

John McClelland



The Kansas Cooperative Council is pleased to announce the 2024 Kansas Cooperative Hall of Fame inductee, John McClelland. Mr. McClelland will be honored on Wednesday, March 12, 2025, as a part of the Kansas Cooperative Council's joint annual meeting along with ProValue Cooperative, Inc.

Immediately following a reception and dinner, we will recognize John McClelland for his decades of service to the agriculture cooperative industry in Kansas. John McClelland, resident of Holcomb, KS, is a visionary leader whose dedication to cooperatives, safety, and mentorship has left a lasting impact on the industry.

John's cooperative journey began in his youth at the Farmland Industries Youth Leadership Camp, sparking a lifelong passion that led him to influential roles in agribusiness. As General Manager of Garden City Co-op, Inc., John was a driving force behind growth and innovation, always prioritizing member success. His leadership extended beyond the co-op, serving on numerous boards, including United Suppliers, Nationwide, Land O'Lakes, and ProValue.

John's commitment to safety helped redefine industry standards. Following a tragic accident, he championed a cultural shift in workplace safety, ensuring lasting change. His mentorship shaped the careers of many cooperative leaders, embodying his belief that leadership is about making people better. After an exceptional career, John retired in 2018, leaving behind a legacy of innovation, service, and leadership.

The Kansas Cooperative Hall of Fame was established in 1999 to honor individuals in Kansas who have been instrumental in developing and spreading the cooperative philosophy. To date, 55 cooperators from all types of cooperatives have been inducted into this elite group. The Hall of Fame is important for recognizing the contributions of co-op pioneers and honoring those who have gone "above and beyond the call" in advancing the cooperative movement.

Mr. McClelland's biographical information will be on display alongside other honorees, in the Kansas Cooperative Hall of Fame showcase display at the Kansas State Fairgrounds. This permanent display plays a significant role in educating others about the uniqueness of the cooperative business model while highlighting the achievements of our state's great co-op leaders.