western Minnesota Agricultural Association was transferred to Fosston for the East Polk County Fair. The Fair has been in continuous operation as a summer fair since its reorganization and has served its area very well. Credit for the reorganization, according to Franklin Vikan, goes to Ole Hem of Fosston. The long time Secretary of the Fair was H. Algaard. The Present officers of the East Polk County Fair are: Rueben Tweten, President; C. O. Gunhus, vice president; V. G. Whaley, secretary, and Roy Leervig, treasurer.

The Polk County at Fertile, which serves primarily West Polk County has had the longest continued existence of the Polk County Fairs. It has well equipped buildings and equipment for Crops, Livestock, Poultry 4-H and F.F.A. exhibits. An excellent grandstand and track entertainments.

The first fair at Fertile, according to Hjalmer Erickson, a pioneer of the Fertile community, was staged by the Polk and Norman County Fair Association in 1894. Fairs were held during the three following years but for lack of support the Association failed, losses were cancelled and buildings were sold. George Kronschnabel was the first president and J. Walseth the first secretary of this first Fair Association.

The history of the Polk County Fair Association at Fertile written by Hjalmer Erickson at the time of the Golden Anniversary of the Fair in 1954 appears in the Fertile Journal of July 1 of that year. The first officers of the present Fair organization were John Holsten, president 1904-1908, and James F. Hanson, secretary. The Fair has been in continuous operation annually since 1904 and is now splendidly equipped with all necessary buildings, grandstand and race track with all debts paid. The present officers of the Fair are: Albin Johnson, president; Hjalmer Erickson, vice president; Reynold Erickson, secretary and Solon Gullickson, treasurer.

The Red River Valley Winter Shows and Northwest School’s Farmers and Homemakers Week held annually at Crookston has become the most famous winter fair in the entire Northwest. While this winter classic is commonly known as the Red River Valley Winter Shows today yet the educational features for farmers and homemakers emanating from the Northwest School and the University have ever been dominant. The Winter Shows began at the Northwest School and Experiment Station at Crookston in December 1910 under the leadership of the late C. G. Selvig, Superintendent. The primary objectives of the first meetings and shows were—to bring to the farmers and homemakers the latest information on production and marketing of crops and livestock, problems of the homemakers and to exhibit products from the farm and from the home. Implement dealers, manufacturers of farm commodities and merchants enthusiastically supported the first exhibitions of crops, baking and sewing by donating fabulous sweepstakes prizes for wheat, other small grains and corn. Concrete stave silos valued at $300 and $400 were given in