National Farmers Organization (1971) -- The Minnesota National Farmers’ Association is part of the national association which include all organized state groups. The organization is an association of farmers interested in the promotion and development of production agriculture. It expends significant effort in the marketing sector of industry.

*Northern Minnesota Poultry Association -- This association began in the very early 1900’s under the leadership of C. E. Brown, poultry husbandman at the Northwest Experiment Station. The organization started out as an educational effort, later assumed by the county extension service when it was established after World War 1. It became a show organization which took care of the poultry display at the Winter Shows. Currently this group remains in charge of the Poultry and Pet Show. Harold Thomsorde, international poultry judge and longtime representative of the Poultry Association on the board of managers, provides the following reflections:

While the Red River Valley Winter Shows has a long and illustrious history, there is one organization which has been active for a much longer time -- the Northern Minnesota Poultry Association. This association, organized in 1902 by such people as John Saugstad, August Aas, Mrs. F.C. Mitchell, and Henry Boltman, has sponsored an annual show since that time. For the first 15 years of its life, the shows were held in downtown Crookston in whatever building was available. It was one of the best shows in the state at that time, as it is today. When the Winter Shows were organized each also had a separate show. This led to some problems, as they were individually competing for the same support, advertising and attendance. The Winter Shows president, Conrad Selvig, asked for a combined meeting of the officers of both organizations to discuss the problems. After much discussion it was agreed everyone would be better served if there was only one organization. It was agreed that the Winter Shows would provide a show room and pay the Poultry Association $125 annually to help pay premiums and other expenses. The Poultry Association agreed not to solicit donations, advertising or have separate programs. For 60 years this agreement has continued with one exception. For some years the Poultry Association has not asked for the entire $125. They have asked, and have received, what they needed to cover their expenses. This usually runs from about $45 to $85 annually. The poultry people feel that any balance of the $125 not used, should go for the betterment of the Winter Shows.

There isn’t any question this agreement has been of mutual benefit to both organizations. The Poultry Association remains a vital force in the promotion of the Poultry and Pet Show that is well received by the public and helps to promote a combined agricultural activity.

Minnesota Soil and Water Conservation Districts (1963) -- This is an organization of all the soil and water conservation districts in Minnesota and in particular those in northwestern Minnesota. Its membership represents the various soil and water conservation districts which are organized under the Minnesota statutes to encourage the conservation of soil and water in agricultural operations.

*Area Chamber of Commerce, Crookston -- An association of business and professional people in the Crookston area was organized for the purpose of developing and improving the quality of life in the Crookston community. When the Winter Shows began back in 1910, the Crookston Businessmen’s Association was probably the most active cooperator to assist Superintendent Selvig and the staff of the Northwest School and Experiment Station in planning and putting on the first farm crop shows. About the middle of the second decade,

About the middle of the second decade, the businessmen’s association appropriated $1,000 a year toward the planning and operational expenses of the Winter Shows. In fact, this practice was maintained until the Shows moved from downtown to the present site. The strong support given to the 14 county exposition by the Crookston community, without a doubt, is a foundation which the RRV Winter Shows has needed to remain in continuous service for 75 years.

Red River Valley Sugarbeet Growers Association (1961) -- The seminar series for sugarbeet growers started in the late 1960’s at the Northwest Experiment Station under the leadership of Olaf Soine, assisted by local sugarbeet growers. The success in terms of attendance was immediate--overflowing the Kiehle auditorium, which held about 700 people at that time. Very little extension work was conducted out in the counties as the American Crystal Sugar Co. contracted for sugarbeet acres and controlled the production process via their fieldmen. The Sugarbeet Growers Association grew in strength and influence and requested membership on the board of managers in the early 1960’s. They have been a strong cooperator of the Winter Shows.

Pure, Proud and Sweet Salutes The RED RIVER VALLEY WINTER SHOWS On Their 75TH ANNIVERSARY! American Crystal Sugar Company CROOKSTON, MINNESOTA