

TRANSCRIPT: JIMMY WRIGHT INTERVIEW

Jimmy Wright · President and CEO of Texas AgFinance

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Interview with Mr. Jimmy Wright, President and CEO – Texas AgFinance. Wright is a 1972 graduate from Texas A&M and an inducted member of the Tyrus R. Timm Honor Registry.

This video was posted February 23, 2011 on the Tyrus R. Timm Registry YouTube Channel.

Could you please introduce yourself and tell us about your career?

My name is Jimmy Wright I graduated from Texas A&M in 1972 with a bachelors in Agricultural Economics. Upon graduation I was interviewed by the Farm Credit Bank of Texas, I was subsequently employed by the bank to enter into their training program. Once I completed the training program at the Farm Credit Bank, I was then hired by one of the farm credit institutions and over the years I have had various positions in different organizations in the farm credit system and I am currently with Texas AgFinance and I am the President and Chief Executive Officer.

Why did you choose to study Agricultural Economics?

Well accounting and agriculture were always interesting to me, having a farm and ranch background as a young man growing up agriculture was in my blood as well. So when I went to A&M, I obviously looked at different types of curriculums and Agricultural Economics had quite a diverse as far as things I could study under that degree plan. So that's why I chose to go into Agricultural Economics.

What activities at A&M most influenced your career?

Well actually I didn't do a lot of things at A&M, primarily because I worked my way through college. I had a part time job on the poultry farm at A&M and that's what I spent most of my spare time doing was working to help pay for my way through college.

What experiences influenced you in your life the most?

Well I think a lot of experiences that I had in life working with different individuals in agriculture, I think all those experiences were good for me. You know I think having to work your way through college was very good, certainly gave me an appreciation for that education, and you meet a lot of individuals as you go through life and in all those different experiences were good.

What are your thoughts on being selected to the Tyrus R Timm Honor Registry?

Well it was a very humbling, and obviously a real honor to be inducted into the registry. There— Dr. Timm obviously had a major impact while he was at A&M, set a high standard for a lot of people and there's obviously a lot of participants or recipients in the registry I should say, and those individuals come from a lot of different backgrounds and have a lot of different career paths and have been very successful and it's just a real honor for me to be a recipient as well.

Would you comment on your continuing efforts to support the Department of Agricultural Economics?

We have tried to continue to support the Ag Economics department, college of Agriculture Development council is something that we have supported. We've also been involved with the Ag Eco department in the fall kickoff, the spring banquet, and then I have a number of employees that collaborate with the department in rural entrepreneurship. They offer advice and support to those students in that class as well.

How have you managed to balance time for family, work, and other commitments?

It's a real challenge to balance one's work, and his family activities, and his other civic duties and I don't know that its ever very easy but I think a person just needs to realize and recognize the importance of that balance. And I'll be the first to admit that over my career, there have been times when it has been out of balance. The advice I give someone is that you want to go into it with the thought that there needs to be a balance and that you want to enjoy each aspect of your life. You want to enjoy the business that you're involved in, you want to be involved in a career where you have a smile on your face when you go to work, but at the same time you need to understand your responsibilities to your family and you want to enjoy that family life and be able to separate the two so you have a well-rounded and enjoyable life.

What advice do you have for a student unsure of career decisions?

Well again I think I'd have to admit that when I went to Texas A&M I wasn't really sure what my career was ultimately going to be. But I would offer the advice to students to apply themselves, to seek the advice and council of other folks, not only the staff members at A&M but other professionals and to get some guidance and insight into their careers to see if that's something that's interesting to you. Nowadays at A&M education is very expensive, you can't spend a lot of time wasting your time doing it so you need to apply yourself, work hard, develop a good work ethic and of course always keep integrity as one of the main issues.

Is there anything you would like to tell viewers?

The only thing I'd like to say is the fact that Texas A&M was a real experience for me, an enjoyable one and students that go to Texas A&M I think they can find that it's a place that they can actually enjoy getting an education, enjoy life, but also A&M teaches a lot of good things like work ethics, how to work hard, how to develop an individual where they are well rounded and ready for the real world when they graduate.

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