



2024 Honoree Jim Pullins

Born and raised in Berea, Kentucky, Jim Pullins grew up on a small livestock farm, heavily influenced by the farming community around him. His early responsibilities and guidance from neighbors gave him a deep appreciation for agriculture.

Initially studying veterinary medicine at Eastern Kentucky University, Jim switched to agribusiness for a more sustainable career. This change led him to Monsanto, where he started his career in agriculture in Southeast Ohio in 1981.

Jim held various influential roles throughout his career. Starting as an Account Manager at Monsanto, he moved up to District Sales Manager for Monsanto's Dekalb/Asgrow division and later became Account Manager and Marketing Manager for Seed Treatments at Verdesian. His notable contributions include developing fall Roundup applications for winter weed control and inventing FlexConnect, a patented sterile closed-loop system for inoculants.

Jim's extensive involvement with the Ohio AgriBusiness Association includes serving on the Summer Seminar Committee in the 1980s and 1990s, being a member of what was previously known as the Seed Committee, and significantly contributing to the Golf for Scholarships Committee. As Chair of the Educational Trust Committee, he played a key role in restructuring investments to ensure steady and increased scholarship funds, showing his commitment to helping future agricultural professionals.



Reflecting on his career, Jim values the relationships and mutual gains the most. His work with Dr. Pat Whittington to secure financial aid for students entering the agricultural industry was especially rewarding. The connections and collaborations through OABA have been instrumental in his career, providing valuable networking and professional development opportunities.

Known for his persistence, Jim often says, "I'm not pretty, but I'm persistent," reflecting his determination and commitment. His hope for the future of agribusiness in Ohio is to raise awareness about the importance of farms and farm businesses, especially with the challenges of development and competition for land.

As the 2024 Ohio AgriBusiness Association Educational Trust Honoree, Jim Pullins' story is one of dedication, innovation and unwavering commitment to the agricultural community. His contributions continue to have a lasting impact on the future of agribusiness in Ohio.

For more than 50 years, the OABA Educational Trust

has provided scholarships annually to students enrolled in an agriculture-related field attending The Ohio State University and OSU Agricultural Technical Institute, Central State University, Clark State College and Wilmington College.