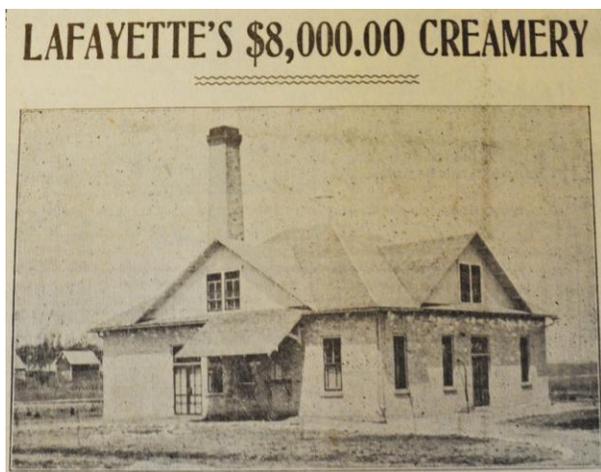


United Farmers Co-op – established 1915



A group of dairymen from the Lafayette, MN area came together in 1915, looking for better market access for their product and established the Cooperative Creamery Association of Lafayette. They started with a \$10,000 investment, 2 employees and annual sales of just over \$35,000 but the business would someday grow into the multi-million dollar enterprise we know today as United Farmers Cooperative.

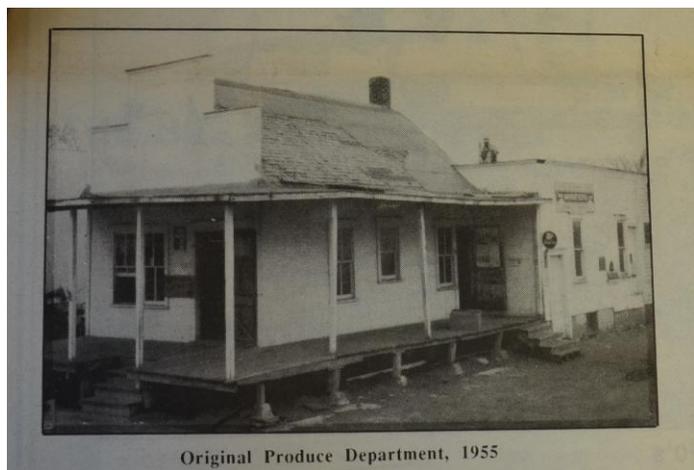
The first order of business was to build a creamery. With land purchased for \$275, the Board began accepting bids for construction, finally settling on a bid for \$4786 from Olson & Carlson of Winthrop. The local newspaper, the Lafayette Ledger, printed a photo of the new creamery in June of 1916 & described it as, "the largest & most modernly equipped creamery in this part of the State and in Nicollet & Sibley counties."

In 1920, the Produce Department was added, with a new egg and poultry business. Ten years later, during the Depression, an egg candling facility was added to the Produce Dept.

At the 25th annual meeting in 1940, it was decided to add a butcher shop & meat locker. The following year a slaughter room was added.

In the fall of 1964, a 150' X 480' tract of land was purchased from the Chicago-Northwestern Railroad for \$1,700, where a fertilizer warehouse & blending plant would be constructed.

At the 50th annual meeting in 1965, the Board announced that the yearly sales had reached the million dollar mark for the first time at \$1,039,345. Improvements that year consisted of building a new front to the seed storage building, a new ammonia conversion plant, and an addition to the fertilizer plant providing bagging equipment & storage for the bagged fertilizer.



The Feehan Elevator facilities were purchased in 1966 and became known as the Farmers Elevator. This began an era of many mergers, acquisitions and expansion for the Co-op.

In 1968, it was decided to purchase the Klossner Elevator facilities from the Hanska Cooperative for \$45,000, and a year later, the 2 elevators and the farm supply operation were merged into one entity.

The Lafayette Creamery Department was merged with Mid-America in 1970. A 40' X 70' addition was built onto the feed mill & the Farm Supply building was also purchased. The Lafayette Farm Service elevator, property & facilities were bought for \$37,000. This facility is called Elevator No. 2. A year later, the Lafayette Cooperative Association changed its name to the Farmers Cooperative of Lafayette.

The Winthrop Farm Services was purchased for \$30,000 in 1972.

Computer systems were beginning to become popular in the late 1970's and the Board began to discuss the possibility of moving to a computerized bookkeeping system. With Board approval, the co-op moved ahead in conjunction with Land O'Lakes' computer system which was installed in the summer of 1977.

In late 1986, the Board negotiated the purchase of the Norseland fertilizer plant, stock & buildings from Tri-Ag Service of LeSueur for \$150,000.

At the 75th anniversary & customer appreciation dinner, the Co-op served 2,200 customers & had over 1,000 stockholders.

In 1995, the Klossner Co-op Oil Association was merged into the operation and the name of the organization was changed to United Farmers Cooperative.

1998, Le Sueur Farmers Elevator merged into the operation.

UFC started their own insurance company in 2004, known as Parthenon Agency.

The corporate office of UFC was relocated to Winthrop in 2007.

In September 2012, through a partnership between UFC & ADM-Benson Quinn, United Grain Systems, LLC in Brownton opened for business. The facility has 3 receiving pits in front, each handling 20,000 bushels per hour; a 20,000 bushel per hour pit behind the facility & they can handle 500 – 600 trucks per day.

Waconia Farm Supply was merged into the operation and rebranded as UFC Farm Supply. This merger brought a new division to the business with consumer goods and hardware.

Today, UFC has grown into one of the largest agricultural cooperatives in the state, with approximately \$175 million in assets, 480 employees and over 25 locations. Jeff Nielsen is the General Manager.

