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Born in Camden, South Carolina, James H. Wright graduated from Camden High School and subsequently entered the U.S. Air Force, where he served for four years gaining experience in electronics maintenance. Upon discharge from the Air Force, Jim continued his formal education, and in 1978 obtained a Bachelor of Science degree from Clemson University in plant sciences with emphasis in ornamental horticulture and a minor in entomology. After working for almost three years in managerial positions in the greenhouse and nursery industry, Jim became a Pesticide Regulatory Specialist with Clemson University in 1981. His many talents for regulatory work were quickly recognized by his supervisors, and Jim rapidly moved up promotion ladder. In 1988, he was promoted to field Regulatory Supervisor in the Department of Fertilizer and Pesticide Control where he oversees the pesticide regulatory enforcement program and supervises the field regulatory specialists. He is responsible for reviewing all pesticide cases warranting enforcement action to determine the appropriate regulatory action. Although the department name has been changed to the Department of Pesticide Regulation, Jim has remained Regulatory Supervisor to this day.

During his career, Jim has been very active in the several professional associations relative to pesticide regulation. Within ASPCRO alone, Jim has served on the annual meeting-planning committee, the inspector training committee, the stewardship committee, the label language recommendation committee, and the termiticide label review committee.

In his more than twenty years as pesticide Regulatory Supervisor with Clemson University, Jim has earned the respect and admiration of his colleagues in the pesticide regulatory arena as well as the regulated community.