

Jim Perdue Chairman



We Believe In Responsible Food and Agriculture®

Jim Perdue grew up watching his father and grandfather transform a small family poultry farm on Maryland's Eastern Shore into one of America's most trusted names in food. From those early days, he learned that hard work, integrity, and care—for people, animals, and the planet—were not just the foundations of success but the heart of Perdue's purpose: that when we care for one another and the world around us, we build something that lasts—raising not only better food, but a better future. Today, as Chairman of Perdue Farms, Jim continues to honor that legacy, guided by the belief that doing what's right will always lead to doing well.

The third generation of family leadership in the more than 100-year-old company, Jim joined Perdue in 1983, starting as a flock advisor and later serving in plant management and quality improvement before becoming Vice President of Quality Improvement. Those early, hands-on experiences shaped a leadership style defined by curiosity, humility, and respect for the people behind every product.

Under Jim's leadership, Perdue has grown from a regional poultry producer into a nationwide food and agriculture company—expanding into turkey, pork, beef, and lamb while staying true to its roots in quality and stewardship. At the same time, Perdue AgriBusiness evolved from a local grain operation into one of the top U.S. exporters of grain and oilseeds, strengthening rural economies and connecting farmers to global opportunities.

As the company expanded, Jim remained focused on aligning growth with values. The additions of Coleman Natural in 2011 and Niman Ranch in 2015 reflected his conviction that great food starts with great responsibility—to animals, farmers, and consumers alike. Both brought together like-minded partners who shared Perdue's dedication to responsible agriculture, animal care, and environmental stewardship—creating a stronger, more sustainable foundation for future generations.





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Known for pairing innovation with compassion, Jim has set new standards for responsible food production. In 2016, he led Perdue to become the first major poultry company to produce all its branded chicken with No-Antibiotics-Ever protocols, setting a new benchmark for food safety, animal welfare, and consumer trust. That same year, he introduced Perdue's Commitments to Animal Care—an enduring model for transparency, welfare, and continuous improvement across the industry.

Jim's leadership—rooted in respect for people, animals, and community—has earned recognition across the food and agriculture industries. His belief that doing right by others leads to lasting success has guided decades of investment in associate safety, health, and development programs at Perdue Farms. He and his wife, Jan, are also active community stewards, supporting local organizations that strengthen the places where Perdue associates live and work. In recognition of his impact, Jim has received honors including the Meatingplace Richard L. Knowlton Innovation Award (2016) and the National Protein and Food Distributors Association (NPFDA) Lifetime Achievement Award (2024).

A lifelong learner, Jim's academic journey mirrors the curiosity and care he brings to leadership. He holds degrees in biology (B.S., Wake Forest University) and marine biology (M.S., University of Massachusetts Dartmouth) as well as an MBA from Salisbury University and a Ph.D., in fisheries from the University of Washington—a reflection of his enduring interest in the ecosystems that connect science, people, and food. He also serves on the Board of Directors for Handy Seafood, a Maryland-based company.