



Chris Hay, PE

Chris Hay, PE, is the recipient of the 2023 G.B. Gunlogson Countryside Engineering award for being a national leader in the advancement of drainage design and design of edge-of-field practices for nitrate reduction.

Hay is a conservation design scientist at the Iowa Soybean Association, where he is responsible for leading applied research efforts, providing technical assistance to conservation programs and projects, and education and outreach programs on conservation drainage and water quality. Hay is also an affiliate assistant professor in the agricultural and biosystems engineering department at Iowa State University.

Hay led a USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Service drainage water management level 2 training that trained nearly 600 NRCS employees across 10 states. He is part of a regional team delivering extension drainage design workshops that has provided training to over 800 drainage contractors, farmers, and others interested in drainage design from nine states and two provinces. Hay also developed the iGrow Drainage Calculators which allow drainage practitioners to make data-driven drain spacing decisions based on soil survey or measured soil properties. He developed the Transforming Drainage Rate Calculators that provide a consistent framework for calculating recommended drainage rates for characterizing subsurface drainage systems. Hay also co-led the Conservation Drainage Working Group of the Conservation Infrastructure Initiative in Iowa to increase the investment and

engagement from both public and private sectors in implementing the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy. He is a part of the organizing committee of the Conservation Drainage Network and helped lead the establishment of the network as an evolution of the Ag Drainage Management Systems Task Force to expand the reach of the network with more opportunities for engagement. Hay served on SWCS Blue Ribbon panels related to edge-of-field conservation practice implementation and irrigation technologies and water use efficiency and was a partner in the development of the Roadmap to Advance Edge of Field Practices in Agriculture.

A 31-year ASABE member, Hay has been a part of numerous ASABE committees, often serving as chair or vice-chair. Most recently, he was co-chair of the 11th International Drainage Symposium. He has received four Educational Aids Blue Ribbon Awards from ASABE. He is also a member of the American Society of Agronomy, the American Society of Civil Engineers, Gamma Sigma Delta, and the Soil and Water Conservation Society.

Hay has authored 20 peer-reviewed articles as well as 20 extension and outreach publications. He has been named an outstanding reviewer for the *Agronomy Journal* as well as a GroundBreakers honoree by *Drainage Contractor* magazine.