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The Institution of Agricultural Engineers (IAgrE) honours members at awards ceremony

Three IAgrE members, who are experts in their own field, have received awards for their outstanding contribution to the land-based sector at a ceremony held at the Claas UK headquarters in Little Saxham, Suffolk.

Professor Jane Rickson was made an Honorary Fellow of IAgrE for her work which focuses on understanding soil functions and their role in the delivery of ecosystems goods and services, including water regulation, agricultural production and carbon storage.

Professor Rickson was President of the Institution from 2018 to 2020, which coincided with an important government focus on reform of agricultural policy with the concept of farm subsidies being linked to 'public good.'

"Jane has been committed to supporting IAgrE in its work to promote the wider agricultural engineering discipline, as it relates to food security. Her passion for the topic was undoubtedly influential in shaping government thinking and public awareness of soil and the need for protection," said Charlie Nicklin CEO of IAgrE.

Dr David Lewellyn who is a Fellow of IAgrE received an award for his contribution to the land-based sector. "Dr Llewellyn has made a huge contribution to work in the land-based sector, which was recognised when it was announced in the 2022 New Year Honours list that he was to be made a Commander of the Order of the British Empire for his service to higher education, agriculture and rural industries," said Mr Nicklin. "During his leadership Harper Adams University has become regarded in the UK as the leading provider of higher education for the land-based sector," Charlie added.

Director of Tillett and Hague Technology Ltd, Dr Nick Tillett received an Award of Merit for his work relating to in-field guidance and the control of systems for plant scale husbandry.

Dr Tillett joined Silsoe Research Institute as a research engineer in 1984 where he worked on a range of projects including those concerned with robotic milking and the automated harvesting of cauliflowers. Following the closure of Silsoe Research he formed Tillett and iagre.org

Hague Technology with Tony Hague in 2005 to continue the successful line of research using computer vision to guide field machinery. Their idea of using a synchronised rotating blade in regularly spaced crops to remove weeds between crop plants in the row was developed collaboratively and the first commercial in-row weeding machines were sold in 2008.

The awards were made by the new President of IAgrE Steve Constable, who is the Managing Director of Spaldings Limited.

Ends

Note to Editors:

Other award winners were:

James Shaw (MEng) from Harper Adams University was awarded the IAgrE CNH Industrial Award for his final project “An investigation into the geometric properties of Anaerobic Digestion plant digestate pellets to be used within commercial agricultural distribution methods as a biodegradable natural fertiliser.” He received his award from Mark Barnes, Manager of Product Support and Technical Training for CNH Industrial UK and Ireland.

The IAgrE CNH Postgraduate Award went to Diego Corona Lopez, University of Manchester - for his PhD thesis “Electrical Impedance Tomography for Root System Analysis.”

The IAgrE Safety Award - This award has been established to encourage and recognise innovation in safe design or operation of equipment or processes by students studying agricultural engineering or subjects related to the application of engineering and technology to the land-based sector.

William Campbell CEng MIAgrE received this accolade for his Master's thesis “Development of a forward collision avoidance perception module for an autonomous agricultural ground vehicle.”

The President's Award given to a mid-career engineer who has made outstanding progress in the agricultural engineering industry was awarded to Daniel Hefft CEng MIAgrE - for his passion and enthusiasm in promoting food engineering as a key component of agricultural engineering.

IAgrE:

IAgrE is the professional body for scientists, technologists, engineers, academics, managers and students working in the land-based sector and has an international membership base.

As a licensed body of the Engineering Council (EngC) and a founding Constituent Body of The Society for the Environment (SocEnv), IAgrE registers suitably experienced professionals as Chartered Engineers, Chartered Environmentalists, Incorporated Engineers and Engineering Technicians.

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IAgrE is a Licensed Body of the Engineering Council and a founding constituent body of the Society for the Environment Company No: 648041 Charity No: 257303

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