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# The Grain Grower's Guide

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No. 30



## Red Deer Co-operative Association



How the Farmers of one Alberta Town are Solving Problems in  
A Satisfactory Manner

Co-operation is one of the most important subjects before western farmers today. They see in it an opportunity to secure relief from many influences which oppress them. The foremost co-operative association is that known as the United Farmers of Alberta Co-operative Association of Red Deer. This is a voluntary association as there is now no machinery provided by statute by which co-operative associations can easily become incorporated. As much interest has been expressed in the Red Deer work and many local branches are desirous of following the example of the Red Deer farmers the by-laws of the Red Deer Association are here given in full. Jas. Bower, Red Deer is president of the association.

### BY-LAWS

This organization shall be known as The United Farmers of Alberta Red Deer Co-operative Association.

The membership of this Association shall consist of all farmers who have farm produce to dispose of and are members of any union of the United Farmers of Alberta, and who have subscribed to these By-laws are willing to be governed thereby.

The officers of the Association shall be trustees of the Association and shall consist of nine directors.

Every member shall list with the Secretary-Treasurer from time to time at his own discretion, all the farm produce which he may wish to dispose of through the agency of this association, and having done so shall not sell or dispose of the same during the term agreed upon except as hereinafter provided.

The Board of Directors shall hold regular meetings every second Tuesday in each month at 2 p.m. sharp or as often as they may deem advisable as occasion may arise, for which services each member attending meetings shall receive the sum of \$1.50 per day and actual expenses incurred in attending such meetings.

The duty of the Directors shall be to transact all business of the Association such as procuring necessary store-house accommodation, receive the report of the Secretary-Treasurer and any committee appointed by them, deciding on all matters arising out of the transactions of the business carried on, to decide on what offers are best to accept for members, produce and the best time to sell, taking every precaution in arriving at a conclusion regarding buyers' financial standing and character before selling, obtaining all available information for that purpose. They shall closely investigate into all disputes and obtain legal or other expert advice of opinion whenever deemed advisable. A working quorum shall consist of five directors at a regular meeting, but on any question arising where any director shall be dissatisfied at the decision, notice must be given to an adjourned meeting to reconsider the question when a majority shall rule.

Working committees may be appointed by the Board to carry out any work intrusted to them by the Directors.

A qualified Board of Survey shall be appointed by the Directors, to consist of as many persons as the Directors deem advisable and to be either permanent or appointed from time to time as occasion demands. These may be appointed from among the Directors them-

selves, members of the Association, or any other person qualified to fill the position. For their services they shall each receive the sum of \$1.00 for each time they are called upon to give a decision. Any three members of this Board having been regularly called are empowered to give a decision.

The duty of the Secretary-Treasurer shall be to give his whole time or such part of it as may be necessary to do the work, with power to engage assistance if needed after having applied for and having received permission from the Directors to do so; the Directors shall arrange for the Assistant's pay. The Secretary-Treasurer shall open up and carry on a correspondence with any dealers in or consumers of farm produce, obtaining all available information regarding their financial standing and where possible get the names of other prospective customers with a view of extending the correspondence, receiving their offers, forwarding quotations and generally transacting such business as a representative of a commercial house would be required to do and all such other work necessary for the carrying out of the work of the Association, placing all such communications and other reports of his work regularly and as often as desired before the Directors for their decision. He shall receive all moneys entrusted

assistance or instructions he can to the shipper in loading or storing his produce and to see that the shipping bill and other documents concerning the shipment are properly made out and placed in the proper hands. All shipments must be made in the name of the Association by the Secretary or his representative.

He shall closely inspect the produce being shipped and satisfy himself that it is up to the standard required. In cases where he is in doubt, or where the shipper is not willing to agree to his decision, he shall withhold shipment until the Board of Survey inspect the same and give their decision.

In cases where two or more are shipping or storing together and where it is necessary to the best of his judgment and if the shippers are satisfied, he shall ship or store it that way. If they are not satisfied he shall refer it to the Survey Board whose decision shall be final, but in no case shall he ship any stuff not up to the representations made to the buyer.

He shall be accountable for the proper discharge of all his duties and shall give satisfactory bonds to the amount of not less than \$2,000 to be increased at the discretion of the Directors as security to the Association for the proper

and Secretary-Treasurer for their services according to agreement and according to the work done.

Where any member makes himself objectionable by deception, unreasonable demands or otherwise hindering the welfare of the Association then the Directors are empowered to refuse to handle his stuff.

When the occasions arise when further ruling is needed on questions not fully enumerated in these by-laws then the Directors are empowered to make such ruling.

Where shippers are not satisfied with the Secretary's ruling in grading their stuff and demand a survey they shall deposit with the secretary the sum of \$3.00, taking a receipt for same, which shall be refunded to the depositor if the depositor's contention is upheld, otherwise the same may become the property of the Association.

### GENERAL RULES

The Trustees shall have full power and authority to provide funds to carry on the work of the Association. Each subscribing member must be bound by an agreement to become individually responsible for the payment of such funds, except in such cases as are hereinafter provided for, and to obtain these funds money may be borrowed by the Directors on the security of the agreements given by the members.

The Directors or Trustees shall not have the authority to subject the Association to any liability or to incur any expense for any one thing more than the ordinary working expenses of the Association, including the cost of storage, the losses arising out of produce shipped, collecting the proceeds of shipments, or any unforeseen cause.

Whenever in the opinion of the Directors or Trustees it is desirable that any expenditure should be made they shall prepare a full and complete estimate and report on the same, which shall be submitted to a special meeting of the members called for the purpose.

The Association may, by a majority vote, authorize the directors or trustees to carry out such expenditure in such manner or form as they deem best and for this purpose they may borrow money or pledge or hypothecate securities of the Association to meet the expenditure therefor.

Where any loss is incurred by any accident or any uncontrollable circumstance in connection with the shipping of goods or collecting proceeds, such loss shall be borne by the Association, each member contributing at the end of the six months period towards payment of that loss pro rata, according to the value of the produce listed with and handled by the Association for that member and according to the provisions of these rules concerning such matters.

Where any loss is incurred by reason of fraud or deception on the part of the shipper, then the loss shall be borne by himself alone in addition to any costs and charges which the Association may be put to.

If, after produce has been shipped in accordance with the rules of the Association, any loss is incurred by reason of the buyer refusing to take delivery on the grounds that the goods are not as represented then such loss shall be borne by the Association unless it

Continued on page 9



"The White Man's Burden." Moose owned by R. J. Hunt, Gilbert Plains

to his charge by the Association, opening up a trust account in the Merchants Bank (or such other chartered bank as the Directors may deem advisable from time to time), where he shall immediately deposit the same in the funds which he has received to the credit of the Association. He shall issue cheques for money to be paid out by the Association, but these cheques in all cases must be countersigned by the President or Vice-President.

The books and accounts of which the Secretary-Treasurer has charge must be open to the inspection of the Directors and Auditors at any time.

He shall always be present or furnish an accredited substitute when any produce is being shipped to give any

discharge and performance of his duties and obligations.

Directors are to be elected by ballot at an annual general meeting of the association for the term of one year. Also Auditors for the same term. If any vacancy occurs in the Directorate by resignation or otherwise, the remaining Directors may appoint from among the members another to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the unexpired term of the Director resigning.

They shall elect by ballot from among themselves a President and Vice-President. They shall appoint a Secretary-Treasurer, not necessarily a member of the Board, who shall hold office during the pleasure of the Directors.

They shall remunerate the Auditors