

Announcement Retirement of Marc Melhus

Heartland Co-op is announcing the retirement of Marc Melhus, the EVP of Operations, this month. He has spent many years with the company, and we wish him the best in his future endeavors.

Marc has spent many years in the Agriculture field, many of which were in leadership, starting with five years at Farmers Coop Chariton as an Assistant Manager, six years with Massena Cooperative as a General Manager, 15 years at Central Counties Cooperative, General Manager and CEO, and finally 14 years with Heartland Cooperative, EVP of Operations.

A few words from Marc, about his work history with the company, retirement and the future.

When Central Counties, the company I was managing, combined with Heartland in 2007 we brought 12 locations to the company bringing the total # of locations to 40 with total sales somewhere around \$500 million. Today we number over 80 with sales well over a billion. That's a tremendous amount of growth for any company. Each merger or acquisition brought its own set of unique circumstances that have been challenging yet rewarding in making them fit into the Heartland model. Managing the operations side of the business involved building strong relations with the employee base. I have enjoyed all those relationships and look forward to maintaining many as I move towards new and different challenges ahead.

I have no fast and firm retirement plans other than to reevaluate what I want to do as a next step. It might be to retire, then again, it might not.

My many memories of Heartland all include the positive relationships I've built. It has been a good run and mostly it has been a lot of fun.