

Jai Templeton was appointed by Governor Bill Haslam and sworn in as Tennessee's 37th Commissioner of Agriculture in May 2016. Prior to joining the department as Deputy Commissioner in June 2011, he served as mayor of McNairy County, leading that county's successful efforts to reduce debt and increase fund balances without raising taxes during an economic recession. Templeton is a sixth generation farmer producing grain, cotton, hay, timber and cattle in McNairy and Hardin Counties

Templeton has a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Union University in Jackson, Tenn. He is also a graduate of the Nashville Auction School, University of Tennessee at Martin's WestStar Leadership Program, Leadership McNairy County, AgStar professional development program, the University of Tennessee's certified public administrator program, the Tennessee Government Executive Institute and most recently, the Delta Regional Authority Leadership Institute. He is the immediate past president of the Southern Association of State Departments of Agriculture.