



CHRISTOPHER L. BUTTS, PE, research agricultural engineer, USDA Agricultural Research Service, Dawson, Georgia, is being honored for expertise in postharvest peanut processing, reducing costs while preserving quality throughout the value chain.

Butts has had a diverse career, addressing the areas of on-farm storage and grain drying, solar energy, feedstocks for biodiesel, irrigation scheduling, decision support systems, and processing peanuts from the farm gate to the manufacturer's loading dock. His career has consistently focused on sharing knowledge and working collaboratively, bringing advancements to the entire industry.

Butts is regarded as a world leader on peanut harvesting, curing, storage, and handling. He was part of a team that successfully introduced the use of semi-trailers converted into peanut drying trailers and adapted drying techniques for large batches in the humid American Southeast. He has also improved peanut drying techniques through the creation of Peanut Curing Management software and has developed algorithms for setting optimum drying temperatures. These techniques have reduced post-harvest loss as well as a reduction in the energy to dry, store, and handle peanuts.

Butts, a 34 year member of ASABE, has been a leader on many technical community committees including the Processing System nominating committee, the Education Outreach and Professional Development professional ethics committee, the executive and steering committee of the Processing Systems technical community. He has also provided ready leadership within the ASABE Awards Program, serving as chair during the inaugural year of the Sukup Global Food Security award committee and as a longstanding leader of the International Food Engineering award committee. Butts is also a member of the Processing Systems Crop and Feed Processing and Storage committee, the Grain and Feed Processing and Storage committee, and the Georgia Section. Butts is a founding member, and remains actively involved, in the Discover E Coordinating committee.

Butts is an author or coauthor of more than 130 peer-reviewed journal articles, technical papers, and book chapters. He was made a fellow of the American Peanut Research and Education Society. Butts received an ASABE presidential citation in 2009 and a leadership citation in 2016. He also received an Engineer of the Year award from the Georgia section in 2005. In 2007, Butts was awarded the Coyt T. Wilson Distinguished Service award from the American Peanut Researcher and Education Society.