

James A. Perdue

Jim Perdue grew up in the family poultry business, but left after high school to go to college. He received his undergraduate degree from Wake Forest University, a Master's degree in marine biology from the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth, and a doctorate in fisheries from the University of Washington in Seattle. In 1983, he returned to the family business as an entry-level plant management trainee at the company's Salisbury processing plant. Over the next eight years, Mr. Perdue worked in various plant management jobs and was then named vice president of quality improvement. He also earned an MBA from Salisbury State University.

In 1991, he was named Chairman of the Board of Directors, becoming the third-generation Perdue to lead the company. He also followed his father as the company's chief spokesperson, appearing in Perdue's highly acclaimed TV, print and radio ads. As Chairman of the Board of Directors of Perdue Farms, Mr. Perdue heads the company's executive team and is responsible for developing the company's vision and growth strategies. Perdue Farms is the third largest poultry company and the #1 brand of fresh chicken in the Eastern United States.