



Richard Byler

Richard Byler, is the 2017 recipient of the Mayfield Cotton Engineering award for outstanding leadership in the cotton ginning industry and significant research contributions to moisture management and process control.

Byler's extensive research on cotton moisture measurement, transfer, and quality effects have had a significant impact on the cotton industry. His expertise in instrumentation and controls was crucial to the development of the gin process control system that was commercialized as Intelligin. While at the USDA Agricultural Research Service, Byler developed and patented a rapid and reliable system for measurement of cotton moisture content during the ginning process. He also developed a USDA patented system for monitoring and optimizing the ginning processes. Both of these systems are part of the cotton ginning process control system marketed by Uster Technologies AG as Intelligin, which has been installed in more than 50 gins, resulting in an estimated \$10 million in increased overall bale value. He has been active in education of US cotton ginners through stakeholder meetings and the Ginners Schools thereby improving the understanding of the ginning processes and machinery with the goal of keeping the US industry competitive on the world market.

Byler's research on moisture restoration and moisture transfer through bale bagging materials

also has significant economic implications for the cotton industry. Byler's leadership of the USDA-ARS Cotton Ginning Research Unit has also positively impacted the industry, through both outreach efforts, such as gin schools, and initiating new research directions in process control.

A 42 year member of ASABE, Byler has served on the Machinery Systems Publications Review committee as an associate editor for several years. He is a longstanding member of the Machinery Systems Cotton Engineering committee. Byler is also an associate editor of the *Journal of Cotton Science*. He is a member of the Joint Cotton Industry Bale Packaging Committee and the National Cotton Council Quality Task Force. Byler is also an advisor to the National Cotton Ginners Association.

Byler is the author or coauthor of more than 200 refereed journal articles, conference proceeding papers, and other publications. Byler is listed as an inventor or coinventor on three patents. Throughout his career, Byler has received many awards including the Charles C. Owen Distinguished Service award from the National Cotton Ginners Association and he was named Engineer of the Year by the ASABE Mississippi section. Byler also received recognition from the Federal Laboratory Consortium for Technology Transfer for work with the computerized cotton gin process control project.