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Contact Information:
Roger Pepperl
Marketing Director

Stemilt executive Hans van Someren Gréve to retire

WENATCHEE, Wash. – Stemilt Growers’ executive Hans van Someren Gréve will retire on December 10th. Gréve has spent the past 13 years as Stemilt’s executive vice president and general manager. During this time, he helped transition the presidency from founder Tom Mathison to West Mathison, led capital projects centered on infrastructure and information technology, and helped form strong marketing alliances. He has also been responsible for Stemilt’s Washington operations, including production, logistics, quality control, information technology, and human resources.

“Hans’ list of contributions to Stemilt over the past 13 years is both lengthy and impressive,” said West Mathison, Stemilt president. “He elevated us during tough times by focusing on quality, efficiency, and innovation. He will certainly be missed by our employees and customers alike, and we hope that he enjoys every minute of his well-deserved retirement.”

Gréve was appointed to Stemilt’s Board of Directors in 1991, and came to work for the company full-time in 1997. He spent the early part of his career at Stemilt traveling throughout Europe and Asia to meet with customers. He came to the company during tough times for the tree fruit industry and its growers. As the outlook improved, Gréve helped guide Stemilt through a leadership transition, and then major expansion of both orchards and infrastructure. He also oversaw a complete remodel of the company’s primary packing facility, Olds Station, and helped bring the Oracle software system into its operations.
During his 13 year tenure, Stemilt has evolved into the nation’s leading shipper of sweet cherries and organic tree fruits, as well as a large supplier of premium Washington apples, pears, and stone fruit.

A people-person by nature, Gréve said without hesitation that he will most miss the people at Stemilt during retirement. “One of the many things I love about Stemilt is its tradition of being people-oriented,” he said. “Although I will still be involved in the company, I will miss interacting with our employees, growers, and customers on a daily basis.”

Prior to working at Stemilt, Gréve spent 17 years working in the international business world. He grew up and went to college in Holland, but his travels ended up taking him to Seattle and Tacoma, WA where he earned his MBA from University of Puget Sound. During this time, he met his future bride, Lavonne, who is also the daughter of Stemilt’s late founder, Tom Mathison.

Gréve returned to Holland in 1980 to work for Royal Dutch/Shell Group for four years. He then held marketing manager and general manager titles at Fasson Europe, a division of Avery Dennison. In 1990, he joined the management team at Nilfisk Group, a domestic and professional cleaning equipment manufacturer based in Holland. During his career at Nilfisk, Gréve and his family lived in Japan and Germany.

An active person, Gréve looks forward to staying involved with Stemilt and the produce industry in his retirement. He will remain on Stemilt’s Board of Directors, and will continue his long-time service as a board member for the Washington Apple Education Foundation. He plans to travel often, participate in recreational activities like skiing, volunteer within the community, and spend time with his wife Lavonne and their two children, Lillian and Stephen.

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**About Stemilt:** Stemilt Growers is a leading tree fruit growing, packing and shipping company based in Wenatchee, Washington. Owned and operated by the Mathison family, Stemilt is the leading shipper of sweet cherries and the largest supplier of organic tree fruits in the nation. Stemilt has also demonstrated a commitment to sustainable agriculture and social responsibility since 1989, when founder Tom Mathison launched the company’s Responsible Choice program.