

Donald Cairns

Biographical Sketch

Don Cairns owns and operates Cairns Family Farm, a first generation, 1600-acre crop farming operation in Chester County, PA. He also spent the past 35 years as a professional risk management consultant, developing complex risk management and insurance programs for large businesses and government agencies.

“Stewardship Matters” is the Cairns Family Farm slogan, with a deep commitment to conservation, including no-till and cover crops. Don was recognized as Chester County Farmer of the Year in 2017, Mid-Atlantic Master Farmer in 2022, and was nominated for the Leopold Conservation Award by the Chester County Conservation District.

Cairns has grown their farm operation into a thriving enterprise while still dedicating significant effort towards agricultural and community service. This includes being a Board Member of the Chester County 4-H Center, Inc. for 34 years, including 9 years as Chairman. He has also coached the 4-H Livestock Judging Team for 15 years.

Cairns also serves as Vice Chairman of the Chester County Agricultural Land Preservation Board, and has assisted many local farm families enrolling in farmland preservation.

Other agricultural service areas include: Farm Bureau Legislative Committee, USDA Farm Service Agency County Committee member, Villages in Partnership Advisory Board, as well as many local and regional ag promotional activities.

Community involvement includes serving as school board chairman, church Board of Trustees and Elders, overseas mission work, among many others.

Cairns is a 1988 graduate of Penn State, and holds several professional designations in the risk management field. He and Kelly have been married for 30 years and have a daughter (PSU '20) and a son (PSU '23).

Position Statement

Elevating Penn State to the highest level of effectiveness is my mission. Active and involved board members are essential to moving this great institution forward. I pledge to give 100% effort to positively impact Penn State in ways that will:

- Promote agriculture as our most important industry - keeping agricultural research, education, and outreach at the forefront of Penn State's mission.
- Promote excellence, efficiency, accessibility, and affordability across all Penn State programs, for the benefit of all Pennsylvanians.

I will use my visionary outlook and business skills to help Penn State thrive and fulfill our Land Grant Mission in the years ahead. I will also promote close connections between the Penn State research agenda and our ag community's needs.

I am a steadfast promoter of agriculture and ag education and will be a strong voice for all stakeholders. Penn State has been instrumental in shaping who I am, and I consider it a great privilege to advocate for our dynamic agricultural community on the Board of Trustees.

Chris R. Hoffman

Owner of Lazy Hog Farm and Lazy Chick Farm

Biographical Sketch

Chris Hoffman has spent his whole career working in agriculture. Chris started his career in ag working for a feed mill, while planning to go in a different career path. After a few years of managing pigs for others, Chris became a first-generation farmer in 1994 when he purchased his first sow farm located in McAlisterville, PA. Since then, the farm has quadrupled in size. Although, during one of his first few farm expansions, he met opposition to the growth and quickly learned that the public needed agricultural education. Over the next 30 years, Chris worked on various boards and committees in pursuit of telling the story of agriculture. Most notably, Chris has been heavily involved with both American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) and Pennsylvania Farm Bureau (PFB). He held many positions throughout the years with his county Farm Bureau, before being elected to the state board in 2006. Since his election to the state board, he served as Vice President for eight years, and then was elected in 2022 as President. As PFB's President and an AFBF Board Member, Chris' passion in his leadership roles has been connecting consumers to the farmer to promote agriculture, especially to the next generation. AFBF saw Chris' desire to grow agricultural education opportunities when they selected him to create a new national committee – the "Promotion and Education Committee". Besides Chris' involvement with Farm Bureau, one his most proud and significant accomplishments was being elected to the Penn State Board of Trustees, in 2015, by the Agriculture Society of PA. He has been humbled and honored to represent the hardworking agriculture community at the Commonwealth's only state land grant university.

Position Statement:

It is hard to believe that nine years have passed since first being elected to the PSU Board of Trustees. I have seen many positive changes and look forward to seeing the institution grow and prosper for the future Nittany Lions.

The most important job the Board of Trustees has is to keep the land grant mission at the forefront of decisions. As a land grant, its job is to be a leader in education and research, not only in the United States but globally. Food security can only be achieved if we use science, technology, research, and innovation. The world class research that is conducted on all our campuses gives us the ability to create new technology to drive our success into the future. Since agriculture is the number one industry in Pennsylvania, this commitment cannot waiver.

The second focus must be on our students and making sure they receive a first-class education and a well-rounded experience. A first-class education means state of the art learning facilities with dedicated faculty and a commitment from the beginning to prepare them to be competitive upon graduation. The commitment to these students does not stop at graduation. PSU needs to continue to remain connected with our alumni to make sure their alma mater provides them with the promised and necessary resources to flourish in their careers.

I appreciate the opportunity to serve this university with my fellow trustees as we work together to create an exceptional experience and opportunity for PSU's current and prospective students along with alumni. WE ARE!