



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Prairie Farms Dairy Honors Ed Mullins for 42 Years of Service**

**Edwardsville, Ill. (February 9, 2023)** – After a 42-year career with Prairie Farms Dairy, industry executive Ed Mullins retired on December 31, 2022. This followed his decision in late 2021 to step down as Chief Executive Officer/Executive Vice President to assume a new role as Senior Executive Officer in 2022.

A celebration of his career was held last week in Edwardsville, Illinois, where hundreds of people, including Prairie Farms’ board members, present and past co-workers, industry professionals, and friends, gathered over a 2-day span to honor Mr. Mullins and share well-wishes for his retirement.

"It was a privilege to serve Prairie Farms over the last 42 years. My decision to retire was bittersweet because the Prairie Farms’ family means the world to me. From board members to our dairy farmers and employees, I will always be humbled by their trust in me to lead our fine company," said Mr. Mullins. "At the same time, I'm looking forward to settling into retirement and enjoying the next phase of my life."

As part of the celebration of Mr. Mullins’ career and legacy, a new wall of honors was unveiled at Prairie Farms’ corporate office. A lobby wall now proudly displays portraits of Mr. Mullins and former Chief Executive Officers F.A. Gourley, Leonard Southwell, and Roger Capps. Also, in Mullins’ honor, a conference room is being transformed into the Edward L. Mullins Conference Center.

"Ed has not only been my mentor throughout my 33-year career with Prairie Farms but a dear friend as well," said Matt McClelland, Prairie Farms’ Chief Executive Officer/Executive Vice President. "It has been an honor to work with an industry legend for so many years, and Ed’s extraordinary leadership and contributions to Prairie Farms are beyond measure. On behalf of our board members, dairy farmers, and employees, we wish him all the best in his well-deserved retirement."

Mullins’ career with Prairie Farms started in 1980. He held numerous leadership positions and served as Chief Executive Officer/Executive Vice President from 2006-2021 and was only the fourth CEO since the company’s founding in 1938. He was the driving force behind many mergers and acquisitions that vastly expanded Prairie Farms’ footprint into new markets and product categories. Mullins attributes the company’s success and longevity to staying true to the vision of its founding leaders to simply "Do Right."

**Prairie Farms Dairy, Inc.** is one of the largest and most successful dairy cooperatives operating in the Midwest and the South. Elements of the cooperative include more than 600 farm families, 7,000 team members, 50 manufacturing plants, over 100 distribution facilities, and annual sales of over \$4 billion. Prairie Farms is a nationally recognized leader in the dairy industry known for setting the standard for milk flavor innovations and



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producing award-winning milk, cheese, and cultured dairy products. With headquarters in Edwardsville, Ill., the Prairie Farms distribution footprint covers over 30 percent of the United States; products are available in grocery chains, mass merchandiser stores, club stores, convenience stores, dollar stores, drug stores, schools, foodservice outlets, and warehouse distribution centers. For more information about Prairie Farms please visit [www.prairiefarms.com](http://www.prairiefarms.com).

Photo Caption: Current and former CEOs for Prairie Farms, Matt McClelland and Ed Mullins.



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