

# DAVID DAWSON

## TRANSPORTATION MANAGER - BUTLER



Meet David Dawson! David has been a part of the Darling team since 1989, starting as a driver in Cincinnati. In his tenure, he has worked for us in Ohio, West Virginia, and now Kentucky. Originally from Kentucky, David is happy to be back home. In his free time, he likes gardening, spending time with family, and horseback riding. He even has brought one of his three horses to the plant. In the words of his teammates, David is one of a kind and is dedicated to his job and company. His years of experience has made him the go to guy for answers. David will always go out of his way to help someone who needs it.

Learn more about David below!

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### **Q: What is your favorite part about your job?**

A: The unexpected parts. Instead of coming into a job where you do the same thing every day, a phone call can change everything. I might have to get in a truck and go drive. I might have to turn wrenches. I like being able to help others and step in – not just being a boss but a coworker too. I don't get burnt out from doing the same thing all the time.

### **Q: What does a typical day look like for you?**

A: I report to work at 3:30 am. As a manager, I feel like I should be here when my employees are here. This is a goal I made for myself. I want to be here to make sure everything is ready – I help the mechanic, I talk to the plant managers to make sure I'm not missing anything, then I go back to the garage and work on the computer and work on work orders. All of that is by about 7 am. I normally end my day at 2 pm, but I am nearby so I'm always available. They don't tell me to come in, I just do it. This company has been good to me, so I try to be good to them.

### **Q: In your years here, is there any wisdom that you have passed on to your employees?**

A: I tell my team, "You are here for a reason: your family. Get a picture of your kids or your spouse and put it in your toolbox or your dash. See the reason why you are driving. Make that the reason you are getting home safe, and that will make the company prevail." There is no reason that is worth speeding, making shortcuts, or forgoing safety. I want them to go home the same way they came to work, day after day. If I can achieve that, I think I have done my job well.

### **Q: What is your favorite fried food?**

A: Homemade fried fish – ocean perch with fried taters. It's just the way mom and grandma made it.