



## Michael S. DeSpain

**Michael S. DeSpain** is the 2022 recipient of the Evelyn E. Rosentreter Standards award for his commitment to agricultural equipment safety through the development and utilization of national and international standards.

DeSpain is the engineering manager of safety, standards, compliance, and fire with John Deere. He supports the development of regional and international standards for crop harvesting machines. He also manages the product safety and fire engineering process used in development of crop harvesting products.

DeSpain specializes in crop harvesting products, including combines, front end equipment, cotton harvesters, sugar cane harvesters and forage harvesters. DeSpain has deep knowledge on the standards development process both within ISO and ASABE. He specializes in agricultural equipment safety demonstrated with his engagements at the International Society for Agricultural Safety and Health (ISASH). DeSpain helps lead the development and implementation of innovation for safety on equipment, such as rotational alarms and advanced cylinder lockout methods.

A 21-year member of ASABE, DeSpain has made significant impacts on ASABE committees as a member and leader. He served as the chair of the Standards Technical Council twice and is currently the past chair. He is also past chair of the Machinery Systems Standards Oversight committee. He is a

past officer and current member of the Ergonomics, Safety, and Health Standards Oversight, Executive, and Standards Development committees. He is also a past officer and current member of the Machinery Systems Tractors and Machinery for Ag and Forestry and US TAG and Agricultural Machinery Safety and Comfort and US TAG committees. DeSpain is currently serving as the ISO/TC23/SC3 international committee chair. He is a certified fire and explosion investigator and a certified vehicle fire investigator.

DeSpain is also active in the Association of Equipment Manufacturers (AEM). He is the chair of the AEM Safety and Product Leadership Council. He also serves as a member and past officer of several other AEM ag safety related committees.

DeSpain has contributed to a number of standards developed by ASABE including the ASAE/ASABE AD 11684:1995 Tractors, machinery for agriculture and forestry, powered lawn and garden equipment – Safety signs and hazard pictorials—General principles. He was also a member of the USA Mirror Committee (TAG) on the working group for ISO 4254-1:2013/AMD 1:2021 Agricultural machinery, Safety, and ANSI/ASAE S318.118 June 2017, Safety of Agricultural Field Equipment. In 2010, DeSpain was the recipient of the ASABE SMV Technologies Ergonomics, Safety, and Health award.

