



## Thomas Marek, PE

**Thomas Marek, PE**, is the 2022 recipient of the Heermann Sprinkler Irrigation award for outstanding engineering contributions in design, research, development, integration, and testing of advanced sprinkler irrigation systems technologies.

Marek is a senior research engineer and Regents Fellow at Texas A&M AgriLife Research in Amarillo, Texas. There, he provides direction and leadership of the irrigation program, develops, assesses, and integrates new production technologies into research applications for irrigated agriculture. He also provides engineering leadership for integrated multidisciplinary research and demonstration activities. Marek has expertise in the design and operation of irrigation scheduling and systems, lysimeters, evapotranspiration, crop coefficients, data acquisition, electrical and electronic systems, regional irrigation and crop water demand, development operation of evapotranspiration networks, design of water wells, cropping practices, and research field operations and management.

Marek has a distinguished record of performance in developing and implementing new crop production systems and has integrated new and advanced technologies and tools for Texas High Plains irrigated producers. Marek's team-based career efforts have saved irrigated producers hundreds of thousands of acre-feet of Ogallala groundwater and untold dollars in accumulated energy savings. Marek has made significant technological irrigation innovations in water conservation and

management, and input-efficient crop production in the Texas High Plains and US Central Great Plains. Marek continues to lead applied research to improve irrigation management for principal crops in the region, including corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, and cotton, as water is the most common yield limiting factor in the region. Marek's most significant achievement may be his legacy of research and professional integrity and the many individuals mentored throughout the course of his career.

A 42-year member of ASABE, Marek is an active member of the Natural Resources and Environmental Systems Hydrology and Irrigation Groups and the Irrigation Management and Sprinkler Irrigation committees.

Marek is author or coauthor of more than 250 peer-reviewed articles and other publications with several patents pending. Throughout his career, Marek has received a number of awards. Most recently, he received the Texas Water Development Board's Blue Legacy award for water conservation and irrigated technology innovation. He also received the Texas A&M AgriLife Research Directors Collaboration award for interdisciplinary collaborative accomplishments that advance Texas A&M AgriLife Research for innovative water management research. In 2018, he received the ASABE John Deere Gold Medal award.

