

# FLORIDA AGRICULTURAL HALL OF FAME

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA PRESIDENTIAL BRIEFING PREPARED FOR: PRESIDENT KENT FUCHS



## FLORIDA AGRICULTURAL HALL OF FAME

February 10th, 2015  
Florida State Fairgrounds

Reception: 5:30 pm  
Dinner at 7:00 pm



The Florida Agricultural Hall of Fame began in 1980 as a way to honor men and women who have made lasting contributions to agriculture in the state and to the mentoring of youth, who represent the future of Florida agriculture. Since 1980, 144 inductees have been honored. The event is one of the largest annual gatherings of stakeholders connected to Florida's agricultural industry. Typically, more than 500 individuals attend this dinner event. This event attracts many major players in Florida agriculture because it cuts across all agricultural sectors. With more than 300 commodities in the state, the Florida Ag Hall of Fame attracts stakeholders from every walk of life within the agriculture and natural resource sectors.

In addition to honoring the inductees, the Florida Ag Hall of Fame boasts a strong youth program component. Sponsors support a meal for a student at each table and provide student scholarships to encourage pursuit of higher education.



### Adam Putnam

- 2<sup>nd</sup>-term Florida Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services.
- UF graduate, College of Agricultural and Life Sciences class of 1995.
- Mr. Putnam is a strong advocate for UF/IFAS and the state 4-H program administered by UF.
- His family is involved in citrus and cattle production.



### Dennis Wedgworth

- UF MBA graduate, class of 1977.
- The UF/IFAS Wedgworth Leadership Institute for Agricultural and Natural Resources (WLIANR) is named for Dennis' father, George Wedgworth.
- Wedgworth Farms owns 20,000 acres of farm and ranch land. Approximately 10,000 acres are in sugarcane.
- Owns largest blended fertilizer company in Florida – annual revenues of approximately \$20M.



### Ben Hill Griffin III

- Ben Hill's father, Ben Hill Griffin Jr. made the lead gift to name the UF football stadium.
- Owns citrus and cattle company with 10,000 acres of citrus groves and 85,000 acres of ranch and timberland in Central Florida. Also owns successful fertilizer company.
- Donated almost 1,000 acres to establish Florida Gulf Coast University with an estimated value of more than \$50 million.



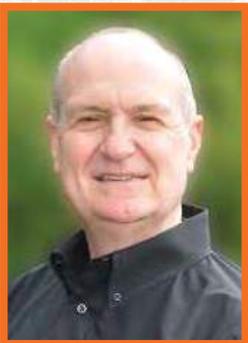
## Mike Stuart

- President of Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association (350 members).
- Serves on the Ag Policy Advisory Committee for Trade, a private-sector group that advises the Secretary of Agriculture and the U.S. Trade Representative.
- 180,000 acres of fresh vegetables harvested each year with sales exceeding \$1.1 billion.



## Jim Handley

- Executive Director of Florida Cattlemen's Association (4,200 member families).
- Florida cattlemen own more than 1 million cattle.
- Florida's beef cattle herd is valued in excess of \$1 billion.
- Beef cattle/ breeding stock sales generate a total economic impact of over \$900 million annually.



## Mike Sparks

- CEO of Florida Citrus Mutual.
- Florida produces approximately 65% of the total U.S. citrus production.
- Total impact on Florida's economy is \$9 billion.
- Major challenge facing industry is citrus greening.
- More than \$4 billion in revenue lost since 2005.
- More than 6,000 jobs lost due to greening.



## John Hoblick

- President of Florida Farm Bureau Federation.
- Largest agricultural member organization in Florida (147,000 members).
- Strong advocate for UF/IFAS in the state legislature.



## Ben Bolusky

- CEO of Florida Nursery, Growers and Landscape Association.
- FNGLA has donated more than \$2M to UF/IFAS.
- The Florida environmental horticulture industry has an estimated \$15.2 billion in industry-wide sales annually.