Men and women from Red River Valley farms liked the first Annual Short Course and Farm Crop Show held at the University Campus at Crookston in 1910. They wanted more time for exchanging ideas among themselves, for hearing about farming from other areas, and for hearing speakers on governmental and other topics. The crop show was an immediate success. It demonstrated the quality of grain and forage which was being produced in N.W. Minnesota. The women's meetings were especially appreciated.

Farming at this time was certainly largely a do-it-yourself enterprise. However, farmers were beginning to buy services which were evolving in towns and villages. Farm machinery sales and service, financial services, health services, schools, cultural activity, water management know how, were among the growing needs of people on the land.

A war between major nations always increases the rate at which technology is developed, and this fact was no different in World War I. The services that developed to support the farming industry grew at a faster rate right after the war to-end-all wars. Consequently, farmers, their wives, and children not only wanted to learn about food and fiber production, but they wanted to see the latest and newest equipment.

The first Industrial Show was held in the new buildings downtown and was a success. On-the-farm equipment for the dairymen, newest machinery to be powered by horses, the developing farm tractors, farm tractor equipment, and household equipment were shown by enthusiastic concessioners. Some salesmen made enough contacts to carry them through months of customer sales and service. The initial show was an exciting happening but a big problem for the arrangements committee. The armory space was needed for the popular evening lectures. Already, the ponderous steam engines, oil pull tractors, and grain separators wanted space. The need for ground level space with large doors was clear by 1919. Two buildings were completed by the Livestock Association by that year and paid for by gifts and the sale of shares. This success encouraged the show managers to plan a third building for the "Industrial Show" as it was called.

Livestock producers weren't too excited about the third building. The farm economy was going downhill. Yet, plans were developed, some funds were raised, and the rest borrowed to build Annex B, known as the Industrial Building. The building was 40' x 144' and was specifically set aside for the Industrial Show, what is known today as the Farm Service Show, a major segment of Winter Shows. It, too, was an immediate success when put to use in 1920.

The Winter Shows Board of Managers, the official title of the planning leadership in 1920 and since, disapproved of the frivolous concessions, the carnival atmosphere and the kind of activities which merely parted people from their money and really didn’t give anything substantive in return. The board has never approved