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February 1, 2021

Dear RCM Patrons,

As a patron of RCM Co-op you will remember we were formed in 2014 with the consolidation of RPA Co-op Association, Culver- Fancy Prairie Co-op, and Mechanicsburg Farmers Elevator. At that time each of those three companies was led by an excellent General Manager. RCM was fortunate to be able to retain all three of those managers upon consolidation and until the retirement of Tom Harms in 2016.

This year we will lose the remaining two original managers to retirement. Gary Chandler is retiring March 31, 2021. Don Ray is retiring May 30, 2021. The Board of Directors of RCM Co-op wishes them well in their retirement and would like to provide an opportunity for patrons and employees to celebrate with them during an open house in their honor on March 25 at our new Riverton elevator.

Gary Chandler has been employed with RCM Co-op and our predecessor, Culver – Fancy Prairie for 43 years. He started as Assistant Manager upon college graduation in 1978 and has spent his entire working career with us. He has led RCM as our Chief Executive Officer since 2016.

Don Ray has worked for RCM and Mechanicsburg Farmers for 37 years. He too was an Assistant Manager, then General Manager before becoming the Chief Operating Officer of RCM. Most recently he managed the construction of our new 2.5 million bushel Riverton facility.

Upon Gary's retirement, the Board has promoted Dave Kunken to be our new Chief Executive Officer. Dave joined RCM last September as General Manager and has done an excellent job assisting Gary and getting to know our operations. For those of you who haven't met Dave yet, the open house is an opportunity to do that.

This letter is your invitation to join us on March 25 from noon until 4 p.m. at the Riverton elevator, 8233 Sherman Road, Riverton, IL to honor Don and Gary for their years of faithful service to our company and to wish them well in their future endeavors in retirement. Light refreshments will be served.

Doug Penrod
President, RCM Co-op