



2024 Beef Improvement Federation

“Shark Tank” competition

Where: YeeHaw Brewing, Knoxville, TN

When: Tuesday night 7:00 pm

Prize: All finalists invited to present at BIF will receive a \$750 travel stipend to attend the meeting

3rd Prize: \$1,000 scholarship

2nd Prize: \$2,000 scholarship

1st Prize: \$3,000 scholarship

This new competition, open to both undergraduate and graduate students at US and Canadian institutions, is sponsored by the Beef Improvement Federation with the goal of increasing graduate student involvement in the annual meeting. It will consist of two phases: a written proposal and an invited oral presentation.

Proposal:

Your written proposal should consist of a one-page document (12 pt. Times New Roman) outlining your “Shark Tank” idea. It should contain a novel idea in one of the following areas:

- novel ways to use existing data for new trait development
- novel applications of technology for phenotype collection (including high-throughput phenotyping)
- an application of artificial intelligence in animal breeding

You should summarize your idea and its potential impacts on genetic evaluation or genetic progress in the beef industry in this document. **This should be e-mailed to megrolf@ksu.edu by April 1.**

Each entry will be assessed by a panel of judges. If additional screening is necessary, the top applicants will be invited to present their idea in a short Zoom presentation to the panel of judges and finalists will be announced.

Presentations:

Up to 10 finalists will be invited to present their idea during a short, 2-3 minute public presentation (slides are not required but no more than 3 slides will be allowed) during the BIF Shark Tank competition. Similar to the TV show, a 3-4 minute question and answer period will occur following the public presentation and the panel of judges will decide the winners.

Creativity is highly encouraged for both ideas and presentations. You may utilize other people or props in your presentation, but other people participating in the presentation are not allowed to present the idea (for example, they can be involved in a skit, but cannot answer questions or present vital details during the presentation).

Presentations will be judged according to the following breakdown: 30% written proposal, 30% on the idea, and 40% on their presentation and address of questions.

If you have questions, please contact the committee chair, Megan Rolf, at megrolf@ksu.edu.