

2022 Inductee



John L. Hundley

John L. Hundley always knew he wanted to be a farmer. For more than five decades, he has been an active part of Florida's agricultural community, leading with great humility and devoting much of his time and talents through civic and industry engagement. All the while, he mentored countless individuals along the way.

A native of Pahokee and graduate of the University of Florida, he worked on his father's farm before founding Hundley Farms, Inc., with his wife Patsy in 1969, using only the title of Patsy's Ford Fairlane 500 as security. The enterprise began on 400 acres of leased land, growing sweet corn and radishes. Today, the operation consists of approximately 20,000 acres in Florida and Georgia, where they grow sugar cane, sweet corn, green beans, radishes, cabbage, field corn, rice, cattle, cotton, peanuts, and assorted winter produce. The Hundley Farms team now includes their son, John Scott Hundley, and their daughter and son-in-law, Krista and Eric Hopkins. Also active in the family owned and operated business is the next generation, which includes grandson Cooper and granddaughter Caroline.

A founding member of the Sugar Cane Growers Cooperative of Florida, Hundley has been on its board of directors for more than 35 years and served as its chair of the board for seven years. He was only the second chair to serve in the Cooperative's 60-year history. Under his leadership, the Cooperative developed Tellus Products, LLC, an innovative, sustainable packaging company that upcycles sugar cane byproduct.

With a commitment to leadership and as a driving force within the industry, he has served on the governing board of the South Florida Water Management District and as chair of the Pioneer Growers Cooperative. He has also been active in numerous other groups, including the Florida Sugar & Molasses Exchange, Sweet Corn Growers Exchange, Tellus Products, Farm Credit, Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association and Florida Farm Bureau.

Among his many accomplishments, Hundley is credited with strengthening the unity of those farming within the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA).

Hundley has previously been named the Swisher Sweets Florida Farmer of the Year, the Palm Beach County Farm Bureau EAA Farm Family of the Year, the Florida Growers Association Grower of the Year and the Chamber of Commerce of the Palm Beaches Leader of the Year.

Admired by many, Hundley's life work in agriculture has built an organization known as much for its focus on innovation, precision agriculture, and conservation and sustainability efforts as its giving to the community and industry.