



## Cary S. Hubner

**Cary S. Hubner** is the recipient of the 2022 Sunkist Young Designer award for his exceptional engineering design, innovation, and advancements in technology of modern large-scale planting equipment.

Hubner is a Staff Engineer in Crop Care Technology Development at the John Deere Seeding Group in Moline, Illinois. He is responsible for new planting technology development specializing in machine design to optimize seed emergence uniformity. He leads a team to identify the most valuable new planting technologies, develop solutions to meet the growers' needs, and demonstrate the feasibility of the design. Hubner also mentors interns and students in planter innovation.

Throughout his career, Hubner has applied his engineering experience and deep understanding of the needs of growers to develop innovative technology. Hubner has worked on manufacturing improvement projects implementing mistake proofing operations and helped design end of line runoff and verification systems. After gaining a background in planters through working in the factory, Hubner moved to a new product test role where he was an early and significant contributor in the product verification and validation for the ExactEmerge planter project. This responsibility included setup and execution of field and laboratory functionality and durability testing as well as development of new John Deere field test

procedures. Demonstrating his ability to take theoretical design work to full scale production, he then followed the ExactEmerge project from testing into production phase, managing the new product Quality Engineering team during the leadup and start of production. After the successful launch of the ExactEmerge high speed plater, Hubner's strong engineering foundation brought him to work in new technology development. With an integrated approach, Hubner has developed innovations for many parts of the planting process focusing on both hardware and software. Some examples include singulating new crops like canola or wheat, new techniques for detecting and placing seed, maintaining seed depth, and distributing fertilizer more efficiently.

A 13-year member of ASABE, Hubner has been an active member of the Quad City ASABE section. Hubner is an alumnus of the Future Farmers of America in his hometown of Darlington, Wisconsin.

Hubner currently holds 17 US patents as well as several European patents, all related to seeding technology. Throughout his career, Hubner has received a number of awards. He is a part of a team that developed products receiving four AE50 product awards. He has received two internal John Deere Enterprise Innovation awards as well as the John Deere Game-Changer award for ExactEmerge Product Excellence.

