

Earning the Title

Maximize professional opportunities through licensure



DANA PORTER

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AGE: “Old enough”

HOMETOWN:
Panhandle, Texas

FAMILY: My husband and I have three wonderful large “special blend” breed (rescue) dogs.

INTERESTS AND HOBBIES:
I am very active in my church, and I enjoy hiking, marksmanship, cooking, and sharing time with friends and family.

How has my PE helped me? Becoming licensed has provided me a sense of personal and professional accomplishment. I’ve earned the title “Engineer.”

I grew up on a farm in the Texas Panhandle, where I developed an appreciation for production agriculture, food safety and security, environmental quality, animal health and welfare, and safety and quality of life for people living and working in agricultural settings. Agricultural engineering allows me to apply my agricultural experience and my engineering aptitude and knowledge to find practical solutions to meet specific needs in these areas.

Through my applied research and extension programs, I evaluate and promote appropriate applications of irrigation technologies and best management practices to support agricultural production under water-limited conditions. I also help agricultural producers select technologies that are well suited to their operations and that manage irrigation efficiently to conserve water and/or maintain productivity and profitability.

I am blessed to work with really great people—agricultural producers, irrigation professionals, consulting engineers, and research and extension faculty.

I took the AG PE exam to support the profession of agricultural engineering and to expand my professional opportunities. I am enthusiastic about the engineering profession, and my P.E. license is critical to my credibility as I promote professionalism and licensure to students and colleagues.

As an engineer working in production agriculture and related areas, I can see the immense need for agricultural engineering expertise. Emerging technologies and issues in agricultural production and processing promise continuing challenges and opportunities for agricultural engineers.

I want to encourage others to maximize their professional opportunities through licensure. As agricultural engineers, we have an obligation to promote professionalism in general and our agricultural engineering profession in particular.

There are needs that agricultural engineers are better or uniquely qualified to address, including challenges and opportunities in production agriculture; food, feed, and fiber processing; and related environmental and safety concerns. I believe it is important for us to expand the public awareness, accessibility, and availability of our agricultural engineering expertise to meet these needs.

After recently attending a PE Exam Writing meeting in Clemson, this important topic is still very fresh on my mind. It presents a worthy challenge for me to verbalize WHY the PE exam matters. It’s not enough to say, “It just does!” But, in a nutshell, “It really does!”

ASABE member Dana Porter passed the AG PE exam in 1994 and became registered in 1995; email her at d-porter@tamu.edu.