



DR. H. CHRISTOPHER PETERSON

Chris Peterson is an agribusiness economist, professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics, and Homer Nowlin Chair of Consumer-Responsive Agriculture at Michigan State University. He teaches agribusiness to both undergraduate and graduate students.

Dr. Peterson joined MSU in September, 1991 to lead the Agribusiness Management program. In 1998, he received the prestigious Teacher-Scholar Award given annually by Michigan State University. In recognition of his outstanding leadership in agribusiness, he was named the first Homer Nowlin Chair of Consumer-Responsive Agriculture in October, 2002.

Dr. Peterson's research activities focus on strategic management of agribusinesses, including studies on globalization strategies, supply chain management, social capital, cooperative finance, scenario analysis, and strategic planning methods and practices. Chris works extensively with agribusiness and food firms in the area of strategic management, agri-food supply chain relationships, product-oriented agricultural marketing, and cooperative strategic and financial management. Since coming to Michigan State University in 1991, he has been involved in strategic management projects for nearly 50 agribusinesses, food processing firms, and commodity associations. Dr. Peterson has also authored and co-authored numerous professional articles and publications.

He has served on the board of CoBank (1999-2001) and on the board of the former St. Paul Bank for Cooperatives (1994-1999), both part of Farm Credit System. Dr. Peterson serves on the continuing faculty of two nationally recognized professional education programs: The Graduate Institute of Cooperative Leadership, University of Missouri-Columbia, and The Executive Program for Agricultural Producers, Texas A&M University. Currently, Dr. Peterson serves on the board of the International Food and Agribusiness Management Association and on the Education Committee of the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives. He is a member of the American Agricultural Economics Association, the Western Regional Coordinating Committee (WRC-72) for Research on Agribusiness Competitiveness, and the Northcentral Regional Coordinating Committee (NCR 194) on Cooperatives.

Chris received his doctoral degree in Agricultural Economics (1991) from Cornell University, Ithaca, NY. His dissertation, "The Economic Role of Agricultural Cooperatives--Returns and Security Strategies", won the 1992 Edwin Nourse Award from the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives. He holds a Masters in Business Administration (1981) from the Harvard University Graduate School of Business where he also served as a research assistant in the management information systems area. In 1974, he graduated summa cum laude from Juniata College with a B.S. in 1974.

Before coming to MSU, Dr. Peterson served on the faculty (1981-1991) and as chairperson for the Department of Economics and Business Administration, Juniata College, Huntingdon, PA. In addition to extensive teaching and faculty leadership roles, he established a small-business outreach center. He also served as director (1982-1987) of the Cooperative Youth Education Program co-sponsored by the Pennsylvania Council of Cooperatives and the Pennsylvania State University. He also held a management position (1974-79) with Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, Huntingdon, PA. where his responsibilities included long-range planning, rate design, and member and employee relations.

Chris grew up on a dairy farm in Nook, Pa. and served on the national 4-H Report-to-the-Nation Team (1969).