

**Farmers  
Cooperative**

**WE'VE GOT**

**HISTORY**

Company Timeline 1903-2019





**Frankfort, Kansas:**  
Construction started 2015,  
Dedicated 2017.





# Introduction

In January 1903, the editor of “The Central Farmer” magazine, a long time supporter in the fight against the “grain combine”, set about to organize the Nebraska Farmers Cooperative Grain and Livestock Association. The association announced its purpose as follows - to protect members of the association from discrimination; to furnish reports of crop and market conditions, and to procure the best possible market for their products.

At the same time, Dorchester area farmers were meeting to discuss the organizing of a cooperative

association. On March 28, 1903, the first stockholders meeting of the Dorchester Farmers Cooperative Grain and Livestock Association was held in the Keeps Opera House in Dorchester, NE. 115 farmers became stockholders and they elected seven men as their first Board of Directors. Charles McIlroy became the first manager and a 15,000 bushel elevator was completed in October 1903 at a cost of \$3,905.00.

The 1990's brought on a lot of changes in growth, with mergers and acquisitions, creating 14 locations in

the local area by April of 2000. During the summer of 2002, merger talk started with Farmers Cooperative Elevator Company of Plymouth, NE. In June of 2002, a historic vote was passed to merge the two companies and adopt a new name of Farmers Cooperative. Since then, Farmers Cooperative has continued to grow to meet producers needs and today has 61 locations spread throughout southeast Nebraska and northeast Kansas. As Farmers Cooperative continues to grow, the company will always keep one priority in mind: Investing In Our Owners Success.





# Table of Contents

<b>Managers</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>Timeline</b>	
<b>1903-1915</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>1915-1936</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>1944-1954</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>1957-1982</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>1989-1995</b> .....	<b>12</b>
<b>1996-2002</b> .....	<b>14</b>
<b>2002</b> .....	<b>16</b>
<b>2004-2006</b> .....	<b>18</b>
<b>2007-2013</b> .....	<b>20</b>
<b>2014-2019</b> .....	<b>22</b>

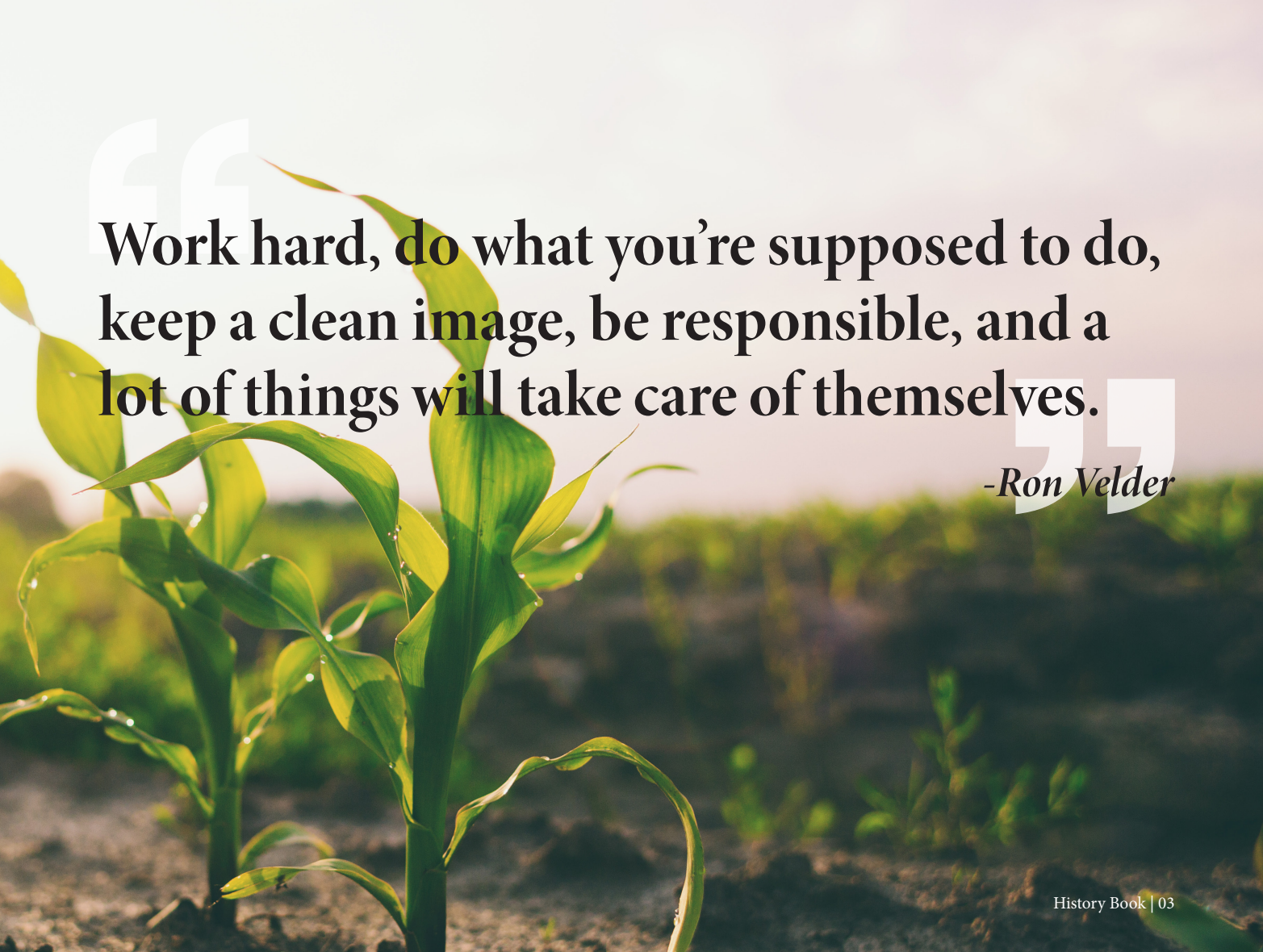


## Managers by Year

1903	<b>Charles McIlnay</b>
1903-1904	<b>J. B. Cook</b>
1904	<b>William Crofton</b>
1905	<b>M. F. Wagey</b>
1906-1910	<b>H. Wickencamp</b>
1910-1915	<b>William Reid</b>
1915-1916	<b>Lucille Parker</b>
1916-1929	<b>E. M. Olds</b>
1929 – 1944	<b>William Dainton</b>
1944 – 1945	<b>Aaron Seibert</b>
1945 – 1947	<b>C. B. Boyes</b>
1947 – 1976	<b>Frank Bosak</b>
1976 – 1981	<b>Gerald Johnson</b>
1981 – 1994	<b>Al Kalkwarf</b>
1994 – 2019	<b>Ron Velder</b>
2019 – Present	<b>Allan Zumpfe</b>







**Work hard, do what you're supposed to do,  
keep a clean image, be responsible, and a  
lot of things will take care of themselves.**

*-Ron Velder*



# 1903

## Sept, 1903

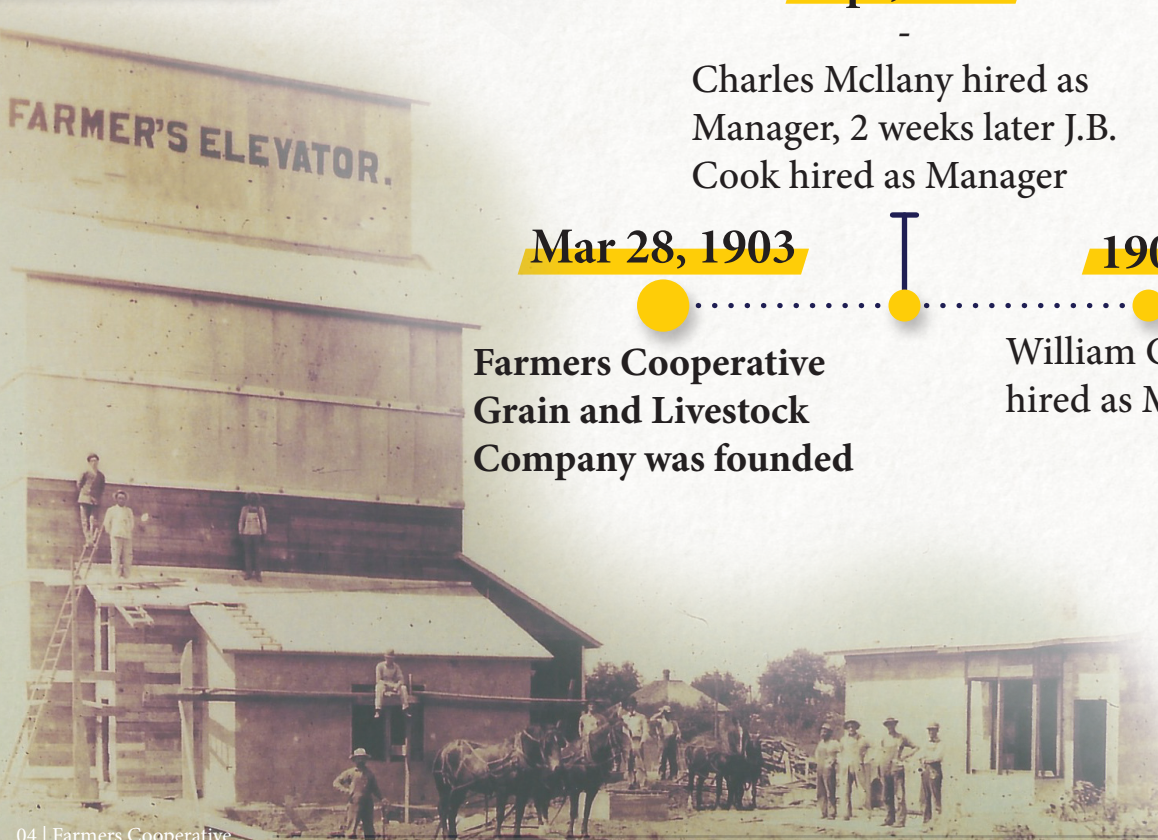
Charles Mcllany hired as  
Manager, 2 weeks later J.B.  
Cook hired as Manager

## Mar 28, 1903

**Farmers Cooperative  
Grain and Livestock  
Company was founded**

## 1904

William Crofton  
hired as Manager





# 1915

## 1905

M.F. Wagey  
hired as Manager

## May 30, 1910

Elevator burns to the ground; Later that year  
a new 20,000 bushel elevator was erected  
near the original site at a cost of \$5,580

## 1906-1910

H. Wickencamp  
hired as Manager

## 1910-1915

William Reid  
hired as Manager



*Dorchester, NE Elevators (1907)*



*Burlington Depot, Dorchester, NE (1910)*

# 1915

## June, 1916

16' x 84' coal shed  
and flour shed added

### 1915-1916

Lucille Parker  
hired as Manager

E.M. Olds  
hired as Manager

### 1916-1928

*Dorchester, NE (Early 1900s)*







# 1936

## 1929-1944

-  
William Dainton  
hired as Manager

### 1928

East elevator was  
purchased for \$6,240

*The cost of the elevator  
adjusted for inflation  
(2019) is \$93,621.*

### 1936

Discontinued the  
handling of livestock  
transactions after  
almost 20 years



# 1944

1945

1947-1976

Middle elevator  
was purchased and  
updated for \$18,700.23

Frank Bosak  
hired as Manager

1944-1945

Aaron Seibert  
hired as Manager

1945-1947

C.B. Boyes  
hired as Manager

1950

Pellet mill was added

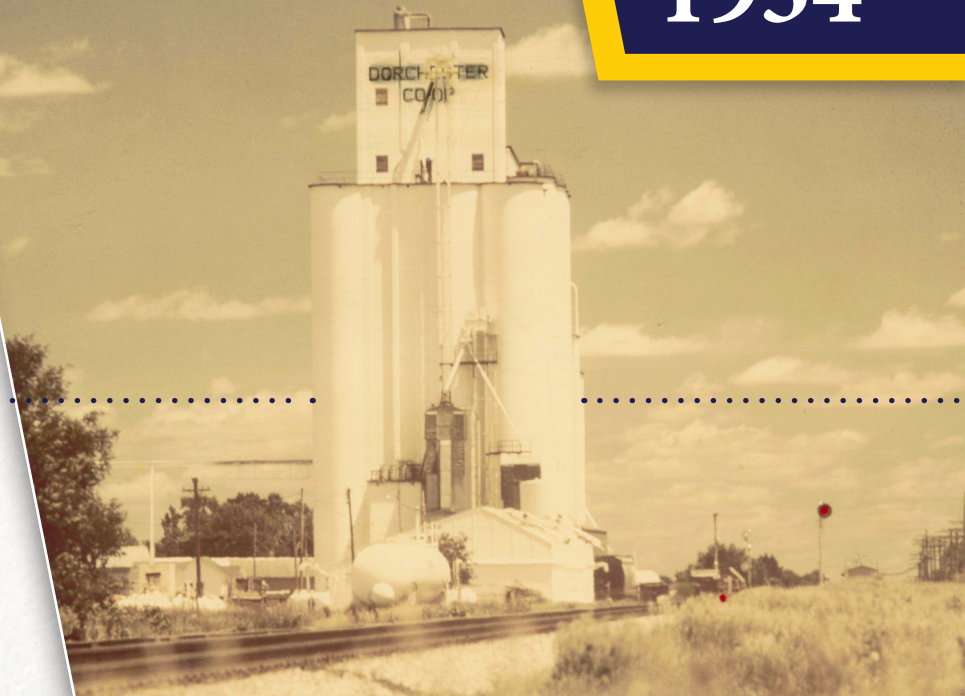
*The cost of the purchase and  
update adjusted for inflation  
(2019) is \$266,538.53.*



# 1954

Three old elevators were  
removed and replaced  
with a concrete house

1954



*Dorchester, Ne - Elevator built 1954, photo taken 1960's*



# 1957

1957

First load of anhydrous ammonia was loaded out of the Dorchester Cooperative

1960

Service station and propane plant were built and construction began on a complete feed mill

1965

Dry fertilizer shed erected

1973

Ron Velder starts career with Dorchester Cooperative loading grain cars at the elevator

1976-1981

Gerald Johnson hired as Manager



# 1982

## Early 1980's

Expanded to load 54-car unit trains,  
increasing the volume of grain and  
the company's competitiveness

The office was struck by  
lightning and destroyed  
by fire; new office with  
larger scale was built

1977

Purchased semi-trailer to  
haul our own propane and  
anhydrous ammonia and  
the car wash was installed

1982

1981-1994

Al Kalkwarf  
hired as Manager

# 1989

## 1989

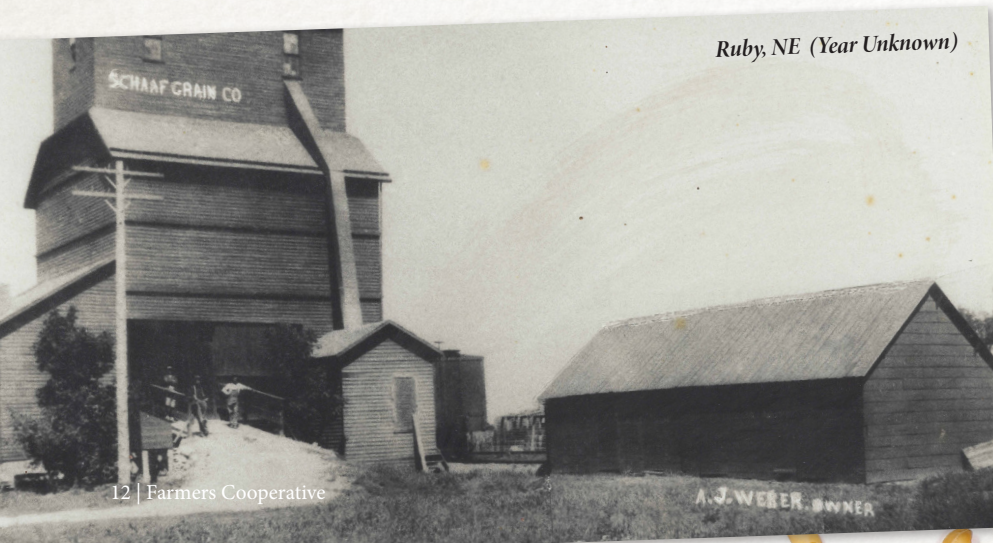
New fertilizer plant location was purchased

## April, 1994

Ruby Farmers Union Cooperative was purchased

## Sept 1, 1994

Ron Velder promoted to Manager



Merged with Quad County Cooperative (Fairmont, Exeter, Cordova) making this the first merger the cooperative had been a part of





*Cordova, NE (1982)*

# 1995

## 1995

Purchased Pleasant Dale Co-op  
after leasing it since 1992



*Exeter, NE (1982)*



*Pleasant Dale, NE (1991)*

# 1996

## 1997

New office and storage for agronomy was built and aerial application service was purchased and renamed Sky Tech

## 1996

Milligan/Ohiova/Tobias  
Cooperative merger



Ohiova



Tobias



Milligan from Southeast



Milford, NE (2019)

## Sept. 1998

Country Side  
Cooperative of  
Milford merged  
into the company  
(Milford, Raymond,  
Emerald, & Seward)





# 2002

## 1998

Company's first  
110-shuttle train facility  
completed at Dorchester

## 2000

Roca Grain Elevator  
was purchased

## 2002

Beatrice Feedmill purchased  
from Land O' Lakes

Farmers Union Cooperative  
Company of Blue Springs merger

Reynolds location was purchased  
from Greenleaf Cooperative



*Dorchester, NE (2019)*



# 2002

## Sept. 2002

Merged with Farmers  
Cooperative Elevator Company  
of Plymouth (Barneston, Daykin,  
DeWitt Agronomy, DeWitt  
Station, Fairbury, Hoag, Jansen,  
Kramer, Odell, Plymouth,  
Swanton, & Wilber)

The name of the company was  
changed to Farmers Cooperative



*Daykin, NE*



*Plymouth, NE*





*Wilber, NE*



*Swanton, NE*



*Jansen, NE*



# 2004

Farmers Cooperative  
Association of McCool  
Junction merger (McCool  
Junction, Lushton)

-  
Hallam Grain purchased

2004



*McCool Junction, NE (2019)*

Denton Agronomy  
was purchased

2005



*Lushton, NE (2019)*

Friend Fertilizer  
was purchased

2006





*Denton, NE (2019)*

2006

Farmers Cooperative  
Association of  
Hanover merger

2006



*Hallam, NE (2019)*



*Hanover, KS (2019)*



# 2007

## 2007

-  
Sanford Oil Inc. of  
Beatrice purchased



## 2008

-

Countryside Cooperative merger  
(Diller, Pawnee City, Firth,  
Pickrell, Princeton, Syracuse,  
York, Cortland)



## 2011

-

DeWitt campus  
was purchased



*Pickrell, NE (2000)*



*DeWitt, NE (2019)*



# 2013

## 2012

Farmers Union Cooperative Supply merger (Auburn, Beatrice Energy North, Burchard-fuel, Syracuse-fuel)

## 2013

\$5 million dollar dry fertilizer facility built in Jansen, NE capable of storing 14,000 tons of product



Beatrice Cenex Station (2019)



Jansen, NE (2019)

# 2014

## Sept. 2014

McCool Fertilizer  
purchased

Geneva Agronomy  
built with Winfield

Southeast Nebraska Cooperative  
merger (Beatrice, Burchard,  
Herkimer, Humboldt, Liberty,  
Marysville, Pawnee City, Sterling,  
Virginia, Ellis, Filley Grain &  
Agronomy, Holmesville, Bremen)

## Feb. 2014

## 2014



*McCool Junction, NE (2019)*



*Beatrice, NE (2019)*





# 2019

Beattie Farmers Union Cooperative merger  
(Beattie, Blue Rapids, Frankfort Grain,  
Marietta, Summerfield, Waterville)

4.2 million bushel shuttle facility was built  
at a cost of \$35 million in Frankfort, KS

2015

Pony Express Service  
Station in Hanover, KS  
was purchased

2016



*Beattie, KS (2018)*

2019

Ron Velder retires  
after 46 years and  
Allan Zumpfe  
hired as Manager

Thank you to each and every producer, employee, and business that has made this 116 year journey possible. We look forward to what the future has in store for your cooperative.



[www.farmersco-operative.com](http://www.farmersco-operative.com)

<b>Grain</b>	<b>Agronomy</b>	<b>Tires</b>	<b>Refined Fuels</b>	<b>Feed</b>	<b>Precision Ag</b>	<b>Lubricants</b>	<b>Propane</b>
402-946-2211	402-946-2211	402-656-4000	402-580-7562	402-228-3458	402-239-3749	402-742-3311	800-473-4579