Jay Harmon

Jay Harmon ASABE Fellow, P.E., is the 2019 recipient of the PEI Professional Engineer of the Year award for exemplary service to the engineering profession and performance in outreach, research, and teaching related to engineering animal production systems.

Harmon is a professor of agricultural and biosystems engineering at Iowa State University in Ames. In this position, he carries a triple appointment with 50% extension, 25% research, and 25% teaching. Harmon has developed a technology transfer and research program related to animal production systems which has been widely recognized within Iowa and nationally. As an educator, Harmon is involved in training the next generation of engineers and highlighting the importance of professionalism and licensure in the engineering profession. Harmon is professor-in-charge of MWPS, a publishing consortium of eleven universities and the USDA. In this position, he has skillfully guided the organization through difficult times of shrinking national support and decreased budgets as a smaller, but stable organization, which is successfully carrying out its mission of publishing research-based practical materials for land grant universities. He has also played a major role in eight MWPS publications, which provide important contributions through publishing technically sound, and in many cases, engineering-based publications for use by a broad audience. Harmon is currently serving as the Interim Associate Dean for Extension and Outreach and Interim Director of Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension at Iowa State University.

Throughout his career, Harmon has worked tirelessly toward improving professional licensure and has led the development of the structures and environment section of the PE exam since 2004, including writing, reviewing, and selecting questions and attending yearly workshops. He has represented ASABE at the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying Examinations for Professional Engineers (NCEES EPE) for several years.

Harmon is a 31-year member of ASABE. He has been extensively involved in various ASABE committees. He served on the ASABE Board of Trustees, the PE Task Force, and Professional Organization Liaison Council.

Harmon is author or coauthor of more than 300 peer-reviewed articles, book chapters, extension materials, and other publications. Throughout his career, he has received numerous awards including the ASABE G.B. Gunlogson Countryside Engineering award, the Henry Giese Structures and Environment award, and a Presidential citation. He was inducted as an ASABE Fellow in 2011.