



Dave Bjorneberg, PE, supervisory research agricultural engineer, USDA Agricultural Research Service, is being honored for his work developing management practices that reduce erosion and nutrient losses from irrigated lands.

Bjorneberg is a supervisory research agricultural engineer and research leader at the Northwest Irrigation and Soils Research Laboratory with the USDA Agricultural Research Service in Kimberly, Idaho. In this role, Bjorneberg is responsible for planning and directing long-range research programs, maintaining and enhancing the creativity of the research unit, and managing human, fiscal, and physical resources at the laboratory. He leads a team of ten researcher scientists to develop practices and technologies that address production and environmental problems associated with irrigated crop and dairy production and enhancement of sugar beet quality and disease resistance.

Bjorneberg's research career has focused on solving soil and water resource problems associated with irrigated crop and dairy production. He led research studying furrow irrigation erosion processes and evaluated practices to reduce soil loss from furrow irrigated fields. Expanding these studies to include phosphorus transport demonstrated the importance of sediment detachment on soluble phosphorus concentrations in furrow irrigation runoff. Bjorneberg is leading the Upper Snake-Rock Conservation Effects Assessment Project that involves monitoring a highly managed watershed that is irrigated with surface water diverted from the Snake River. Monitoring results show that conservation practices have reduced soil loss within the watershed so that more sediment enters the project with irrigation water than leaves with irrigation return flow. Water use efficiency overall has not increased as farms have continued to convert from furrow to sprinkler irrigation.

A 29-year member of ASABE, Bjorneberg served as a committee member of NRES-05 publications review committee, the ADS/Hancor Soil and Water award committee, and M-102 Awards Oversight committee. Bjorneberg is also a member of the University of Idaho College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Dean Advisory Board.

Bjorneberg is author or coauthor of more than 170 peer-reviewed articles, book chapters, and conference proceeding papers. Bjorneberg has received a number of awards including the ASABE Conference Chair Recognition for his work organizing the 5th National Decennial Irrigation Conference in 2011. He has received a number of ASABE Superior Paper awards and was named Engineer of the Year for the ASABE Pacific Northwest Region. He is also the 2023 recipient of the ASABE Award for the Advancement of Surface Irrigation.