



2020 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD WINNER – JIM OSTROM

Before becoming one of Wisconsin's leading voices for sustainable agriculture, Jim Ostrom was a 1984 graduate of Watertown High School. His lifelong passion for the farm sector was nurtured during his student years by FFA and other WHS agricultural offerings.

Jim earned a Bachelor's degree in Agricultural Economics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and continued his development through Harvard University's specialized agri-business program.

In 1999, Jim co-founded Milk Source LLC, which evolved from a single farm into a multi-state family of dairies and creameries. These farms produce enough milk to provide more than 350,000 households a gallon of milk daily. Recognized for empowering its diverse workforce, ensuring environmental stewardship and achieving excellence in business operations, Milk Source was internationally recognized as "The Innovative Dairy Farmer of the Year" in 2014.

Jim remains a prominent advocate for "America's Dairyland." He is a co-founder of the Wisconsin Dairy Business Association and serves as a director for the Wisconsin Dairy Alliance.

Jim also co-founded Dairy Cares of Wisconsin Inc., a non-profit organization that raised more than \$1.3 million during its first decade to benefit Children's Wisconsin. His philanthropic efforts, including serving on the foundation board of the health system, have helped ensure its future.

Jim and his partners have been named World Dairy Expo's "Dairymen of the Year," one of the industry's premier lifetime achievements.

Jim and his wife, Annette, currently reside in De Pere and have four children.