

S576 AMERICA-NEW ZEALAND SOIL SCIENCE PROFESSIONAL EXCHANGE FUND COMMITTEE

A. Status: Special Committee

B. Composition and Tenure:

The Committee consists of the Chair plus four members.

The term of office is two to three years. Members shall not serve more than two consecutive terms and those terms will be staggered.

The Chair serves for one year.

C. Functions:

1. To encourage nominations for this award.
2. To become familiar with the Guidelines and Procedures for this award and to be responsible that all nominations fulfill the required criteria of eligibility for the award.
3. To evaluate nominations and to select from among those nominated the most outstanding nominee for the award.

D. Procedure:

1. Each year, immediately following announcement of the calendar year's final status of funds by the Agronomic Science Foundation (ASF) The US ANZSSPEF committee will determine the financial feasibility of supporting travel for that cycle and, with consultation by the committee chair and the ASF, set that cycle's award amount. The US ANZSSPEF committee will determine feasibility of supporting travel and set the amount of travel each year, regardless of direction of that year's travel.
2. The committee chair will consult with the New Zealand committee chair to establish dates for the calls for proposal, application deadlines, and committee deadlines for determination of selectee(s) and award announcement dates.
3. The SSSA Headquarters Office distributes the nominations to the Committee members and advises them of the scoring or ranking procedure to be followed. The Chair transmits any special instructions to the members.
4. The Chair of S576 presents the award at the annual awards presentation function.
5. The Chair of S576 serves as a member of the Society's General Awards Committee.
6. The Chair of S576 submits an annual report as requested by the Society.

E. Presidential Responsibilities:

The SSSA President:

1. Appoints new members to replace those whose terms expire and appoints the Chair of the Committee.
2. Cooperates with the Committee in its activities, as appropriate or in response to need.
3. Notifies the Committee directly or via General Awards Chair of all deadlines on award selection, annual report, etc.

4. Receives and takes action directly, or by referring to SSSA Executive Committee and/or Board of Directors, as appropriate, all suggestions and/or recommendations for action from the Committee.

F. Description of Award:

To foster enhanced cooperative soil science research between the United States and New Zealand. Explicitly, ANZSSPEF will facilitate this goal by providing monetary travel grants to competitively selected awardees in order to approximately cover the cost of round trip airfare for the researcher.

G. Award Criteria:

The travel grant will be for visits of six months to one year in duration. The number of awards per year will be governed by the year's earnings of the ANZSSPEF fund, plus any available matching money. Until such time as the fund has grown large enough to support bilateral exchanges annually, exchanges from New Zealand to the United States will be funded for travel occurring substantially in even numbered years, and exchanges from the United States to New Zealand will be funded for travel occurring substantially in odd numbered years. The US and New Zealand ANZSSPEF committees will have latitude for reasonable discretion in agreeing upon travel dates eligible for a given call for proposals, in order to meet the exigencies of seasonal conditions or other extenuating circumstances reasonably incumbent upon the execution of the proposed research.

H. Format for Nominations:

A format guide is issued each year. The Chair and Committee members are able to access this guide through the online awards brochure.

I. Eligibility of Nominations:

Members of the award committee and the SSSA Executive Committee are not eligible to submit nominations or write letters of support of for the nominees.

J. Eligibility of Nominees:

Applicants shall have been full members in good standing of the Soil Science Society of America or the New Zealand Soil Science Society for a minimum of seven continuous years (excluding student membership years).

K. Scoring or Ranking Procedure:

Committee Chairs from the two societies (NZSSS and SSSA) will seek one-another's counsel to aid their respective committees in scoring their applications and will jointly agree on one another's final selection(s). The protocol for this consultation will take the form: The chair of a given year's selection committee will transmit to the host country's committee the ranked top three choices of the selection committee. The host country committee will affirm its consensus for the selection unless there is disagreement by a majority of the host country committee. Grounds for disagreement would be restricted to only the most serious objections regarding the scientific qualifications of the applicant or scientific quality of the research proposal. In the event of such a disagreement, the two committee chairs would consult to jointly propose a new ranking of the top three proposals to achieve agreement of the two committees. Final authority in such an event would rest with the two committee chairs. If agreement cannot be reached in a given award cycle, no award will be made for that year.

Proposals will be ranked on merit by all host country selection committee members and averaged to arrive at comparative scores for ranking.

M. Revising Guidelines or Procedures:

The award committee may recommend changes or revisions relative to criteria, description, selection process of recipients, etc., for this award. All recommendations must be approved by the SSSA Board of Directors or Executive Committee before said recommendations may be implemented. It is preferable to submit recommendations through the Society Awards Chair; however, recommendations may be submitted through the President or directly to the Board of Directors or Executive Committee.