

ASA President’s Message

Spring: Time to Put Our Plans into Action

Spring is my favorite season. I love seeing the first crocus emerging from the ground, followed closely behind by daffodils and tulips! This is such a hopeful season, a time of anticipation for what the new growing season will bring. In my experience, farmers are an optimistic bunch. No matter what last year held—from droughts to floods or late frosts to hail—farmers hope for a better year every spring.

For agronomists, spring signals that it’s time to get back to work! It’s time to prepare the land, plant the varieties we selected over winter, and prime the irrigation system. It’s time to put our plans into action, whether it’s to try a new crop or a new management practice or to carry out the new ASA Strategic Plan. One of the goals of our Strategic Plan is to “promote the full utilization of science-based agronomic knowledge in modern, sustainable agricultural systems and policy development.” In agronomy, we don’t just do science because it’s interesting. We aim to disseminate the new knowledge that we gain through research and apply it to solving real-world challenges in the field.

How can we achieve this end? Our Community structure was developed on Communities and the members up to move us forward in educational materials for dissemination to our audiences. Our audiences include students, practicing K-12 teachers, and policymakers. Please take a moment to think about the work you do and whether there are communication gaps that need to be bridged in order to latest agronomy to work addressing the critical issues of our time. Then discuss these ideas within your Communities and let’s make plans to move your ideas forward. If you are not a Community member, take a look (www.agronomy.org/account/communities/asa) and see if there is a Community for you.

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