

FCA Co-op – Jackson, MN (1909 – 2010)

Farmers' Cooperative Association of Jackson (FCA Co-op) was founded on August 1, 1909. There were 172 stock holders who raised \$6,100 to cover the start-up costs of the co-op. The co-op mainly handled grain and livestock.

The co-op was hit hard by the Great Depression, where it is said corn prices in 1929 fell to around 6 cents a bushel. The Dust Bowl years in the 1930's didn't treat area farmers or the co-op any better, but by 1936 & '37, things began to turn around. In 1940, Farmers' Cooperative Association built a new elevator & offices. In 1949, they put up a concrete elevator.



Forrest "Fiz" Mariner became elevator manager in 1951. He is credited with almost single-handedly keeping the railroad in Jackson through his lobbying efforts. He also brought the co-op into the petroleum business as well. He served the co-op for 34 years until his retirement in 1985.

FCA Co-op continued to grow & expand as the years rolled by. In 1966, they built a concrete annex. In 1970 they purchased the Spirit Lake, IA elevator but later resold it for commercial development. A fertilizer blending plant, the current Jackson facility & the current offices were built in 1977, '79 & '80 respectively.

Unfortunately, the co-op suffered a tough blow on January 2, 1982 when a fire burned the feed mill to the ground. The building & its contents were a complete loss. They rebuilt the feed mill in 1983 & it remains standing today.

The last 2 decades have marked increased expansion for the cooperative in the way of construction, storage capacity & location acquisitions. To date, FCA Co-op has 6 locations – Jackson, Lakefield, Okabena, Round Lake, Sherburn & Trimont.



FCA Co-op is managed by Dennis Hunwardsen, who joined the staff on November 1, 1998.



Today, FCA Co-op offers grain, feed, agronomy & petroleum products & services to its patrons. They have total sales that exceed \$100 million annually & are well positioned to continue into the next century.