientific societies or organizations. Membership, offices held, committee activities, special awards, special assignments, etc.
5. International professional activities.
6. Registration as a professional engineer.
7. Accomplishments. Patents held, research development, methods and procedures developed, responsibilities in the development of equipment, structural systems, conservation methods, food processes, etc.
8. Publications, lectures, addresses, professional and scientific papers, books, bulletins, industrial publications and magazine articles.
9. Other desirable qualifications not included in the above suggestions.

A cover letter from the nominator, not to exceed 400 words, should be added to the above information summarizing the reasons for the nomination.

WAYNE G. RUSSELL AWARD

Purpose: To recognize an individual or organization demonstrating exceptional commitment to helping the Wisconsin agriculture industry adopt new electric technology, farmstead mechanization and farm equipment. The award is named after the late Wayne G. Russell, former Rural Promotion Manager for Wisconsin Power & Light, who formulated the idea for the Electric Power and Equipment Farm Show in the late 1950's. Through Mr. Russell's efforts, the show has grown to become one of the most successful indoor farm equipment shows in the country. The award is co-sponsored by Wisconsin Power & Light and the Midwest Farm Equipment Association.

Eligibility: There are no specific eligibility requirements.

Nomination Procedures: Nominations can be made by an individual (ASABE member or nonmember), group, company, or organization. All nominations should be accompanied by a type written summary (maximum length of two pages) describing the candidate's major contributions to Wisconsin's agricultural industry.

ENGINEERING STUDENT OF THE YEAR

Purpose: To honor an undergraduate Biological Systems Engineering student for achievement in preparation for a career in the profession. A \$150 monetary award is included in addition to the recognition.

Eligibility: The recipient must be enrolled in a Biological Systems Engineering program, must be a member of an authorized ASABE Student Branch, a national member (student or otherwise) of the ASABE, and must be making satisfactory progress toward a Bachelor's degree (as determined by the Student Branch faculty advisor). Students who have graduated prior to January 1st of the year in which the award is to be made are not eligible. Thus, to be eligible for the awards being given in 2026, a student cannot have graduated prior to January 1st, 2026.

Nomination Procedures: To be considered for this award, the candidate must submit a maximum of a one page typewritten summary describing the following:

1. ASABE Student Branch activities,
2. Campus wide activities and community service,
3. Scholastic achievement, and
4. Career goals.

The four areas within the summary will be equally weighted by the selection committee.

AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY STUDENT OF THE YEAR

Purpose: To honor an undergraduate student enrolled in an Agricultural Engineering Technology, Agricultural Mechanization, or Agricultural Mechanization and Management program for achievement in preparation for a career in the profession. A \$150 monetary award is included in addition to the recognition.

Eligibility: The recipient must be enrolled in an Agricultural Engineering Technology, Agricultural Mechanization, or Agricultural Mechanization and Management program, must be a member of an authorized ASABE Student Branch, a national member (student or otherwise) of the ASABE, and must be making satisfactory progress toward a Bachelor's degree (as determined by the Student Branch faculty advisor). Students who have graduated prior to January 1 of the year in which the award is to be made are not eligible. Thus, to be eligible for the awards being given in 2026, a student cannot have graduated prior to January 1st, 2026.

Nomination Procedures: To be considered for this award, the candidate must submit a maximum of a one page typewritten summary describing the following:

1. ASABE Student Branch activities,
2. Campus wide activities and community service,
3. Scholastic achievement, and
4. Career goals.

The four areas within the summary will be equally weighted by the selection committee.

ENGINEERING GRADUATE STUDENT OF THE YEAR

Purpose: To recognize a Biological Systems Engineering graduate student for singular achievement in developing and/or advancing the technology of engineering for food and agriculture. A \$150 monetary award is included in addition to the recognition.

Eligibility: The recipient must be a national ASABE member (student or otherwise) and must be making satisfactory progress toward a Masters or Ph.D. degree, or have recently completed said degree requirements. Students who have graduated prior to July 1 of the year previous to the year in which the award is to be made are not eligible. Thus, to be eligible for the award being given in 2026, a student cannot have graduated prior to July 1st, 2026.

Nomination Procedures: To be considered for this award, candidates must submit a two page type written summary. The first page should contain the following data:

1. Candidate's Name, Address, and Current Position.
2. Professional Activities (summary of candidates' involvement in ASABE and other professional activities at a local, state, national, and/or international level). (10%)
3. Scholastic Achievement. (15%)
4. Publications and Presentations (list of lectures, addresses, professional and scientific papers, bulletins, magazine articles, etc.). (10%)
5. Career Goals. (5%)

The second page, entitled "Research Description" should contain:

1. The Nature of the Problem (an introduction to the research and description of the problem(s) to be solved). (10%)
2. Solution Procedures (a description of: experimental procedures, methods used, and/or approaches taken to solve the problem(s)). (25%)
3. Research Conclusions and Significance of the Results. (25%)

Pages 1 and 2 of the written summary will be weighted by the selection committee according to the percentages given in the parentheses.