

SEEAG PRESENTS: THE FIELDS OF INNOVATION RESEARCH COMPETITION

WHAT IS IT?

This initiative challenges 10th–12th grade students to explore real-world agricultural challenges and propose innovative, STEM-based solutions. The competition empowers students to think critically about the future of farming, sustainability, and science while building essential research, communication, and leadership skills.



DETAILS

- ✓ **Date:** September 24 - November 5, 2026 (Online)
- ✓ **Duration:** 6 Weeks
- ✓ **Participants:** 10th-12th grade students from Santa Barbara County
- ✓ **2026 Theme:** Technology in Agriculture
- ✓ **Format:** 4 ONLINE guided modules on Canvas, culminating in a final in-person poster board project
- ✓ **Final Event:** Saturday, November 14th | A poster board showcase and presentation held at Allan Hancock College
- ✓ **Awards:** \$2,000, \$1,000, and \$500 scholarships for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places

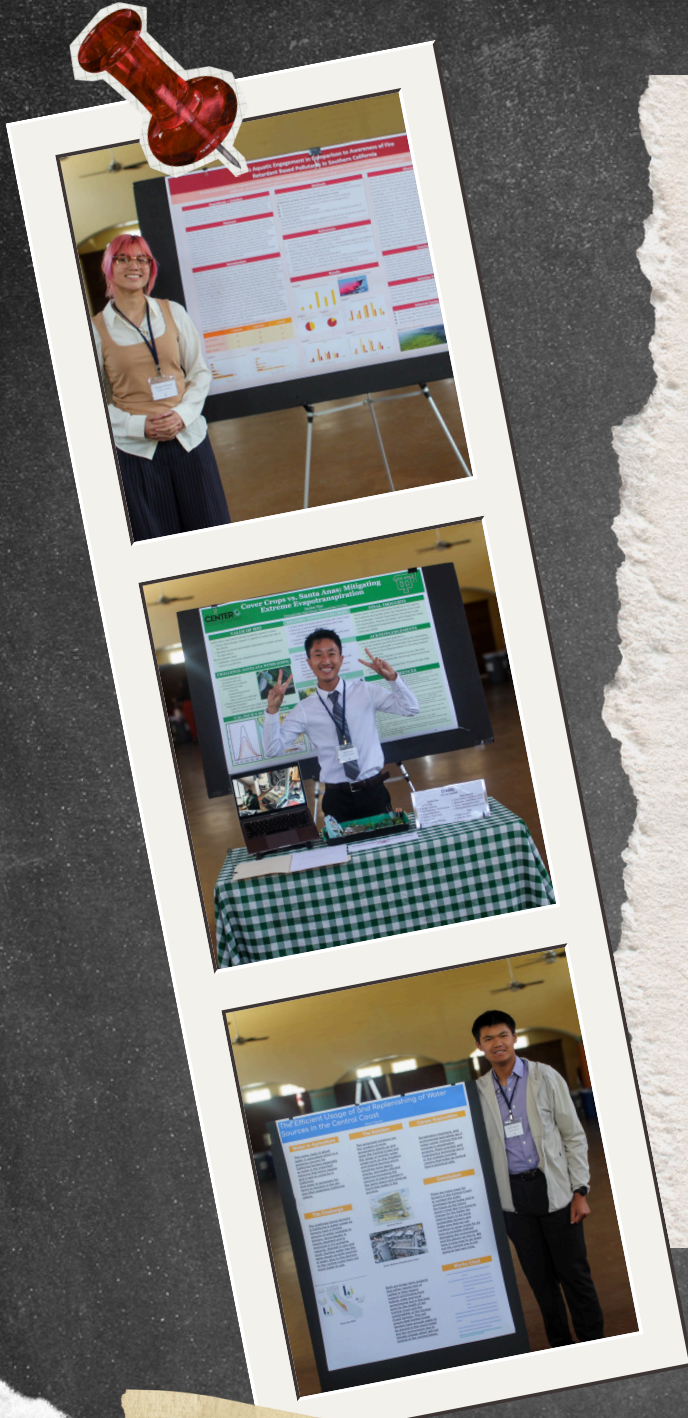


The Experience:

- Students will research challenges facing local agriculture
- Develop STEM-based solutions
- Present findings to a panel of agricultural professionals



FIRST ANNUAL FIELDS OF INNOVATION RESEARCH COMPETITION



In spring 2026, SEEAG launched the Fields of Innovation: Agricultural Research Competition, engaging Ventura County high school students in a six-week research experience focused on Water in Agriculture. Through four online learning modules and independent research, students investigated real-world agricultural water challenges, proposed innovative solutions, explored STEM careers, and presented their findings at a final showcase hosted at CSU Channel Islands alongside the 18th Annual Student Research Conference. Projects were evaluated by industry professionals and university faculty, with scholarships awarded to the top three student researchers.

Judges & Affiliations

Kali Fennell-Lyman — Brokaw Nursery
Dr. Ann De Lay — Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo
Dr. Ruben Alarcon — CSU Channel Islands
Pal Halstead — Coast Water Solutions
Sophia Avalos — Driscoll's
Soledad Camacho — Driscoll's
Jacob Pecenka — Rodale Institute



Scholarship Recipients

\$2,000 | \$1,000 | \$500