

2017 Biographical Sketch – Ronnie Lee

Ronnie Lee was elected chairman of the National Cotton Council at its 2017 Annual Meeting in Dallas, Texas, after having served as the NCC's vice chairman in 2016.

As the managing partner of Lee Farms, Lee raises cotton, corn, peanuts, small grains, hay, pecans, and cattle in the Georgia counties of Terrell, Lee, and Sumter.

Lee also is involved in multiple agribusinesses. He owns and operates McCleskey Cotton Company, a ginning and warehousing operation with locations in Bronwood and Albany, and his gin is one of the owners of Chickasha of Georgia. He also owns RCL Flying Service; LGT LLC; McCleskey Saw and Machine Co., LLC; and Adela Logistics, all of which are companies that support local growers and their products. Prior to focusing on these closely held businesses, he was a vice president with McCleskey Mills, Inc., a peanut shelling company in Smithville, Georgia.

An active U.S. cotton industry leader, Lee served as a NCC producer delegate from 2003-2016 and was a member of the NCC's Board of Directors in 2015. He also served as the vice chairman of the American Cotton Producers in 2014. He currently is a director of Cotton Incorporated.

Lee also has been involved in regional, state and local organizations. He is a past president and chairman of Southern Cotton Growers. From 2005 through 2013, he served on the Farm Services Agency Georgia State Committee as a committee member and later as its chairman, having first been appointed by President Bush and later by President Obama. He also has served on the boards of the National Peanut Buying Points Association and the American Peanut Shellers Association.

In 2004, Lee received the Soil Conservationist of the Year for Terrell County. In 2010, he was named the Farm Press/Cotton Foundation High Cotton Award winner for the Southeast Region.

Lee, who attended Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, has three sons, Ron, Chandler and Neil, all of whom are actively involved in the family businesses. He is a member of Bronwood Baptist Church.