

## **NZARES Best Paper & First Time Presenter Awards**

The principal objective of the New Zealand Agricultural and Resource Economics Society (NZARES) is to foster professional discussion between those involved in the economic analysis and business of agriculture, agribusiness and natural resource management. The annual NZARES conference is the main forum for presentation, debate and discussion of current research by academics, policy analysts and professionals interested in primary industries, natural resources and the environment.

To encourage excellence in the creation and communication of relevant research, up to two awards will be made at each NZARES Annual Conference; one to the presenter of the best paper, and one to the best first time presenter. Each award will consist of a certificate and a cash prize of \$200.

### **Eligibility:**

Anyone who submits an abstract to the NZARES conference organising committee indicating that they would like to contribute to the annual conference will be considered for either or both of the Best Paper and First Time Presenter Awards<sup>1</sup>, provided that the following criteria are met:

1. Authors must agree to submit their full paper to the conference organisers no later than three weeks prior to the conference.
2. The paper must be original work that has not been previously published or is not under consideration for publication elsewhere.
3. The paper must follow the Guidelines for NZARES Contributed Papers, which can be found at <http://www.nzares.org.nz/pdf/Styleguide.pdf>.

In addition, to be eligible for the First Time Presenter award, the presenter should be making their first presentation at an NZARES Conference and their first presentation at any national or international conference should be no more than 12 months ago.

Note that the Selection Committee reserves the right to encourage authors of promising abstracts to apply for the awards even if they opted out when they submitted their abstract.

### **Process**

These awards are presented to an outstanding paper and an outstanding first time presenter respectively at the NZARES Annual Conference each year. Eligible papers are evaluated by a Selection Committee, appointed by the NZARES Executive Committee, and the relevant session chair. Members of the Selection Committee will decline to evaluate papers if their name appears on the list of authors. A decision on both awards is made during the Annual Conference, and the award is presented during the concluding session. The Selection Committee reserves the right to not award the prize. A minimum of five eligible papers in each category is required for a prize to be awarded in any year.

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<sup>1</sup> If authors do not wish to be considered for the Awards, they must notify NZARES that they would like to be excluded by ticking the "opt-out" box on the electronic submission form when the abstract is submitted.

Papers are reviewed and judged based on the criteria outlined below. Each paper will be scored by members of the Selection Committee for criteria 1-4, and by the session chair for criterion 5. For the Best Paper Award, the maximum achievable score for each criterion is shown in parentheses. For the First Time Presenter Award, greater weight will be given to the Oral Presentation component at the discretion of the Selection Committee. The scores are summed for a total score, and the highest scoring paper is then recommended by the Selection Committee for the Best Paper Award. If two or more papers receive the same total score, the paper which has the highest score in the highest weighted criteria shall be recommended for the award. If the papers are still tied, the highest score in the second highest weighted criteria will be recommended for the award, and so on until a winner is found. In the event that there are two or more papers with equivalent scores, the Selection Committee will make a final judgement.

### **Criteria:**

#### **1. Originality (35)**

The paper makes an original contribution to a topic of importance to agricultural economics, agribusiness or natural resource management with an emphasis on the paper's innovativeness in one or more of: (i) theoretical development, (ii) empirical results or, (iii) policy development

#### **2. Methodology, logic and reasoning (25)**

The paper uses methodology that is theoretically consistent and appropriate for the empirical question. The main research question is debated consistently and coherently. The paper demonstrates a critical awareness of the limitations of the methodology and/or analysis.

For quantitative contributions, the data is reliable and suitable for the chosen research method, and the data analysis is theoretically correct and free of mathematical errors.

#### **3. Consistency with and contribution to the existing literature (20)**

The paper demonstrates an understanding of the relevant literature, and is appropriately referenced. The conclusions of the paper are clearly stated, well supported, and of significant potential.

#### **4. Quality of Writing (10)**

Quality of writing style in term of accuracy, clarity, readability, and organisation of the paper.

#### **5. Oral Presentation (10)**

Clarity and organisation of presentation in terms of slides or visual aids, command of topic, engagement with audience, and timeliness of presentation.

# NZARES Annual Conference Best Paper Award Score Sheet

(A form must be completed by each assessor for each presenter eligible for the Best Paper Award)

Paper Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Author(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewer: \_\_\_\_\_

Criteria	Score
<p><b><u>Originality</u></b></p> <p>The paper makes an original contribution to a topic of importance to agricultural economics, agribusiness or natural resource management with an emphasis on the paper's innovativeness in one or more of: (i) theoretical development, (ii) empirical results or (iii) policy development.</p>	<b>(0 – 35)</b>
<p><b><u>Methodology, logic and reasoning</u></b></p> <p>Methodology is theoretically consistent and appropriate for the empirical question. The main research question is debated consistently and coherently. The paper demonstrates a critical awareness of the limitations of the methodology and/or analysis. For quantitative contributions, the data is reliable and suitable for the chosen research method, and the data analysis is theoretically correct and free of mathematical errors.</p>	<b>(0 – 25)</b>
<p><b><u>Consistency with and contribution to the existing literature</u></b></p> <p>The paper demonstrates an understanding of the relevant literature, and is appropriately referenced. The conclusions of the paper are clearly stated, well supported, and of significant potential.</p>	<b>(0 – 20)</b>
<p><b><u>Quality of Writing</u></b></p> <p>Quality of writing style in term of accuracy, clarity, readability, and organisation of the paper.</p>	<b>(0 – 10)</b>
<p><b><u>Oral Presentation</u></b></p> <p>Clarity and organisation of presentation in terms of slides or visual aids, command of topic, engagement with audience, and timeliness of presentation.</p>	<b>(0 – 10)</b>

**TOTAL SCORE**

*(out of 100)*

COMMENTS