



RETIREMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

Jason Johnke, Board President, Southeast Farmers Cooperative

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we are announcing the retirement of our trusted General Manager, Don Truhe, as of August 31, 2022. Now that the time is approaching for Don to pursue other hobbies and interests, we wanted to take this opportunity to thank Don for his many years of service and to make you aware of the Board's plans for replacing him.



Don considers himself a graduate of the "school of hard knocks," starting his 42-year career a few years out of high school. Don started with Southeast in 1980, and in less than a year was promoted to General Manager, where he has served ever since.

During his tenure, Don oversaw tremendous growth while navigating two successful mergers along with making numerous facility and rolling stock upgrades. Don is proud of the fact that Southeast has largely been able to "stay on their own." Don shared his pride in keeping the tradition of the local co-op alive. "The roots of agriculture run deep, and I am glad to have maintained that tradition for Southeast," said Don.

For Don, "Looking out for the member owners' best interests," has always been in the forefront. Don made a personal commitment to show the utmost respect for members and personally thank them for their business when he crossed paths.

Don leaves behind a legacy of helping Southeast Farmers Cooperative be financially strong. He has also led a very talented team throughout the years that understands the importance of serving the membership well. Don asks the members to, "Appreciate the talent Southeast has working for them today and thank them for their hard work and efforts in making the co-op successful. It's a team sport that without either our members or employees, we would not exist. I am proud to have been associated with such wonderful members and staff. It is you that I will greatly miss in my retirement."

Don also feels very blessed to have worked with such an understanding and supportive Board. He appreciates the time and dedication the Board gives to Southeast. The personal sacrifices of time and energy they each give to the co-op can easily be taken for granted. He hopes the membership realizes just how lucky they are to have such a knowledgeable and expert Board. Don said, "These eight Board Members know the co-op better than anyone, and the wealth of background and experience they bring to the co-op is second to none."

Board President, Jason Johnke stated that, "It will be impossible to replace Don. The Board is forever grateful for the years of service and leadership Don has provided over his four plus decades of service. No one will know the inside walls of this co-op better than Don and he will be sorely missed. We wish Don all the best in his retirement. It is well deserved, and I hope that the membership and employees will personally thank Don for his service. We look forward to celebrating Don's accomplishments as we approach his retirement date."

Jason also wants to announce that the Board of Directors has retained Land O'Lakes to head up a search for hiring the next General Manager for Southeast. We plan to complete the selection process in time for a successful transition between Don and the new General Manager.

Any questions, please feel free to contact Jason at j.johnke@southeastfarmers.com.