

ASABE 2022 Annual International Meeting



Earl Vories, PE, Research Agricultural Engineer, USDA Agricultural Research Service, is being honored for contributions toward improving the efficient use of water in agriculture.

Vories is a Research Agricultural Engineer at the Portageville work site of the Cropping Systems and Water Quality Research Unit in Columbia, Missouri.

This unit anticipates needs, develops knowledge, and provides technological solutions to optimize agricultural production systems, at the sub-field to watershed scale for both economic and environmental sustainability. Vories leads a multidisciplinary team of scientists working to develop solutions to broad water management problems with application to humid and semi-humid areas. He also conducts research developing and testing water-saving techniques and evaluates agronomic and environmental impacts of systems. He approaches problems with several water management strategies in the context of potential for over-wet conditions in the drained Mississippi River Delta, and solutions impacting the critical natural resource of mid-south groundwater.

Vories is an internationally recognized authority on water management in humid climates, where irrigation decisions are heavily influenced by rainfall uncertainty. He is particularly known for research on cotton and soybean production systems and irrigation management of rice. He developed a computer model that described the effects of wind on irrigation sprinkler performance. Although seemingly simple, it was an important early step in the development of models to describe sprinkler irrigation systems. Using large-plot studies with production-scale equipment, including commercial ginning, Vories and colleagues demonstrated that comparable yield and quality were obtained with a range of production systems. Vories and his team also developed methods for measuring soil eroded by wind and water.

A 36-year member of ASABE, Vories has served as a leader and member on a number of technical committees. He is currently a member of the Natural Resources and Environmental (NRES) Systems Irrigation Group, Sprinkler Irrigation committee, and the Surface Irrigation and Water Supply committee. Vories also served as an associate editor for the NRES Publications Review committee.

Vories is author of more than 240 peer-reviewed articles, book chapters, and other publications. His long career in agricultural engineering has been punctuated by a number of awards. Most recently, he received the Irrigation Association Vanguard award, three Excellence in Technology Transfer awards from the Federal Laboratory Consortium, and was inducted as a member of the Arkansas Academy of Biological and Agricultural Engineers from the University of Arkansas. In 2016, he received the ASABE Award for the Advancement of Surface Irrigation.



Awards &
Recognition