Keith G. Tinsey, PE, Director of Operations, Black Gold Farms, is being honored for outstanding leadership, mentoring, and engineering accomplishments in the potato industry, and for service to ASABE.

As the Director of Operations at Black Gold Farms, a national potato and sweet potato supplier for the consumer market and for the chip and French fry processing industry, Tinsey facilitates production and customer supply for seed, chip, and processing potatoes. He has a broad background in agricultural systems and is an authority regarding harvest and post-harvest handling, storing, transportation, and utilization of potatoes. Tinsey’s success and career has been heightened by his passion for the human elements that drive individual and team success in organizational cultures.

Tinsey has had significant impact within ASABE. He worked as the Director of Standards at ASABE Headquarters, facilitating the development of several ASABE-ISO/ANSI standards, which are used around the world. Tinsey is partly responsible for the revitalization of the ASABE Michigan Section, serving as an officer and drawing in new active members by hosting section events for several consecutive years. Tinsey has also been actively involved in ASABE Professional Engineering Institute (PEI) for many years. His service with the PEI included leading efforts to establish the review webinars for the agricultural engineering professional engineering (PE) exam, the annual PEI award, funding YPC licensure efforts to increase visibility at AIM, and created brochures to encourage licensure.

A 34-year member of ASABE, Tinsey has served on a number of committees as a member and leader. Tinsey is the ASABE President Elect and a member of the Foundation Board of Trustees. He is also currently a member of the Plant, Animal, and Facilities System Structures Group, Bulk Solids Handling, and Storage Committee. Tinsey’s generosity to the communities he belongs to is noted by the many ways he has volunteered his time and expertise. He is a frequent judge with the Future Cities and Fountain Wars competitions and he is a member of the Oneida Township Board of Review and Construction Board of Appeals.

Tinsey developed a GIS search tool that identified soils best suited for growing potatoes in the US that turned into a product where he earned an AE50 award for the Michigan Agricultural Mapping Tool. Tinsey also holds a US patent.