EPOCHAL EVENTS IN THE HISTORY OF THE RED RIVER VALLEY WINTER SHOWS:

1910 First meetings and Crop Show; donated merchandise prizes.
1913 First Farmers’ Livestock Judging contest held at shows.
1914 Meetings and shows moved to downtown Crookston. Red River Valley Development Association organized.
1915 Red River Valley Development Association raised $1,000 for crops premium.
1916 Armory completed in Crookston. Provided largest meeting space for evening lectures.
1916 Enabling legislation passed by legislature to permit counties to appropriate funds for use by the Red River Valley Development Association at the Winter Shows.
1917 Crookston Association of Public Affairs began financial support - $1,000 annually.
1917 First Livestock Shows held in downtown garage - $300 premiums. Valley-wide organizations of livestock breeders, dairymen and poultrymen affiliated with Winter Shows.
1918 June meeting of Red River Valley Development Association at Warren. A "kick-off" meeting for fund-raising campaign for Winter Shows building.
1919 $15,000 raised and Livestock Pavilion on Broadway completed for livestock and crops show. Armory used for meetings and concessions.
1919 Legislation provides funds for premiums to Livestock Association.
1920 Annex A, Livestock Buildings, on Ash Street completed.
1920 The title "Winter Shows Board of Managers" was given to the reorganized planning board representing several cooperating organizations and agencies joined together to manage the Winter Shows each year.
1921 Annex B, Industrial Building, completed and used. Some 2600 shareholders contributed more than $70,000 for entire project.
1923-25 Two donation Livestock Sales held to help pay on outstanding debts; $7,000 was collected.
1927 Original annual grant of $2,000 was made by state legislature for livestock premiums raised to $5,700; (reduced to $4,700 in 1933).
1927 President C. G. Selvig elected to Congress, after 17 years of service to the Winter Shows. Succeeded by Superintendent A. A. Dowell.
1937 President Dowell accepted position in Agricultural Economics Department, University of Minnesota, St. Paul. Succeeded by Superintendent T. M. McColl.
1938 Valley Farmer and Homemaker Award established.
1940 The final note of $7,000 against the Winter Shows building is paid.
1947 Livestock Futurity Show founded to encourage youth to become established in the livestock industry.
1953 The Red River Valley Winter Shows Board of Managers, Inc. becomes officially incorporated under Minnesota and federal non-profit tax exempt statutes.
1956 President T. M. McColl, retired after 45 years of service to the Winter Shows. Succeeded by Superintendent B. E. Youngquist.
1958 Red River Valley Livestock Association transfers title of Winter Shows buildings to the Winter Shows Board of Managers, Inc. for the purpose of building new facilities. Four members of Red River Valley Livestock Association to be on Board of Managers.
1958 "Brainstorm meetings" held out in Valley counties to explore building idea. Rural leadership said, "Go ahead - we'll help."
1959 A full-time assistant to the President was hired by the Board of Managers to direct task of building planning and financing activities.
1961 The livestock show opened up to all farmers of all states.
1961 (August 11) - Three hundred citizens of the Valley attend the Ground Breaking Ceremony for the New Winter Shows building.
1961 (November) - Red River Valley Livestock Association underwrites an additional building (60' wide x 180' long) for livestock. This insured that the entire show could take place on the new site and at the Northwest School.
1961 King Agassiz project launched. First king was Richard Fitzsimmons, Argyle.
1961 Red River Valley Development Association votes to provide yearly support to the operating expenses of the Winter Shows.
1962 The new arena and west livestock barn dedicated on February 14, 1962. The first show in the new facilities was held February 18-23 and this was the fourth home in 52 years.
1963 Purchased 10 more acres of land to the west of present property.
1964 Hall of Fame established to honor long time service to the Winter Shows and agriculture.
1964 Connecting pole barn built between the west livestock barn and the arena. Personal loan guarantees and pledges by the Red River Valley Livestock Association secured financing on short term.
1964 Sustaining Fund launched.
1965 Built new Armory on land sold to City of Crookston by Winter Shows.
1966 Livestock judging and sale ring name Strickler Arena in honor of William Strickler, longtime president of the Red River Valley Livestock Association and vice president of the Winter Shows Board.
1966 Raised $192,000 during fund drive among Valley wide cooperatives and agribusiness to build north wing on the arena plus other improvements.
1979 MIDA Bond arranged to fund balance due on the north arena, provide livestock association show space, finance college horse stable facilities and improvement of internal facilities.
1980 There are 21 separate organizations and agencies having membership on the Board of Managers.
1982 James Lofgren becomes president of Winter Shows, succeeding B. E. Youngquist. First time in history of Show that someone other than superintendent of Northwest Experiment Station is president.
1983 The Red River Valley Winter Shows Foundation, Inc. a companion corporation to the Winter Shows was organized as a nonprofit corporation under the tax exempt nonprofit status. Their first project is to establish a $100,000 permanent program fund, the income will be provided to the Winter Shows board for educational and human resource programming. Just over $20,000 has been pledged or received in cash to date.
1983 Builder of the Valley Award is founded. First honored recipient was Edgar Hetten, Thief River Falls, an inventor and developer.