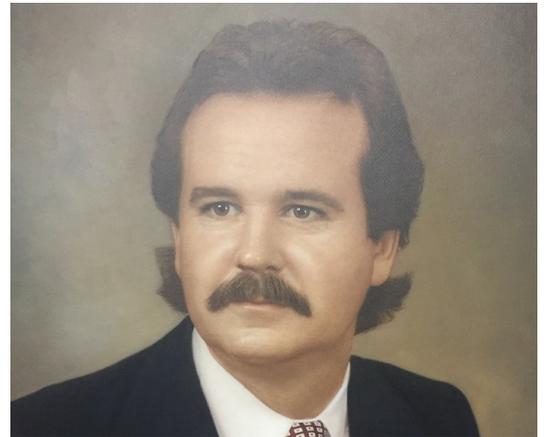




By Carl Collen

Monday 24th April 2017, 14:09 GMT

Southern Produce Distributors mourns loss of CEO



Sweet potato specialist's president and chief executive Stewart Precythe died last week aged 68

North Carolina-based Southern Produce Distributors, a leader in sweet potato production, has announced the passing of president and chief executive officer Stewart Precythe at the age of 68.

"We are saddened with the passing of Stewart," said chief financial officer Sterling Cook in a statement. "He was a wonderful father, leader, and man who will be greatly missed in the company and farming community.

"The future of the company will be in line with the principals Stewart left us," Cook continued. "We will continue to honour his commitment to the industry through hard work and determination in honouring the man that meant so much to so many. He will be greatly missed, but we will pull together as a family and do what he would want us to do."

Longtime friend and employee of Precythe's, Brenda Oglesby, said: "To the

customers and friends of Southern Produce, we ask that you keep the Precythe family in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. But, be assured in knowing that we will continue to offer you the best products and service available in the industry."

"The family is in the process of finalising arrangements for Stewart," Cook added. "We will give more details as they are available and we thank everyone for their calls and concerns."