

2026 SAFRIG Student Paper Award

The Sociology of Agriculture and Food Research Interest Group (SAFRIG) invites submissions for the **2026 Student Paper Award**, to be presented at the annual meeting of the Rural Sociological Society (RSS) in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Eligibility and Requirements

1. The paper must focus on an agrifood-related topic.
2. The paper must be authored by a student or group of students (no faculty co-authors).
3. All authors must be members of the Rural Sociological Society at the time of submission.
4. The student author(s) must have presented the paper the year before or will present it at the RSS conference during the year of the award.
5. The paper must follow the Rural Sociology journal formatting guidelines, including the word limit, 8,000 words excluding references (up to 9,500 words including references).

Evaluation Criteria

Papers will be especially competitive if they demonstrate:

- Theoretical or methodological innovation,
- Critical engagement with issues of equity, justice, and sustainability in food and agriculture, and
- Attention to unique geographic, cultural, and political contexts.

Submissions may be under initial review at a peer-reviewed journal but cannot be accepted (in press) or published at the time of submission.

Review Process and Award

Papers will be reviewed by a committee of SAFRIG members. All submitting authors will receive reviewer comments, which may assist in future revisions or journal submissions.

The winner will receive:

- A \$250 cash award,
- Conference registration coverage, and
- A certificate of recognition presented during the RSS Awards Lunch and SAFRIG Business Meeting at the 2026 RSS Conference in Raleigh, North Carolina.

AI Use and Academic Integrity Policy

To uphold the ethical standards of the Rural Sociological Society, all submissions must adhere to the following guidelines on the use of artificial intelligence (AI):

- The content and analysis presented in the paper must be entirely the work of the author(s).

- Generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Gemini, Claude, etc.) may not be used to produce, paraphrase, summarize, or expand the paper's intellectual content, arguments, or literature review.
- Limited use of AI tools for grammar correction or language clarity is permitted, but must be explicitly disclosed in a note at the end of the submission (e.g., "Minor grammatical edits were made using [tool name].").
- Failure to disclose the use of AI, or evidence that AI-generated content contributed substantively to the intellectual or analytical portions of the paper, will result in disqualification and may be referred to the RSS Ethics Committee for review.

Submission Details

- Deadline: May 15, 2026
- Format: Microsoft Word or PDF
- Submit to: Hazel Velasco Palacios at hgv5008@psu.edu