Bradley P. Marks, PE, professor and department chair of biosystems and agricultural engineering, Michigan State University, is being honored for outstanding contributions to the profession, in the areas of food safety engineering research, professional leadership, and educational excellence.

As department chair and professor of the Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering Department at Michigan State University (MSU), Marks is responsible for leading and managing the teaching, research, and outreach programs of the department, and also leads an interdisciplinary research program focused on ensuring the microbial safety of ready-to-eat food products.

Marks is an international leader in food safety engineering, impacting industry and regulatory practices, particularly in the low-moisture food and meat and poultry sectors. In the low-moisture food area, Marks led seminal research that supported the use of a non-pathogenic surrogate organism for validating moist-heat processes for Salmonella control in almonds, which has become an industry standard of practice. He has also led significant research advancing methodologies for modeling pathogen inactivation during dynamic thermal processes of low-moisture products. Recently, Marks led research quantifying humidity effects on Salmonella inactivation during impingement cooking, which has directly informed pending changes in regulatory guidance.

Marks has made an impact on the education of young engineers by developing seven biosystems/biological engineering courses, including project-focused first-year design courses and a food engineering undergraduate course sequence. He served for many years as the undergraduate program coordinator for MSU biosystems engineering. As undergraduate program coordinator, he was responsible for continuous curriculum improvement and ABET accreditation.

A 30-year member of ASABE, Marks has served as a member and leader on a number of ASABE committees including the Education, Outreach, and Professional Development Engineering and Technology Accreditation and the Department Heads committees. Marks also maintains membership with the International Association for Food Protection, the Institute for Food Technologists, and the American Society for Engineering Education.

Marks is author or coauthor of more than 330 peer-reviewed articles, presentations, and other publications. Throughout his career, Marks has received a number of awards. He received the John N. Sofos Most Cited Journal of Food Protection Publication award three times. He also received the William J. Beal Outstanding Faculty award and the Withrow Teaching Award six times, both from MSU. He received the Outstanding Alumni award from the Purdue University, Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering. Marks also received the A.W. Farrall Young Educator Award.