



Co-op Country Farmers Elevator - Renville, MN (1886 – 2009)

Co-op Country Farmers Elevator (CCFE), as it is known today, was incorporated on July 1, 1986. The business is the result of a consolidation between Sacred Heart Farmers Elevator (1886), Renville Farmers Elevator (1890), Danube Farmers Elevator (1906) & Renville Co-op Fertilizer Company. Three of these four entities are some of the oldest elevators still in operation in

Minnesota.

As individual businesses in the late 1800's & early 1900's, each location handled grain, flour & feed, along with coal, salts, lumber & farm machinery (at Renville). Wheat was the king of crops in this area, followed by oats, flax, corn & barley.

These elevators did not escape the demise many elevators to this day still suffer. The Danube elevator burned down in 1918 & was rebuilt. The Farmers Elevator Company of Renville burned down in 1910 & was replaced by a concrete elevator the same year. Another fire in 1924 caused the loss of \$11,000 of grain & materials. Finally a third fire destroyed a steel covered cupola & the feed mill in 1936. The feed mill was rebuilt by the end of 1936.

On May 1, 1990, Olivia Farmers Elevator became a part of CCFE through a merger. This location also is quite old, as it came into existence back in 1906. In December 1993, the members of CCFE voted to purchase the Vigaro Farm Market fertilizer plant in Olivia. Today all 6 entities are still in place & operate as one organization.

CCFE's Board of Directors consists of 7 members elected by the membership & 3 appointed Advisory Members.

CCFE has been managed by only three CEO's, including current President & CEO, Craig Hebrink, who has managed since 1996.

