

All American Co-op – Stewartville, MN (1908 – 2009)

Believed to be the oldest business in Stewartville, MN, All American Co-op turned 100 years old in 2008.

During the height of the cooperative elevator movement, the Farmers Elevator Company of Stewartville was organized when a group of farmers banded together to create a farmer-owned grain elevator. Articles of Incorporation were filed with the Secretary of State's office on September 28, 1908.

Started as "strictly a grain affair," the first several years were quite challenging, but the elevator persevered. In late July 1938, the elevator suffered a fire & was destroyed. The owners rebuilt the elevator & added more elevator houses in 1955 and 1958.

In 1945, the co-op came under the management of Wendell "Windy" H. Lenton, who managed the business for 37 years.

The year 1966 brought the purchase of 2 plants at Elgin & Eyota from Dill Elevators, which expanded the business from 1 location to 3. In 1980, naming itself after its own line of feed, the business changed its name to 'All American Co-op' to set itself apart from all the other farmers' elevators.

All American Co-op has grown to 8 locations in 8 communities. In addition to the Stewartville, Elgin & Eyota locations, the Chatfield facility was purchased from Lowell Weelborg Elevator of Chatfield in 1988. A&D Grain of Viola was purchased in 1995, & in 1996, the AA Fertilizer plants in Plainview & St. Charles were acquired. In addition, through an agronomy joint venture with High Plains Cooperative in 1998, Progressive Ag Center, LLC was formed. Finally, in 2002, a precision agriculture joint venture with Central Co-op of Hayfield was formed & named Cooperative Concepts.

The cooperative offers grain storage, drying & merchandising, feed grinding, custom mixing, soybean roasting & pelleting, anhydrous, dry & liquid fertilizer sales, custom fertilizer applications, variable rate fertilizer application, a full line of weed & pest control chemicals, seed, custom lime application & precision agriculture products.



All American Co-op has been managed by only six individuals in its entire history and 95 of those 100 years by only 4 managers. After Windy Lenton retired, Ron Nelson managed All American Co-op for 23 years until 2005. Ron also served as a member of the Minnesota Grain and Feed Association Board of Directors in 2004. In 2005, Glenn Lutteke, who had been employed by All American Co-op since 1977, became All American's General Manager. He is only the sixth general manager in the co-op's history.