
Dan Winderl, Senior Principal Engineer, Plans to Retire

After 42 years of consistently innovating and inventing across Big G Operations, Grain, and R&D for General Mills, Dan Winderl has announced his intention to retire on September 30, 2020. Throughout his career, Dan has earned a tremendous reputation for his outstanding knowledge of our Core Grain raw materials, notably our Whole Grain Oats, all matter of Corn ingredients, and increasingly the small & specialty grains we rely on for our natural & organic segments. He has similarly demonstrated a strong ability for manipulating these raw materials via proprietary processing and technologies to transform them into our value-added, competitively advantaged, and superior quality BIG G Cereals, NV Granola Bars, OEP Tortillas, Bugles & Chex Salty Snacks products sold globally.

Dan started his career in Big G R&D as part of the product development team that launched Honey Nut Cheerios, our first Cheerios flanker. He then transferred to the Toledo Cereal Plant where he worked as a processing Engineer and in various supervisory roles. After that he moved into a Big G operations role where he helped facilitate the launch of Apple Cinnamon Cheerios and Oatmeal Crisp. As production manager of the Purity Oats Mill in Fridley, MN he completed many capacity increase projects. Returning as a leader with the Big G R&D organization, Dan was a key player in converting our entire Cereal portfolio to Whole Grain # 1. He initiated and was a core driver in the Gluten Free Oats project. Dan's work required him to diagnose and consult on hundreds of projects and with dozens of internal and external partners while developing new partnerships and patented technologies. His curiosity, patience, and willingness to help leave a strong legacy and generate a great appreciation for Dan's career.

Dan served on many external committees, with a favorite of his being the Prairie Grain Development Committee (PGDC), Oat Quality Committee. Dan enjoyed his trips to Canada to meet with other oat millers, organizations, oat handlers, and oat growers.

Dan is a proud graduate from Michigan State University and has maintained his relationship via his leadership role in the Michigan State Millers Association to direct research investment for General Mills interests. In addition to his General Mills family, Dan celebrates his General Mills career with his wife Sue, two daughters (Claire and Ellen) and son (Tommy) who will welcome seeing Dan more frequently beyond our work from home environment. Dan's future will include continued volunteering with groups like Partners in Foods Solutions, competitive sailing, running, and more time at his cabin in Pelican Rapids, MN. He would love to stay in touch with colleagues and friends and can be reached at djwinderl34@gmail.com.
