

2026 AFMA INTERVARSITY WRITER'S CUP COMPETITION

Rules & Guidelines



Who may enter?

The competition is open to any **final year** or **postgraduate student** enrolled in a South African university within the field of Animal Science. For postgraduate students, a major in Animal Nutrition is required.



Article themes

- ➊ Feed industry: Legislative environment
- ➋ Feed industry: Trade environment (economy/pricing/trade)
- ➌ Feed science: Additives
- ➍ Nutritional science: All species
- ➎ Feed processing: Milling/mixing/formulation/packaging



Competition categories

- ➊ Own research
- ➋ Literature review



Prizes up for grabs

	Literature Review	Own Research	Detail of item
Round 1	R1,000	R2,000	Cash prize
Round 2	R1,000	R2,000	Cash prize
Round 3	R1,000	R2,000	Cash prize
Overall Winner	Not Applicable	Student: R7,000 Promotor: R7,000 University: R10,000 Complimentary Registration*	Cash Prize + Floating Trophy + Complimentary Registration *The prize is not transferable to cash.

Quarterly and overall winners will be informed in writing by the AFMA office, and relevant information can be exchanged for the payment of prize money.



LITERATURE REVIEW CATEGORY

▷ Round winner

-  Student authors of winning articles published quarterly will receive a cash prize.
-  Student authors and their respective tertiary institutions will also receive special recognition for their achievements. This acknowledgement will be featured in the AFMA Matrix magazine, electronic AFMA newsletters, and/or across AFMA's social media platforms.

▷ Overall winner:

-  The student author of the overall winning article will receive a cash prize.

OWN RESEARCH CATEGORY

▷ Round winner

-  Student authors of winning articles published quarterly will receive a cash prize.
-  Student authors and their respective tertiary institutions will also receive special recognition for their achievements. This acknowledgement will be featured in the AFMA Matrix magazine, electronic AFMA newsletters, and/or across AFMA's social media platforms.

▷ Overall winner:

-  The student author of the overall winning article and his/her promoter will each receive a cash prize.
-  The winning student author will receive either an invitation to present their research at the upcoming prestigious AFMA Symposium or a complimentary registration for the next AFMA Technical Writing Skills Workshop.

AFMA INTERVARSITY WRITER'S CUP CHAMPION

- ▷ The university represented by the overall winner of the own research category will receive a cash prize and a floating trophy as the AFMA Intersvarsity Writer's Cup Champion.
- ▷ The award ceremony will be held at an appropriate event, which may be hosted at the university, during the AFMA Symposium, or on another suitable occasion.



Submission process

-  Students may enter only one article per competition cycle (year).



Submission link

-  All entries must be submitted to the following link:
<https://forms.gle/r6XHqmwchTzcEXki6>



Submission requirements

-  Each submission must include the following documents attached to the online submission form:
 - ▷ Own Research / Literature Review article (Word format)
 - ▷ Reference List (Word Format)
 - ▷ Turnitin report (PDF format)
 - ▷ Photo (High-resolution JPEG format)
-  Participating students are responsible for informing/notifying their Supervisor/Promotor about their participation in the competition.



Submission deadlines

	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Overall Winner
Submission date	21- Oct-2025	23-Jan-2026	08-Apr-2026	/
AFMA Matrix Publication date	January Issue	April Issue	July Issue	October Issue



Article evaluation

- 1 All articles submitted will be screened by AFMA to ensure compliance with the entry rules.
- 2 Entries that are deemed complete will undergo an assessment by a panel of experienced judges from the animal feed industry.
- 3 Assessment will be based on the relevant Evaluation Criteria for Own Research or Literature Review.
- 4 **Please note:** Not all criteria are of equal importance, and the article's final score will be determined by a weighted average.

OWN RESEARCH CATEGORY

- The winning article will be selected based on the highest average score.
- A minimum score of 55% is required for the quarterly prize to be awarded and published in the next quarterly AFMA Matrix magazine.

LITERATURE REVIEW CATEGORY

- The winning article will be selected based on the highest average score.
- A minimum score of 55% is required for the quarterly prize to be awarded and published in the next quarterly AFMA Matrix magazine.

AFMA INTERVARSITY WRITER'S CUP CHAMPION

- Articles entered in the Own Research category during a specific year will automatically be considered for the title of the overall winning article in the AFMA Intervarsity Writer's Cup for that year.
- A minimum score of 65 % is required to qualify for the Writer's Cup Champion Award.



Award presentation decision

- 1 The Intervarsity Writers Cup award committee has the authority to withhold an award in a specific round.
- 2 The decision to do so is dependent on the quality and quantity of the submissions received.
- 3 If the committee finds that there are no deserving candidates or that the submissions fail to meet the award's standards, they may opt not to present the award for that round.
- 4 The committee will arrive at this decision after a meticulous evaluation of all nominations, to preserve the award's esteemed standards of excellence.



Article submission guidelines

The organisational structure for an article to be submitted to the AFMA is as follows:

Article title

- The title should be concise and informative and draw attention to the paper.
- **Title length:** maximum 120 characters, including spaces.

Article Style and Form

- ▷ **Document format:** MS Word (no pdf's)
- ▷ **Margins:** 2cm all-round.
- ▷ **Font:** Calibri 11pt.
- ▷ **Maximum length & word count:**
 - 1 200 words plus 3 images (graphs/tables/figures/photographs); or
 - 1 300 words plus 2 images; or
 - 1 400 words plus 1 image; or
 - 1 600 words with no images.
- ▷ **Images:**
 - Figures/graphs/pictures: maximum 3 in total.
 - All images are to be supplied in high resolution (300 dpi / 1 to 5 MB) jpg, TIFF, PNG, or PDF.
- ▷ **Grammar style:** UK English.

Preferred Article Structure

- ▷ Introduction
- ▷ Background
- ▷ Discussion (use of subheadings is encouraged)
- ▷ Conclusion
- ▷ Author's contact details (phone number and email address)

References

- ▷ Follow the style guidelines of the South African Journal of Animal Science: <https://www.ajol.info/index.php/sajas/about/submissions>
- ▷ Submit the list of references in a separate Word document along with your article.
- ▷ Ensure that in-text referencing strictly conforms to the prescribed method of the SA Journal of Animal Science.
- ▷ Utilise the most current references, and for literature reviews, references cited should not be earlier than 2010.

T&C

Terms and conditions

-  Articles submitted after the cutoff date will not be considered.
-  Entries are valid only for the specified Matrix edition indicated on the entry form.
-  The judges reserve the right not to award the round or overall prize in any, or all, of the categories if the minimum standards are not met.
-  The judging panel's decision is final, and no correspondence will be allowed in this regard.
-  The prizes cannot be altered, exchanged, or supplied in any other way than stipulated, as per the competition rules.
-  By entering, successful participants acknowledge that:
 - ▷ they have duly informed/notified their Supervisor/Promotor of their participation in the competition.
 - ▷ their articles may be edited and published in the AFMA Matrix magazine, and
 - ▷ they are willing to participate in any media coverage given to the competition, including print media, online media, and broadcast media.