

## Meet Neil Juhnke



A native of North Dakota, Neil joined Michigan Sugar Company in April 2023, continuing a career in the agribusiness sector that stretches back to 1990 when he went to work for American Crystal Sugar Company in Moorhead, Minnesota. He spent 15 years there working his way up to Ag Operations Manager.

After leaving American Crystal in 2005, Neil was instrumental in the founding and development of Northstar Agri Industries, where he led the development and construction of a successful canola processing and refining plant near Hallock, Minnesota. He later became President and Chief Operating Officer, overseeing the processing of more than 400,000 tons of canola seed annually into canola oil and canola meal.

More recently, Neil served as Vice President of Manufacturing and Operations for Fargo, North Dakota-based Red River Commodities Inc., a food processing company, with four divisions – including the well-known SunButter LLC – and seven factories spread across Kansas, North Dakota, and Texas.

Since joining Michigan Sugar, Neil has been focused on resetting the company's foundation and putting it on a path to future success. That has included bringing several new faces to the company's leadership team, raising the bar for excellence in factory operations, establishing new high standards for sugarbeet harvest and permanent piling, and bringing online the largest capital investment in Michigan Sugar's history – the molasses desugarization facility in Bay City.

Neil and his wife Heidi have four adult children – Aaron, David, Daniel, and Hannah – as well as five grandchildren.