



DANIEL DUPREE



EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR 2020

After many years in the night warehouse, working as a loader and advancing to team leader, followed by 2 years in Inventory Control and 1 ½ years as assistant produce manager, Dan Dupree was promoted to Produce Manager on June 23rd 2008. From day 1 Dan showed that he is a dedicated employee, a quick learner, and a steady performer. He is very well organized, dependable, and an excellent communicator with both customers and fellow employees. He has demonstrated the willingness to be both a hands-on manager as well as taking on extra tasks in assisting the Warehouse and Inventory Control to help better serve our customers.

During his tenure as Produce Manager, Dan has shown he is in command of his area of responsibility. The inventory is kept accurate and the bills are paid correctly. Customer issues are dealt with promptly, and most importantly, since produce has such a short shelf-life, there is almost no margin for error when ordering. Dan has also spent a great deal of time working with his assistant, Scott Ballas, so that he understands all day-to-day aspects of the job and can seamlessly fill-in for Dan as needed.

Customer confidence is critical in our business, and over the past 12 years several of our customers have been very complimentary of how well Dan runs our produce program. The people at Wendy's/WQSCC in particular have commented that they wish the Produce Departments at all their DC's ran as smoothly as Willow Run's. As evidence of their satisfaction, WQSCC allows Willow Run to manage the inbound freight on all their West Coast produce whereas all other DC's are required to use Arrowstream.

In the past year, Wendy's introduced a new temperature monitoring program which provides a real-time look at what is happening with loads during transport and whose goal is to identify and fix issues in transit. Many times, even after hours, Dan will be in contact with his carriers about potential temperature issues and help them determine a corrective plan of action for the problem before we/they end up losing the load. On one of the first days that this Geo-tracker program was in place, Dan noticed a Wendy's load that was running well over temperature right off the bat, and we reported it immediately. That happened to be a chicken load, not produce, but Dan's attention to detail saved the Wendy's chicken supplier \$125,000.

Dan Dupree is an excellent representative of Willow Run Foods, and he consistently shows that customer satisfaction is his priority. For these reasons and more, Dan is well deserving of being recognized as Employee of the Year.

Submitted by: Rich Koffs

