



By Russ Pankonin
The Imperial Republican

Board members of the Frenchman Valley Coop (FVC) tapped their own organization for their new general manager.

Last week, the board promoted Doug Ohlson to lead the cooperative. Monday, Dec. 3, marked his first day in the new position.

Ohlson joined FVC in February, 2002, as the division manager of Human Resources and Member Services.

Board President Jim Haarberg said the board's glad to have Ohlson as the new general manager.

He said they looked both inside and outside the organization and felt Ohlson was best suited for the job.

Ohlson's experience in the organization the past 10 1/2 years has prepared him for the new role, Haarberg said.

It is always a plus to be able to hire from within, Haarberg said. By bringing people up from within, Haarberg said they already know and understand FVC's operation.

Ohlson succeeds Jim Chism who resigned Oct. 31, after a 30-year career with FVC, including the last 12 as general manager.

Chism accepted a CEO position with Farmers Cooperative Company in Ames, Iowa.

Ohlson has served as the interim manager since Chism's departure.

Goal to continue growth

Ohlson looks forward to helping FVC continue its pace of growth. The coop has 225 full-time employees across 21 locations in Nebraska and Wyoming and is adding another soon in Wheatland, Wyo.

Ohlson said his role in the coop during the last 10 1/2 years has been key in preparing him for the new position.

He handled human resource issues, along with member services. That included such duties as account receivables, crop insurance, safety compliance, advertising, loan portfolio management and overall customer service.

Ohlson said patrons will see little change in the way FVC does business. He said the core management team remains in place, adding that he is surrounded by good people.

Ohlson is no stranger to Imperial. A native of McCook, he moved here in 1981 as an ag lending officer with Chase County Bank, now Adams Bank & Trust.

He and his wife, Keri, have lived in McCook the past six years and plan to return to Imperial in the near future.