TORGER A. HOVERSTAD, the first Northwest Experiment Station superintendent, served from 1895 to 1905. Hoverstad was instrumental in the preliminary organization of the Northwest Experiment Station, and during his years with the station he introduced better selections of several crop varieties, including Fife and Blue Stem wheats, Minnesota #13 corn, alfalfa, White Blossom Sweet Clover, Brome Grass, and Red and Mammoth clovers. He helped organize the Red River Valley Dairymen’s Association, and became its first president in 1903. Hoverstad planted the main windbreak at the Station in 1896-97, and he directed much effort toward drainage of the land. Polk County and the city of Crookston each gave $1,000 to help construct an open drainage ditch that was used until 1909, when the tile and surface drainage system was completed.

WILLIAM ROBERTSON succeeded Hoverstad as station superintendent and was the first school superintendent. Robertson was with the station-school from 1905 until his death in January 1910. He established the curriculum of academic and vocational training for the new school. He secured staff and faculty to implement the school programs. Robertson’s greatest contribution was considered to be the installation of a surface drainage system augmented by an elaborate system of tile lines.

CONRAD SELVIG was appointed by the University Board of Regents to succeed Robertson, and he served as school-station superintendent from 1910 through 1927. Selvig worked toward building the school, with developmental plans to allow for future needs. He organized the Red River Valley Winter Shows in 1910 and served as president through 1927. His leadership in drainage matters led to the organization of the Red Lake and Clearwater River Conservancy project. The experiment station continued to test and introduce new and better varieties, including the introduction of Grimm alfalfa to the Valley. Livestock research continued to grow under Selvig’s leadership. He was elected to Congress from the Ninth District in 1926 and served three terms.