DONALD G. COTNER ‘71

Biographical Sketch

Donald G. Cotner is an officer of Cotner Farms, Inc., an egg production, packaging and marketing enterprise which distributes eggs throughout the northeastern United States. He is a general partner of Don Cotner Farms LP, which raises corn and soybeans and manufactures feed for the production flocks. He is also a partner in Boyd Station, LLC, a transload facility of feed commodities and a producer of soybean meal and soybean oil for marketing and distribution throughout Pennsylvania.

Don, a graduate of Penn State with a degree in education, has contributed to the community and state through positions on planning commission, Land Preservation Board, local school board and currently is on the Board of Trustees of Penn State University. He is also on the board of directors of AgChoice Farm Credit. He has contributed time and resources toward continued education including sponsoring of several scholarships, serving on the local Foundation Board and the Mount Nittany Society of Penn State.

Position Statement

It is critical that an active, knowledgeable, engaged person who has run several successful businesses be represented on the Board of Trustees. I believe in the land grant mission of Penn State and the resulting success in research and entrepreneurial skill-sets of its students. A combination of strategic business planning by the University and demonstrating value to state legislators is needed to balance income and expenses and deliver that affordable, high quality education to our children and grandchildren.

I also believe that the highest priority continues to be a culture of transparency at Penn State.

I believe the set of business and leadership skills that I have developed over my years in business, together with my passion for Penn State University for what it is and what it delivers, qualify me to continue serving on the Board of Trustees of Penn State University.
CHRIS HOFFMAN

Biographical Sketch

Chris Hoffman owns and operates Lazy Hog Farms, a 1,400 sow farrow to wean, 4,800-head nursery barn and 4,400-head finishing barn located in Juniata County, Pennsylvania. He also owns and operates Lazy Chick Farms, raising 250,000 chickens annually.

Hoffman was selected to serve on Pennsylvania Farm Bureau’s State Board of Directors in 2006, and was selected to serve on the board’s Executive Committee in 2008. He also serves on the Board of Directors for the Pennsylvania Friends of Agriculture Foundation, a charitable organization supported by Pennsylvania Farm Bureau.

He was chosen to serve as Pennsylvania Farm Bureau's Vice President in 2014. In 2013, Hoffman was selected to lead a new committee within Pennsylvania Farm Bureau—the Agriculture Promotion Committee—which encourages local programs that engage consumers with agriculture, and also raises money for the Pennsylvania Friends of Agriculture Foundation.

He was appointed to chair the American Farm Bureau Federation Promotion & Education Committee in 2014. In 2015, he was elected by the state’s agricultural societies to the Board of Trustees at Penn State, the Commonwealth’s land grant university.

Hoffman has a long history of leadership at the county level, having served as vice president and president of Juniata County Farm Bureau.

He previously chaired Pennsylvania's Nutrient Management Advisory Board, and is a member of the Pennsylvania Pork Producers Council, PennAg Industries Association and Fayette Township Fire Co.

Hoffman graduated from Middleburg High School. He and his wife, Selina, have four children and two grandchildren.

Position Statement

Three years ago, I set several goals for my tenure as a Trustee. I have been actively working toward these objectives - and others - and believe there’s still more to do in each of these areas:

• Keeping tuition affordable,
• Supporting smart growth in the College of Agricultural Sciences,
• Boosting state revenues for research and Extension, and
• Increasing awareness about how Penn State impacts the everyday lives of citizens across the state - and beyond.

I have also been working with other Trustees to ensure a positive educational experience for our students and still meet the needs of the communities throughout the commonwealth. I have been collaborating with fellow Trustees on projects like getting agriculture in the hands of all students through academic credits and building support to get more dollars into the College of Agriculture - which is necessary to update our facilities so we can attract more top-notch faculty and students.

I have been building positive relationships with lawmakers to ensure the public investment in a quality Penn State education does not diminish and that the University remains a good steward of public dollars. And I have long been focused on representing the agriculture community in a manner that acknowledges the high level of professionalism and technical skill it takes to grow food, fuel, and fiber in today’s marketplace.

I am excited about the future of Penn State. And because of our dedicated faculty, staff, and student body…I truly believe our best days are ahead of us.