

JUNE'S BUSINESS OF THE MONTH!

The Savanna Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce Metform as June's Business of the Month!!The Savanna Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce Metform as June's Business of the Month!!Interview with Steve Wright, Metform's General Manager. Metform has been in business since 1976. Metform is a division of Maclean-Fogg which has been in business since 1925.What is your favorite part of your business? People. We have over 400 employees who provide for their families working at Metform. Maclean-Fogg is a privately-held company that genuinely values and cares about its employees. The Metform Team is like a family that cares about each other and cares about their company. The COVID crisis is a great example. We had to furlough over 300 employees starting in April. Maclean-Fogg kept their health care insurance in place and we have kept in close contact with our team to see how they're doing and reassure them we will likely be back to full strength by the end of June. The company has invested a great deal of time and money to adapt to the new norms of social distancing, disinfecting, face masks, and taking temperatures every day. Maclean-Fogg has had two main priorities as we navigate this crisis. First, and foremost, the safety of our teammates. Second, the continuity of our business that so many rely on to support their families. Why are you in this type of business? What service(s) or product(s) do you offer/manufacture? Our largest product line is machined gear blanks that go into transmissions for the auto industry. Metform is also a major



supplier of wheel nuts for the heavy truck and trailer industry. We manufacture a wide variety of specialty hot forgings and specialty Fasteners. What is unique about your business? Metform has the largest fleet of Hatebur hot formers in North America. Hot forging is what drives the economic engine at Metform and what distinguishes Metform in the marketplace. Hot forming equipment requires significant capital investment, our largest hot former, AMP 50, was about a \$15M investment 5 years ago. What is your background? (Education, Work Experience)I have a business management degree. I'm passionate about coaching and being on a winning team. I enjoy seeing our team be successful and very much enjoy coaching and helping people be the best they can be. I'm equally passionate about creating and nurturing a culture of teamwork and respect. I think that's been my trademark throughout my career. I

of my career working for a great company, Drives Incorporated in Fulton, IL. There I started as the Quality Manager and was the General Manager for many years. I was also privileged to be the Plant Manager of Elkay Manufacturing here in Savanna. Elkay is a terrific company with a fantastic workforce. I will finish my career as the General Manager of Metform here in Savanna and Mt. Carroll. Metform is a special company with an exceptional team of good people. How did you get started in this business? I've always coached; I coached a lot of sports teams in my past. I've always been naturally passionate about coaching and that's served me well in my career. I believe in servant leadership, not because I read the book but because that's how I was raised. How did you get the background and skills necessary to run this type of business? You learn constantly. I've worked with and for some outstanding leaders who mentored me and helped me grow. I've seen bad leadership in my career and learned "what not to do". I've been through good times and bad, and gained invaluable experience. The one constant was always that most people are good people and will do a great job if you serve them and invest in them. Where do you see your business in the next year? In the next five years? The next ten years? We will recover from the COVID crisis and my hope is we will be better coming out of it. We've tried to reflect on how we can improve our business and operations through this down period and not be a victim of difficult circumstances. I see Metform continuing to grow and evolve. Automotive is moving toward electrification and we've got to adapt to be ready to serve that industry. We're also exploring opportunities in new markets, certainly agriculture as we sit in the middle of ag country. We expect to grow our business and continually improve what we do. If you're not doing that, you're not going to be in business long. If you had one piece of advice to someone just starting out, what would it be? Humility. There's no substitute for hard work, failing and learning, teamwork, and believing in people. Don't get caught up in window dressing and fancy stuff. People are still the difference maker and will always be.

