Meetings
Want to Help Shape the ASA Annual Meeting?

Have you ever said to yourself, “If there are one or two things that I would change at the ASA Annual Meeting, it would be...?” Have you always wondered why a gallon of coffee costs that much? Well, this is your chance to make those changes—and learn more about coffee pricing!

ASA is now accepting nominations for ASA Program Planning Officer. In this position, you will be able to let your creative juices flow and lead the Society’s efforts in all phases of the Annual Meeting activities for the next three years. This is a great way to offer some new ideas, not only to ASA, but to the other Societies as well. What changes would improve the Annual Meeting experience? What is it that really needs attention in your eyes? This is your chance to help make a difference in remodeling the meetings.

The position is part of the ACS732 Annual Meetings Planning Committee. The term of the appointment is 1 Jan. 2017 to 31 Dec. 2019 with the ASA Program Planning Officer serving as chair of the committee in 2019.

What are the job requirements? If you are a member of ASA and are forward-thinking, creative, willing to take risks, a dreamer, a high-energy person, a visionary, then you have the right -qualifications. You’ll get together a few times a year on conference calls and attend the summer program planning meeting held in the host city (Tampa in 2017, Baltimore in 2018, and San Antonio in 2019), and the Society pays your expenses. You would be working with 7 other people on the committee—two other Society Program Planning Officers, three Society Program Chairs, the Chief Executive Officer, and the Director of Meetings and Conventions.

To be considered for the position of ASA Program Planning Officer, please send a letter of interest by 31 Oct. 2016 to Paul Fixen, ASA President (email: pfixen@ipni.net or mail: International Plant Nutrition Institute Americas and Oceania Group, 2301 Research Park Way Suite 126, Brookings, SD 57006).

Don’t Miss These Symposia at the Phoenix Annual Meeting

Sensing for Phenotyping and Management

The C02 Division of CSSA and ASA's Crop Irrigation Strategies and Management Community will hold a joint symposium on Wednesday morning, “Sensing for Phenotyping and Management: What Can Remote and Proximal Sensors Tell Us about Physiological Properties of Crops?” The goal of this symposium is to examine how data from remote and proximal sensors relate to physiological traits and how they can be leveraged for crop improvement and/or crop management. Speakers include: Joe Cornelius, Program Director at the Advanced Research Projects Agency–Energy (ARPA-E); Susan O'Shaughnessy, Agricultural Engineer with USDA-ARS, Conservation and Production Research Laboratory; Chris Boomsma, Managing Director of Automated Field Phenotyping and Trait Development at Purdue University; and Dan Sabo, Research Scientist in the Agricultural Technology Research Program with the Georgia Tech Research Institute.


Intellectual Property Rights in Plant Breeding and Agriculture

Do you have questions, ideas, or perspectives about intellectual property rights (IPR) in plant breeding and agriculture? The Monday afternoon session “Approaches in Intellectual Property Rights for Delivering Public Benefits of Plant Breeding” aims to inform and to share thinking. Short presentations will describe plant variety protection, plant patents, and utility patents; and illustrate perspectives on IPR in breeding, especially for health-promoting and value-adding traits and for germplasm development. Speakers-panelists representing different sectors, including private enterprises large and small, public/academic institutions, the legal system, and others, will discuss implications of IPR for various agricultural systems, answer questions, and field audience discussion. The organizer is USDA's Office of the Chief Scientist, in response to participant suggestions at a shorter session last year. Opinions will be those of the speakers and not necessarily those of USDA.