

2018 ASABE Fellow



Clifford Fedler, PE, professor, Department of Civil, Environmental, and Construction Engineering, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas, is being honored for revolutionizing the design and applications of wastewater land application systems that have reduced costs and protected environmental conditions.

Fedler has made significant contributions to the field of wastewater technologies, including the design of integrated facultative ponds, and created a new approach to determine the water balance used to design land application systems. Fedler conducted research on the flow of granular material by gravity through orifices, his work eventually informing a portion of an ASABE standard. His analysis on irrigation application efficiency and the resulting nitrogen leaching into groundwater has been adopted in Texas as a standard for designing on-site wastewater surface application systems.

Fedler is also a very prolific educator, developing programs used around the world. He has raised endowment money used to educate thousands of graduate students.

A 40-year member of ASABE, Fedler is a long-time member of the Education, Outreach, and Professional Development Engineering Licensure committee. He has provided leadership in the ASABE Environmental Quality Group, the ASABE Southwest Region Paper award committee, and the Environmental Quality Coordinating committee. He is also a past contributor to several Soil and Water committees, including the Land Application of Waste committee and the Home Sewage Disposal committee. He also participated in several Food Processing Engineering committees, including Biomass Energy & Industrial Products, Crop & Feed Processing & Storage, and Physical Properties of Agricultural Products. Fedler also maintains memberships with the American Society of Civil Engineers, American Society for Engineering Education, Water Environment Federation, Water Aquaculture Society, and the Water Association of Texas.

Fedler is author or coauthor of more than 160 peer reviewed articles, book chapters, or other publications and is listed as an inventor or co-inventor on two US patents. Fedler has received several awards throughout his career, including a Halliburton Outstanding Teaching award and a Halliburton Outstanding Researcher award, both through the Texas Tech University College of Engineering. He was also awarded a Texas Tech University Dads and Moms Association Spencer A. Wells Faculty award for Creative Teaching. He was awarded an Engineer of the Year award from the ASABE Texas Section. Fedler has also received several ASABE paper awards.