

BURTON C. ENGLISH, 2021 LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNER



A pioneering and influential scholar, Burton C. English has made exceptional contributions to the agricultural economics profession. His professional record has been characterized as aspirational in terms of research output, training, teaching, mentoring and outreach. His research scope is broad, including topics such as soil conservation, GIS-based spatial modeling, bioenergy research and more. English also analyzes and reports the economic impacts of a wide range of agricultural and natural resource policies and programs and is often invited to present these findings to congressional committees and state and federal government agencies.

English earned a BS in forestry (74) and a PhD (81) in agricultural economics from Iowa State University. In between, he earned an MS (76) from New Mexico State University. After his PhD, he went on to work as a faculty member at Iowa State's Center for Agricultural and Rural Development. He then joined the University of Tennessee's Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics in 1986, where he has served for the past 34 years, earning the designation of Institute Professor, the highest faculty honor bestowed.

Early in his career, English focused on the conservation of resources and related impacts on production and productivity. He was one of the first scientists to use crop simulators to estimate the economic impacts of a decline in productivity associated with soil erosion. Highlights of this work includes estimating the cost of the Conservation Reserve Program for NRCS that was within a couple million dollars of what it actually cost; providing national information on agriculture for the Resource Conservation Act analysis; and evaluating conservation compliance, identifying ways for producers to significantly reduce erosion at a lower cost. For this research, he received a Certificate of Appreciation from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

He was also one of the first scientists to analyze the economics of bioenergy production, publishing a ground-breaking article on bioenergy in the *American Journal of Agricultural Economics* in 1981 and earnestly researching energy feedstock production issues in the early to mid-1990s. He remains extremely active and influential in this line of research, as evidenced by his extensive influence on and involvement with the Southeastern Partnership for Integrated Biomass Supply Systems and DOE's billion-ton reports. English is a pioneer in the field of bioenergy research and is recognized internationally as an expert, garnering him numerous awards including a Certificate of Merit from the U.S. Department of Energy.

With four decades of bioenergy research under his belt, his current focus is on the development of sustainable aviation fuel and the feedstocks required to produce this fuel in the Southeast, a potential game changer for rural farming communities. English and a team of researchers are currently analyzing three different supply chains including a supply chain with the objective of supplying 40% of renewable aviation fuel for the Nashville International Airport, a supply chain that uses pine residues, and a supply chain focused on Central Appalachia that uses hardwood forest residues. This research has the potential not only to boost the state and region's economy, but it also has national and worldwide implications with regard to developing a sustainable agricultural solution that could ultimately reduce greenhouse gas emissions. He recently delivered a report to USDA that outlined methods to incentivize the development of the bioenergy industry.

English is a founding member of both the Agri-Industry Modeling and Analysis Group (AIM-AG) and the Biobased Energy Analysis Group (BEAG). AIM-AG's mission is to assess and project the impacts of agri-industry development on the Tennessee economy, while the mission of BEAG is to provide decision makers in government and industry with up-to-date economic and environmental analyses of the biobased industry at the firm, state, regional and national levels.

His research has attracted more than \$32 million in external funding. He has contributed to 140 journal articles, 20 book chapters, seven books, 223 abstracts or proceedings and 282 bulletins or reports.

English also has an extensive record of collaboration with both students and researchers across a wide variety of disciplines and institutions. He has worked with multiple DOE laboratories and universities; attracted significant industry, state and federal funding; and built solid working relationships with industry. A beloved graduate student advisor, he has taught many undergraduate and graduate courses, consistently receiving high teaching evaluations. He has twice received the Neal and Trice Peacock Teaching/Learning Merit Certificate.

Other awards include the UT Chancellor's Award for Research; the UT AgResearch Impact Award; UTIA Research Team Award; Gamma Sigma Delta Research Team Award; Success in Multidisciplinary Research Award; Dutch and Marilee Cavendar Award for Best Research Publication; and the Delta Sigma Delta Research Award.