

## COOKEVILLIAN NEW STATE AGRICULTURE COMMISSIONER

By Mary Jo Denton

Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN: 25 September 2002

Tennessee's new Commissioner of Agriculture is a Cookevillian.



He is John W. Rose, the son of Jerry and Betty Rose of Cookeville. He was recently appointed to his latest position by Gov. Don Sundquist.

Rose has an impressive background that includes a variety of skills from business, academic, and professional fields.

He is a farmer, has practiced law, has developed and run a business, and is now in state government.

Asked about his chosen field of agriculture, Rose said, "As long as people eat food, there will be the science of agriculture."

But as with other sciences, the future is not likely to look very much like the past, he said.

Farming operations are likely to be on larger scales and one of the jobs of the movers and shakers will be to keep it competitive.

Rose talks philosophically, but in a business-like manner about the future of his first choice career, agriculture.

He is keenly aware of the past – he lives on a farm which has been in his family since 1874 – but he is so modern that he earned a lot of money in business through technology information systems.

He is not bound to the past in his thinking, but is aware of its impact.

For instance, if you ask him about the future of what has been a staple in the agriculture market for many years – tobacco – he says that, yes, he grows it on his farm, which is located in DeKalb County, but no, he does not use it himself.

He thinks the future of tobacco is probably not a matter of if, but just how.

Through many changes have taken place and continue to occur in the production and marketing of that crop, there is still a demand, and will continue to be, he believes.

In the continuing debate over tobacco, he sees "an issue of freedom of choice."

"There's been a lot of change in the tobacco industry in our state in recent years, but obviously there's still a lot of demand for tobacco, and I think there will be a future for it," Rose said.

"It won't look like the past. It will probably go toward larger scale producers, more acreage instead of the traditional small plots and small farms," said Rose in a brief telephone interview with the Herald-Citizen.

At 37, Rose is surely among the youngest to ever hold the job of Tennessee Commissioner of Agriculture.

He grew up here in Cookeville. His father, now retired, was president of Production Credit Association here and also served as president of the Chamber of Commerce for a time.

John W. Rose graduated from Cookeville High in 1983 and earned a B. S. degree in Agribusiness Economics from Tennessee tech in 1988.

He went on to earn a Master's from Purdue University and a law degree from Vanderbilt University.

He practiced law for a time after completing his law degree, working for Stophel and Stophel, a Chattanooga firm with a general practice. He focused on product liability defense.

He later became a partner and president of Transcender Corporation of Nashville, a leading provider of information technology certification training. Computer network system techs use the training to prepare for certification in Microsoft systems.

The company won awards for five years as one of the 50 fastest growing private companies in Middle Tennessee. He and his partners sold the firm last year to a Connecticut based company.

In the spring of 2001, Rose made a \$1 million contribution to a place dear to his heart: the TTU School of Agriculture.

Much of the donation went into the Jerry and Betty Rose Scholarship Endowment, created in honor of his parents. It will provide \$7,000 per year scholarships to qualifying students.

In 2000, Rose was recognized by TTU as its outstanding young alumnus and as a distinguished agriculture alumnus.

Asked about his great success and his large donation to the university, Rose said, "I was glad to be able to do it because I though a lot of my experience there."

He also praised the other public schools in Putnam County.

"My education there in the Putnam schools was very valuable. It prepared me for my studies at TTU and the other schools I attended. The preparation was more than adequate."

Rose said he is honored to have been chosen by the governor to head the state's Dept. of Agriculture.

"I am deeply grateful for the governor's confidence in me and look forward to working with him and with Tennessee's farmers, foresters, nursery operators and consumers to further promote agriculture in our great state," he said.

Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN: 25 September 2002

### **TTU ALUMNUS ROSE APPOINTED TO STATE CONSERVATION BOARD**

Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN: 8 January 2006

1988 Tech graduate joins 11-member board, will help lead governor's land preservation and protection initiative.

**COOKEVILLE** – Gov. Phil Bredesen has appointed Tennessee Tech University alumnus John Rose to the Tennessee Heritage Conservation Trust Fund board.

Rose, who graduated summa cum laude from the university's agribusiness economics program in 1988, is vice chair elect of the TTU Foundation Board of Directors and is involved with various other aspects of the university.

Since 1999, he has served on the board of directors for TTU's Agricultural Foundation, acting as president from 2003 to 2005.

In 2000, Rose was recognized by TTU's Alumni Association with the Outstanding Young Alumnus Award and by the TTU College of Agriculture and Human Ecology as a distinguished agricultural alumnus.

In 2001, he presented a gift of \$1 million to TTU and the School of Agriculture to create the Jerry and Betty Rose scholarship endowment in honor of his parents, and also that year, he established the John W. Rose Agricultural Endowment to support agriculture programs at TTU.

He contributed \$50,000 to the university's School of Nursing building campaign in 2003.

As a member of the Tennessee Heritage conservation Trust Fund board, Rose is among a group of 11 members who will help lead the governor's land preservation and protection initiative.

The September 2005 act that created the board promotes public-private partnerships as a means for conserving the state's natural spaces, and Rose and the 10 other appointees to that board will manage a \$10 million budget approved last year by the Tennessee General Assembly.

"I'm grateful to Rose and these other Tennesseans for their willingness to serve our state," Bredesen said. "Their leadership will prove vital in our efforts to preserve and protect the natural spaces we cherish in Tennessee."

Other board members are Jeannine Alday, William "Buck" Clark, Pete Claussen, Bruce Dobie, Darrell Freeman, J. Andrew Goddard, Mary H. Johnson, Cheryl W. Patterson, Becky Wilson and Earl Worsham.

#### **ROSE SELECTED FOR TBR'S CHANCELLOR AWARD**

Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN: 21 June 2007

**COOKEVILLE** – The Tennessee Board of Regents selected Tennessee Tech University alumnus John Rose as the latest recipient of the TBR Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Philanthropy. The Chancellor's Award, given to those who provide special assistance to a TBR institution and whose financial support and leadership provide significant impact to the school, was presented to Rose at a recent TTU Foundation meeting.

Rose, a successful entrepreneur and public servant, served as the State of Tennessee's 33<sup>rd</sup> Commissioner of Agriculture under Gov. Don Sundquist. In 2005, Rose was appointed to the Tennessee Heritage Conservation Trust Fund Board by Gov. Phil Bredesen. As Commissioner of Agriculture, he served on the TBR and the University of Tennessee Board of Trustees.

Rose graduated from TTU in 1988 with a degree in agribusiness economics and went on to earn a master's degree in agricultural economics from Purdue University and a law degree from Vanderbilt. In 2000, TTU honored Rose with its Outstanding Young Alumnus Award. That same year, the College of Agriculture and Human Ecology named Rose its distinguished agriculture alumnus.



After practicing law for a few years, Rose decided to take a leap of faith with a start-up company. Co-founder of Transcender Corp., he watched the company experience explosive growth as a leading provider of information technology certification training. Under Rose's leadership, the company earned the prestigious Music City Future 50 Award for five consecutive years. The award annually recognizes

Middle Tennessee's 50 fastest-growing private companies.

(Pictured: From left, Tennessee Tech University president Bob Bell presents the Tennessee Board of Regents Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Philanthropy to John Rose while TBR regent Millard Oakley and past TBR regents Buddy Bowers and Nobel Cody look on).

In 2001 Rose became one of TTU's million-dollar donors with a gift that supported the College of Agriculture and Human Ecology and the university. More than half of the gift went toward the creation of the Jerry and Betty Rose Scholarship Endowment in honor of his parents.

With an additional gift of \$50,000 in 2003 for the School of Nursing. Rose has donated more than \$1.26 million to Tennessee Tech.

Rose is currently president of Boson Software LLC, a Nashville-based information technology training provider. He operates a 1,800-acre farm located in DeKalb and Smith Counties. He currently serves on the board of directors for Main Street Media, the Tennessee FFA Foundation as vice chairman and the TTU Foundation as chairman.

**Lineage:**

William Jared (Rev'l War) md Elizabeth Anne "Besty" Roulston/ Raulston=  
John Jared (1811-1896) md Eliza Ann Kerr or Carr (1812-1900) =  
Christopher Columbus Jared (1850-1907) md Montecello Lemiza "Sis" Braswell (1855-1944) =  
Alta Tonie Jared (1879-1898) md James Peyton Lancaster =  
Edith Lancaster md Toy Reynolds Rose =  
Jerry Lancaster Rose Sr. md Betty Williams=  
John Williams Rose

\*See John Jared & Ann Carr Family Sheet, Jared files & Chapter 9 at: <http://www.ajlambert.com>