

WHAT YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT ASABE...

Communities?

Peer Review?

Committees?

Meetings?

ASABE History?

Information in this booklet was presented at sessions hosted by the Young Professionals Community at various ASABE meetings. Speakers introduced beginning and experienced members alike, who work in academia, industry, and public service, to the many opportunities available in ASABE.

2006 version

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HISTORY OF ASABE

FROM 7 DECADES AND OTHER ASABE SOURCES

- 1907 Professor J. Brownlee Davidson, newly appointed professor of agricultural engineering at Iowa State College, corresponded with other schools teaching courses in farm power and rural engineering. They agreed to meet that winter in Madison, Wis. Eighteen charter members (three from Canada) agreed to organize the American Society of Agricultural Engineers and elected Davidson its first president.
- 1912 Members of ASAE adopted the first standard practice “Conventional Signs for Agricultural Engineers.” Tractor testing standards were discussed to firmly put the Society in the standard procedure business.
- 1919 Nebraska legislature passed Tractor Test legislation that drew heavily on the ASAE meeting discussions.
- 1920 Assistant secretary Frank Hanson produced the first four issues of the *Journal of Agricultural Engineering*.
- 1925 A two-page ad in the January issue of the Journal called for creation of the Committee on Relation of Electricity to Agriculture. The CREA and rural electrification became prominent in Society discussions.
- 1927 On Aug. 30 an audience with President Coolidge proposes eight recommendations concerning “Farm Problems” with one being the establishment of a Bureau of Agricultural Engineering (BAE) with the USDA. This audience had resulted from a fishing experience by ASAE President Zimmerman.
- 1931 President Hoover signed the bill establishing the BAE with divisions reflecting work of ASAE divisions, but the president directed that effort be concentrated with the small family farmers not big corporate farms.
- 1932 First ASAE Award was given, the Cyrus Hall McCormick Gold Medal, thereby adding another dimension to Society activity.
- 1935 USDA reorganizes with a Soil Erosion Service that bought together erosion work of the CCC, Forest Service, and others. ASAE voted to establish the Soil and Water Conservation Division. Practices to alleviate the cause of the dust bowl were initiated and reported.
- 1938 Committee on the Energetics of the Biology in Agriculture was formed as first discussions of relation of our Society with biology.
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- 1945 Hay and grain drying technology gain importance in the Society.
- 1946 The GI Bill brought lots of military men to colleges for agricultural engineering degrees.
- 1947 Cotton mechanization moved rapidly onto the farms.
- 1950 ECPD recognized 15 Agricultural Engineering curriculums, the first since 1937, at which time there were only three.
- 1954 ASAE joined the American Society of Engineering Education. Curricula greatly improved.
- 1957 Fiftieth Anniversary – At the time there were 5,000,000 tractors on America’s farms and 95 percent of farms were electrified. Twenty-five of forty-four Departments of Agricultural Engineering had ECPD accreditation.
- 1958 First issue of *Transactions of the ASAE* published.
- 1962 *Silent Spring* by Rachel Carson spurs anti chemical and anti business feelings. ASAE report on livestock waste management and chemical application controls increase.
- 1963 Biological engineering versus agricultural engineering debated at meetings.
- 1965 A three-prong organization was proposed and adopted in 1968 after it was decided change should not be made in technical division names.
- 1966 The decision was made to build headquarters building in St. Joseph, Mich. after considering Chicago O’Hare locations and joining other engineering societies in the United Engineering Center in New York City.

- 1970 New headquarters building dedicated.
- 1971 Society files suit to claim exemption from property taxes (almost \$9,000). As upheld by the Michigan Court of Appeals, the judge found that “the work of the ASAE is of an educational nature ... it’s a scientific organization...[and] without this contribution, such results ... would be of great cost to the taxpayer ...”
- 1973 Court decision in Louisiana determines that Agricultural Engineers can be professional engineers.
- 1974 SI (metric) units were adopted for all ASAE publications.
- 1977 *The Grain Harvester* history book was published, first in a continuing series of books that record the story of tractors and farm machine developments.
- 1981 First in-house computer purchased for Society record keeping.
- 1982 Seventy-fifth Anniversary film produced to report developments of engineering in agriculture and contributions to reduction of drudgery on the farm.
- 1984 ASAE Foundation established as a separate entity.
- 1988 Council structure was reorganized.
- 1988 Agreement of cooperation was reached with the Australian Agricultural Engineering Society.
- 1990 ASAE was awarded the secretariat of ISO TC 27 to take worldwide lead in maintaining standards for combines and forage harvesters.
- 1993 Agreement with China Society of Agricultural Engineering.
- 1997 M. Melissa Moore becomes Executive Vice President
- 1998 1st International Quarter Scale competition held in Moline, Illinois

2005 – International Meeting Tampa, FL

ASAE changes name to the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers, ASABE

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CSAE changes name to the Canadian Society of Bioengineering, CSBE

New biological engineering curriculum is proposed for ABET accreditation with ASABE as the lead Society

First student branch from a non-four-year institution established (Modesto Junior College); requires change in bylaws

2006 – International Meeting, Portland, Ore. (July 9-12)

Administration of US advisory groups for ISO Technical Committee 23 (Tractors and Machinery for Agriculture and Forestry) transferred from AEM to ASABE; new Manager of International Standards hired in Standards Department

ASABE Cyber Café introduced at Annual International Meeting

First biomass standard adopted; S593 Terminology and Definitions for Biomass Production, Harvesting and Collection, Storage, Processing, Conversion and Utilization

2007 – 100 years of ASAE, Minneapolis, Minn. (June 17-20).



TECHNICAL AND NON-TECHNICAL COMMITTEES OF ASABE

Much of the work in ASABE is accomplished via committees. These groups, made up of members and staff, are vital to the success and growth of the Society. Your contribution to the Society through committees is needed and crucial. These groups provide excellent networking and growth opportunities for members. You can play a role in many groups, both by technical or personal interest. Your contributions are welcomed and appreciated.

GET INVOLVED- you are needed. Although it can be intimidating to walk in to a room of strangers, once you begin the process, you will find that your input is valuable. You might ask a colleague to attend with you, or perhaps you could attend with a mentor. The best way to get a good start is to arrive early and introduce yourself to the committee chair. In this way, he/she can learn of your interest and will include you in the discussions. Also, a good chair will put you at ease and introduce you to other members- thus, the networking begins.

How are the committees organized?

Figure 1 contains the basic structure of ASABE. The Society is comprised of four membership services councils (primarily functioning to enhance member experiences and the quality of the Society) and eight technical divisions/institutes (primarily serving to advance knowledge in the profession). In addition, other committees may exist outside this framework to accomplish special tasks; however, the Councils and Divisions provide the majority of service opportunities.

Most committees and groups welcome new members and visitors at their meetings (almost always held at the Society's annual meeting). There are some groups that are elected (such as the Board of Trustees and Nominating Committee) and thus closed to new members, but for the most part, you are welcome to attend any committee meeting (including Board meetings). Each year, in the annual meeting program, you will find a listing of times for each committee meeting, and those closed to new members will usually state that fact in the program.

What committees are available?

Technical

The first place to plug in to ASABE committees is through technical divisions. You will find that almost every technical interest held by member is represented by a committee that seeks to advance the body of knowledge in the area. Each of the eight divisions and institutes has several committees pertaining to specific interests. You should look at committees in your primary interest area, but you might also benefit from committees in "supporting" areas as well. For instance, if you are interested in precision agriculture, you may look into PM-54 Precision Agriculture and/or IET-312 Machine Vision. Combinations that fit your technical interests are limited only by your imagination (and time). Note that membership in the "01 and 02" committees (usually steering and nominating committees) is usually limited to chairs of other technical committees within the division, with at-large members in some cases.

Non-Technical

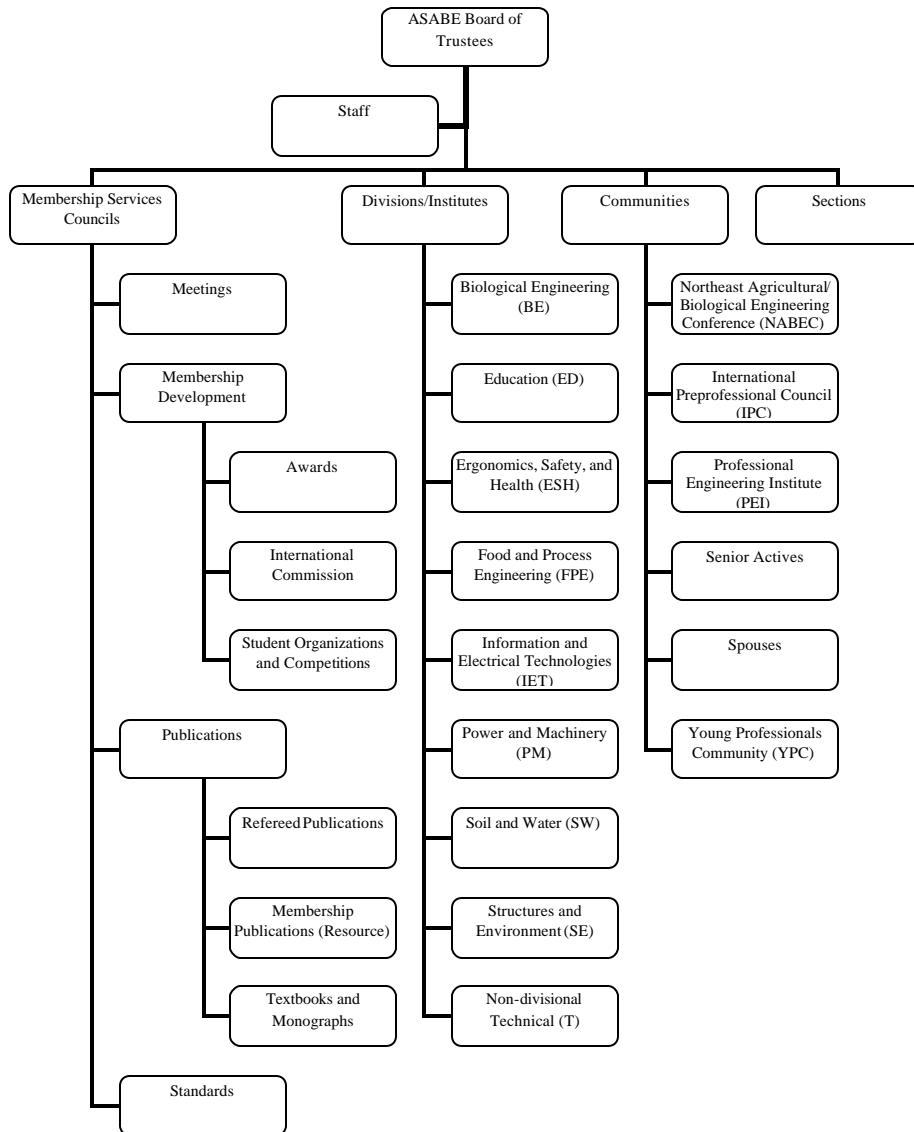
A secondary place to get involved is through non-technical committees. These committees represent the functions of the society outside the discipline itself, and they include groups that support membership development and growth. The Membership Development Council has several committees for enhancing member benefits in the Society. The Publications Council and Standards Council also have some opportunities for involvement. It is in these areas that you are able to pursue your passions in the Society. For instance, if you have a desire to continue to develop student design competitions, you may explore opportunities with the "P" committees of the Membership Development Council.

There are additional opportunities in "Communities" and "Sections." Communities are, as the name implies, loosely associated members who share a common bond (age in the case of Young Professionals and Senior Actives). Their activities are primarily membership development and social in nature. Sections are groups of members united by geography. Sections usually hold meetings during the year in their area or region.

What is a typical meeting like?

Usually, the committee chair will begin a meeting by having all members and visitors introduce themselves and explain their interest in the committee. Then, the meeting schedule follows a typical approach: approving minutes, reviewing old business, conducting new business, election of officers, election of new members, and adjournment. Usually any visitors or guests are elected to membership (if they so desire) for three-year terms - though you might check with the committee or division by-laws for exact rules. If specific business requires, special task forces and groups may be formed- don't be surprised if you are put to work quickly.

Figure 1. Basic Structure of ASABE



COMMUNITIES OF ASABE

NABEC – Northeast Agricultural/Biological Engineering Conference

- Geographically-based community, covers Northeast United States, Eastern Canadian Provinces.
- Dues-paying ASABE members of this region automatically members
- Annual summer conference (July 31-Aug 3, 2006 in Montreal, Quebec)
- Promote the science and art of engineering as it relates to agriculture, biology, and related applications
- Encourage original and applied research
- Foster communications and interaction between agricultural engineers and related biological scientists
- Unite the members in the bonds of friendship, good fellowship, mutual understanding and professionalism
- <http://www.abe.psu.edu/nabec/> for more details

PEI – Professional Engineering Institute

- Licensed engineers and “engineering interns” who pay \$30 annual dues and are ASABE members
- Focus on issues affecting the vitality of the agricultural and biological engineering profession
- Demonstrate how the profession can and does advance the quality of life and general welfare
- Support professional ethics, engineering registration, and professional development activities within ASABE.
- Promote the use of consulting engineers
- Highly involved with the PE exam review and test process
- Contact chair Keith Tinsey at ktinsey@waltherfarms.com for more details

SAC - Senior Actives Community

- ASABE members age 50 or older
- Provide activities for senior members who wish to strike out in new, less technical directions
- Organize and sponsor special sessions at the annual meeting
- Foster fellowship, sharing and learning by senior members
- Tours
- Special Interest Programs
- Continued Education
- Program of Activities at ASABE International Meeting
- For more info, contact James A. DeShazer at jades@uidaho.edu

YPC - Young Professionals Community

- Graduate students and professional members age 35 and younger
- Bring young professionals into ASABE professional membership
- Confront issues facing young professionals and provide necessary training and discussion
- Provide a social body that extends networking opportunities to its members
- Program of Activities at International Meeting
- Social functions throughout the year
- Development of local programs with sections
- For more information, contact chair Audrey Alexander at alexander_audrey_j@cat.com

IPC – International Preprofessional Council

- Undergraduate students who pay national dues
- Gather students with similar professional goals
- Educate about the profession outside of the classroom
- Develop leadership qualities in tomorrow’s professionals
- Involve students in society activities
- Promote fun and excitement in engineering
- Design competitions
- Research presentations
- Scholarships
- National elections
- Program of Activities at International Meeting
- For more information, contact Aaron Flouro at arflouro@wisc.edu

GETTING THE MOST OUT OF YOUR MEETING...

The Annual International Meeting is a GREAT event full of many smaller events. Members of ASABE gather together to learn about the latest technology, offer input into standards that will affect the world, meet new colleagues, and renew old friendships. No matter what your reason is to attend, there is plenty to get out of the annual meeting.

For detailed information about this year's meeting, check the official program you received at registration.

The Welcome Reception

The Welcome Reception is the official opening the annual meeting. It is a great opportunity to meet that first new person or meet up with your old friends.



General Session

The general session starts with an opportunity to hear about some of the latest innovations in industry with the AE50 awards. These Top 50 engineering developments are the most outstanding innovations in product or system technology that have been introduced to the marketplace. In addition to the AE50 awards, a distinguished lecturer will provide the keynote address. This is traditionally an insightful speech about the evolving technologies and their implications for society.

Business Meeting/Member Open Forum

This is the "State of the Union" for our society. All the officers will give their reports as well as the Foundation. It concludes with an Open Member forum and discussion period. This can be a very insightful meeting. Come attend and contribute.

Technical Sessions

There are eight technical divisions:

- Power & Machinery
- Soil & Water
- Information & Electrical Technologies
- Structures & Environment
- Ergonomics, Safety, & Health
- Food & Process Engineering
- Biological Engineering
- Education

Each division invites professionals, researchers, professors, and graduate students to present the latest technology and research that is occurring. This is a great opportunity to gather information and ask questions. Find a topic that interests you and check it out.

ONE IMPORTANT TIP: If there are two topics that interest you being presented at the same time, it is perfectly acceptable to attend one session for a while and WALK OUT and go to the other one and WALK IN.

Committee Meetings

For detailed information about committees, please refer to the committees section of this booklet.

Committees, technical or non-technical, traditionally convene at the annual meeting throughout the week. Most are open to any member that has a technical or personal interest in the committee's area of expertise. Most committee meetings last at least an hour and members discuss current issues and standards.

Continuing Professional Development Sessions

Continuing Professional development sessions provide members at the annual meeting with opportunities to learn a new skill or earn credits towards keeping your Professional Engineers License. The CPDs cover a variety of topics and usually last 4-8 hours.



Social Activities

The Meetings department arranges a variety of social activities for members, spouses, and families throughout the annual meeting. This is a great time to relax with fellow members and meet them on a more personal level. Be sure to take this opportunity to kick back and relax.

ASABE JOB FAIR

The ASABE Job Fair provides an opportunity for employers and potential employees to come together informally to share information. Prospective employees are invited to seek out employers of interest and exchange information.

Networking Opportunities

The Annual Meeting is about meeting new people that have the same background as you. The members come from a wide variety of backgrounds, institutions, and industries. Don't be afraid to introduce yourself to the person you are sitting beside in a presentation or at dinner. A new door may be opened by saying Hello.

Tours

Some of the most fun and educational events are the tours. They are traditionally centered on an industry unique to that part of the country or world. Some can even be hands on.

Evening Activities

Last, but certainly not least are the evening activities. These are up to the attendee. You don't have to look too far to find a group going out for a nice dinner and some live music or dancing or general sightseeing in the host city. The Meetings Council does a great job of selecting cities with a wide variety of activities available. This is also where those new acquaintances turn into life-long friendships. Invite that new person you met out with the group or just hang out in the lobby and the group will find you. Don't stay out too late -- there's a full day of activities in the morning!

MOST IMPORTANTLY

Enjoy the meeting. Meet someone new. Get involved. Come back next year!!

KEYS TO GETTING TO MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

One of the many questions people, especially new professionals, have about attending meetings, is, “How can I afford to pay for it, and how can I convince my supervisor that it is worthwhile?”

A multitude of answers for these types of questions exist, and some have been compiled on the ASABE website. Please check the site below for more information.

http://www.asabe.org/meetings/benefits_and_how-to.html

Some highlights of the information provided on that web page:

Sell the benefits of the meeting.

Sell it to yourself first – What do you expect to learn? What are the opportunities for participation and leadership? How will it benefit you? How will it benefit your company?

If you believe it will benefit you and your company, it should be an easy sell to your supervisor.

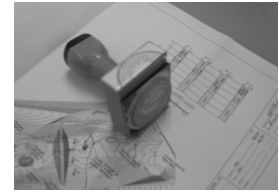
Be willing to pay for part of the expense. Certainly it is much better for you if your company will pay the entire expense, but if the boss tells you it will cost too much, offer to pick up part of the cost – after all, meetings and conferences are opportunities for you to pick up additional personal training, make new contacts, and find other career-enhancing prospects.

Most of all, PLAN AHEAD. ASABE Annual International Meeting sites and times are usually set at least 2 years ahead of time, if not more, and most conferences are set at least 1 year ahead of the actual event.

Planning ahead will allow you to meet deadlines, prepare presentations for contribution (an easy sell to your employer), and will also allow you to find less expensive travel options, hotel rates, and even meeting registration rates.

LICENSURE: THE WHAT, WHY, AND HOW

As members of the Young Professionals Community, we are in the introductory stage of our career during which we establish ourselves as professionals in the field of Agricultural Engineering. We work to gain experience, find new opportunities, and earn credibility and respect. One way to exhibit this commitment to the discipline is to gain licensure in Agricultural Engineering. This is the most advantageous point in our careers to seek licensure. It's not an easy process and a challenge to those that seek it, but the benefits are worth the work! So what are the benefits of licensure?



Why get licensed

Licensure is one way of demonstrating to employers, colleagues, and clients that you have gained experience in the field and the respect of fellow engineers. It shows potential employers and clients that you are serious about your career and what may lie ahead. The passing of an engineering licensure exam demonstrates a minimum level of competence as set forth by exam writers. Every engineer seeking a PE in Agricultural Engineering must demonstrate that 1) they have completed a qualified program of study in an ABET accredited program, 2) have gained the required number of years of experience working under a licensed Agricultural Engineer, and 3) are considered, by their peers, to be satisfactorily prepared to sit for the exam.

Many employers will ask about your registration status – whether you are an EIT or PE. Companies are often willing to offer a higher salary for engineers that have the authority to certify designs. Having a license gives you the opportunity to be the lead engineer on a project with sign-off responsibility. Additionally, a license is something that, once you have it, can be transferred to any of the United States as long as you obey the comity or reciprocity laws set by your State Board.

Agricultural and Biological Engineering is a diverse, unique, and interesting field. As you know, ASABE is an organization made up of competent, skilled, and ethical professional agricultural and biological engineers that find solutions to the problems facing the agricultural industry. Each time you pass your business card along to a client, colleague, or employer, they will read “Registered Agricultural Engineer” and know that you understand the circumstances and challenges facing their operation. The resulting examples of excellent work by ASABE members increases demand for our services and appreciation of our discipline.

How to get licensed

The rules, application information, dates, and details for obtaining your license are available at your state board website at http://www.ncees.org/licensure/licensing_boards/. The Agricultural Engineering exam covers a wide range of agricultural and biological engineering topics outlined in the PE exam specifications at http://www.ncees.org/exams/professional/pe_agricultural_exam_specs.pdf. The next Agricultural Engineering Professional Engineers' (PE) exam will be given October 27, 2006. To sit for the 8-hour Agricultural PE, most States require between 2 and 4 years of post-undergraduate experience after passing the Fundamentals of Engineering (EIT) exam as well as references from 4 or more supervisory engineers.

Support for licensure

The Professional Engineers' Institute (PEI) of ASABE holds an annual exam review at the Annual International Meeting. It is usually held on the Saturday before the meeting. PEI has also been preparing other exam support materials including recommended references, an exam study guide, a sample test, etc. Further details are at <http://www.asabe.org/pei/index.html>.

Responsibilities of licensure

Engineers, in the fulfillment of their professional duties, shall:

1. Hold paramount the safety, health, and welfare of the public.
2. Perform services only in areas of their competence.
3. Issue public statements only in an objective and truthful manner.
4. Act for each employer or client as faithful agents or trustees.
5. Avoid deceptive acts.
6. Conduct themselves honorably, responsibly, ethically, and lawfully so as to enhance the honor, reputation, and usefulness of the profession.

(NSPE, Jan 2006, <http://www.nspe.org/ethics/Code-2006-Jan.pdf>)

ASABE PEER REVIEW PROCESS

ASABE supports three peer reviewed journals – *Transactions of the ASABE*, *Applied Engineering in Agriculture*, and *Journal of Agricultural Safety and Health*. *Transactions* contains detailed research-based technical articles. Papers in *Applied Engineering in Agriculture* focus on engineering applications in the agricultural and bioresource industries. The *Journal of Agricultural Safety and Health* is an interdisciplinary journal designed for the identification and discussion of agricultural safety and health issues. The high quality and merit of papers appearing in these journals is ensured by ASABE’s peer review process.

The Publication Game

The publication process can be thought of as a game (see figure on next page). The players are authors, a division editor, an associate editor, and reviewers. This game is unique in that all the players have a common goal – the publication of a technically correct, defensible paper that adds value to the existing body of literature in agricultural and biological engineering. Although authors may feel vulnerable at times, they can be assured that the peer review process is designed to improve, clarify, and promote their research, not defeat it. And it works!

The final task of most research projects is the development of a manuscript describing the justification, procedure, and results of experiments performed. Authors submit the final version of their manuscript to one of the three ASABE journals via ASABE Manuscript Central (<http://asaejournals.manuscriptcentral.com>). During submission authors choose the technical division by which their manuscript should be reviewed. There are currently six ASABE technical divisions – power and machinery; food and process engineering; structures and environment; soil and water; biological engineering; information and electrical technologies; and ergonomics, safety and health. After the manuscript is successfully uploaded, the ASABE publications staff routes it to the appropriate division editor. The division editor forwards the manuscript to an associate editor who selects at least three anonymous reviewers. With the recent addition of the web-based Manuscript Central, editors and reviewers access the manuscript and submit reviews online.

“the peer review process is designed to improve, clarify, and promote...research”

Reviewers are researchers who have demonstrated knowledge and expertise related to the objective and/or experimental methods employed by the authors in developing the manuscript. They are charged with thoroughly evaluating a manuscript with regard to technical correctness, consistency, review of previous literature, and quality of writing. Their primary objective is to assist the editors by recommending that the manuscript be:

“[Reviewers] are charged with thoroughly evaluating a manuscript with regard to technical correctness, consistency, review of previous literature, and quality of writing”

- ♦ Published as is;
- ♦ Published with minor changes, no re-review necessary;
- ♦ Published after substantial revision and additional review; or
- ♦ Not published in an ASABE journal.

Reviewers may also help authors by correcting grammatical errors, providing suggestions for making figures and tables clearer, and crosschecking references.

ASABE encourages reviewers to complete their evaluation within a month of receiving the manuscript. The reviewers submit their recommendations and comments to the supervising associate editor. The associate editor assesses all of the reviews to make a recommendation to the division editor, who makes the final decision regarding publication of the manuscript. The division editor then contacts the authors with the decision and the reviewers’ comments. The entire review process typically takes about 4 months, not including the author revision time. About 75% of the manuscripts submitted are approved for publication.

Joining the Publication Game

The quality and integrity of *Transactions*, *Applied Engineering in Agriculture*, and the *Journal of Agricultural Safety and Health* is made possible by the authors who submit manuscripts and the volunteers who serve as editors and reviewers. Researchers from all technical backgrounds are needed to keep the publication game active. If you are involved in research you should join the publication game!

As an author....

Please consider taking the time to write up your work and submit it to an ASABE publication. You may have already prepared a presentation for the ASABE annual international meeting. It only takes a little additional time to package your

work as a manuscript to submit to a journal. Publication of your work in a peer-reviewed journal gives you credibility and skills that are essential to your professional development. The required page charges are normally covered by your employer.

As a reviewer...

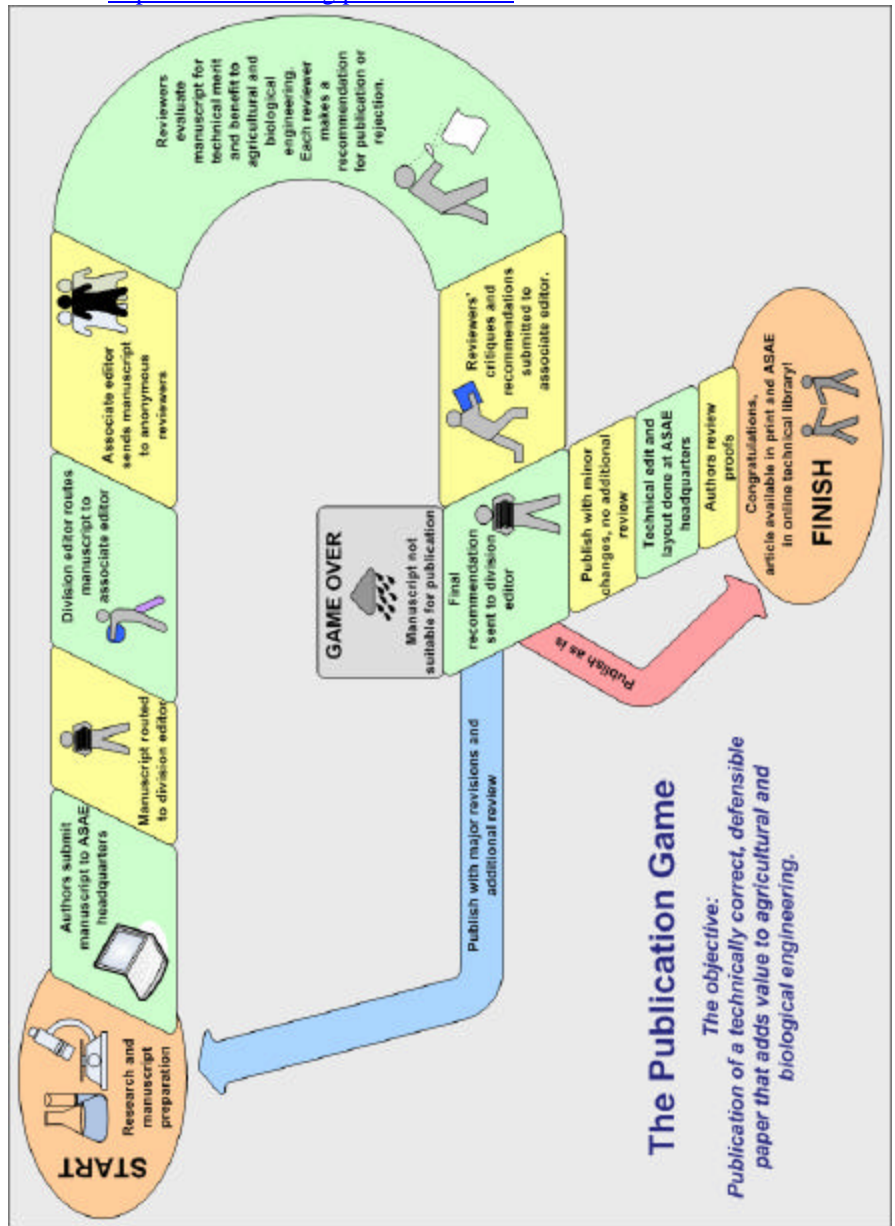
If you've been involved in research and gained expertise in an area of agricultural and biological engineering, your skills are needed. Consider offering your keen eye and analytical mind to serve as a reviewer for ASABE's journals. As a volunteer, you are under no obligation as you will always have the option to decline any review requests. Reviewing the work of others in your field will also benefit your own research by keeping you updated on state-of-the-art research.

For more information and to volunteer as a reviewer, contact:

Donna Hull, Director of Publications

hull@asabe.org, 269-428-6326

Also see <http://www.asabe.org/pubs/index.html>



NOTES

ASABE CONTACTS

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NEW MEETING CONTACTS

Name _____ Company/University _____ Hotel&Room # _____

This booklet was put together by the YPC, which consists of ASABE members who are graduate students or corporate members (i.e. not preprofessional/student members) who are less than 34 years of age at the time of the ASABE Annual International Meeting.

The YPC helps current and future ASABE members get involved by providing professional networking opportunities, Continued Professional Development (CPD) sessions, social interaction, discussion of topics important to young engineers, and much more!

Special thanks goes to the following persons for helping compile the information for this booklet:

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Chad Yagow
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...and to the ASABE Membership Development Council and Professional Engineers Institute for funding various YPC activities.