



LEON G. SCHUMACHER, professor and chair, Agricultural Systems Management Program, College of Food and Natural Resources, University of Missouri, is being honored for pioneering biodiesel as a biorenewable transportation fuel and development of new curricula in applied engineering of the profession.

Throughout his career, Schumacher has focused on biodiesel research and was one of the first researchers to explore its use as a transportation fuel. This research has culminated in the nationwide incorporation of biodiesel available as an alternative fuel source.

Schumacher has also researched extensive techniques for energy saving practices in the agricultural community. This work attracted the attention of the Environmental Protection Agency who recruited Schumacher to develop a program designed to help farmers understand the benefits of adopting energy saving practices. As a result, he developed the Missouri Agricultural Energy Savings Team – A Revolutionary Opportunity (MAESTRO). This program has attracted the attention of many in Missouri, resulting in agricultural producers conducting energy audits.

Schumacher championed the development of and chairs the AG*IDEA course sharing program for agricultural systems management. This program increases availability of agricultural systems management courses to students at Iowa State University, University of Nebraska, Kansas State University, and the University of Missouri. More than 1,000 students have taken courses through this program, making a large impact on education in the agricultural systems technology and management discipline. Schumacher was responsible for relaunching the graduate program in agricultural systems management at the University of Missouri. In addition to the effects Schumacher has had on education administration, Schumacher has also taught dozens of different agricultural systems management courses.

A 30 year member of ASABE, Schumacher has been a leader on many ASABE committees. He is a long-standing member of the ASABE Biobased Energy, Fuels, and Products committee and he has served as a leader on several Education, Outreach, and Professional Development committees. Schumacher was a trustee on the ASABE Board of Trustees and was instrumental in developing new marketing materials after the ASABE reorganization efforts.

Schumacher is an author or coauthor of more than 130 peer-reviewed articles, book chapters, and other publications. Schumacher has received numerous awards throughout his career including several ASABE paper awards and an ASABE presidential citation. In 2013 the National Biodiesel Board awarded him the Biodiesel Innovation award. The College of Agricultural Food and Natural Resources at the University of Missouri presented Schumacher with the Allan W. Purdy award in 2013.