

ASABE 2022 Annual International Meeting



Kenneth C. Stone, PE, Research Agricultural Engineer, USDA Agricultural Research Service, is being honored for scrupulously conducting insightful engineering research that significantly improves irrigation while conserving and protecting resources.

Stone is a Research Agricultural Engineer and lead scientist at the Coastal Plains Soil, Water, and Plant Research Center in Florence, South Carolina. There, he provides leadership and technical guidance for conducting research to solve critical natural resource, water management, and quality problems. His research focuses on optimizing spatial water applications, using low quality waters in irrigation, treating animal wastewaters, and reducing agriculture's environmental impacts on nutrient sensitive ecosystems.

Throughout his career, Stone has made significant advances in water quality, water management, and irrigation engineering and he is recognized as a national and international authority in these topics. Stone's long career of applied engineering research has been devoted to solving important water management and water quality problems by improving water and nutrient management practices that conserve water and protect the surrounding environment.

As a part of a Presidential Initiative on Water Quality, Stone coordinated a multi-agency team of experts in a synergistic manner to document the voluntary implementation of improved management practices and their impact on stream water quality. Stone and the team advanced the practice of using riparian landscape features and in-stream wetlands for nonpoint source pollution mitigation, especially in areas with heavy livestock production and documented measurable improvements in watershed stream water quality. Early in his career, Stone was a member of the research team that devised and demonstrated the feasibility of applying oil-formulated insecticides to corn foliage through a center pivot irrigation system. This method increased the formulation affinity and retention on the foliage, thus increasing efficacy and reducing the total pesticide requirement.

A 35-year member of ASABE, Stone has made a number of contributions to ASABE committees including a number of irrigation committees. He is currently a member of the Natural Resources and Environmental Systems Irrigation Group, Sprinkler Irrigation, Irrigation Management, and Microirrigation committees.

Stone is author or coauthor of more than 170 peer-reviewed articles, book chapters, and conference proceeding papers. He has received a number of awards including the 2021 USDA Agricultural Research Service Technology Transfer award and the 2018 ASABE Heermann Sprinkler Irrigation award. Stone's extensive publications career has been highlighted with a number of awards for work published in Transactions of the ASABE and the Journal of Soil and Water Conservation.



Awards &
Recognition