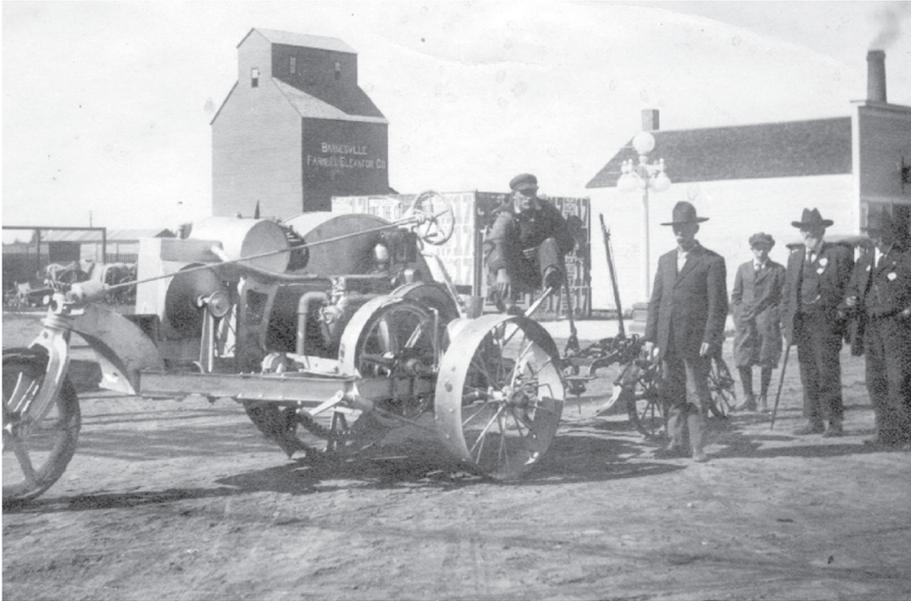


The Faces Of Agriculture Continue To Change



One of the biggest changes in the ag business began early in the 20th Century. In this photo from about 1910, a group of farmers gathered around an early version of the gasoline powered tractor and plow. The farmers agreed the tractor was an interesting novelty item but it would never replace a good team of horses.

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downturn in the local farming industry is C-W Coop. That entity was formed when Comstock and Wolverton elevators merged a couple of decades back. That business continues to serve local farmers and could well see some of the local crop head that way after the recent mergers.

The only thing for sure in the farming business is that there will be change. Recent changes in operations simply continues a consolidation that has been ongoing for years.

In the middle 1980s there was another huge shakeout in the local farm economy. At that time there were three implement dealerships, Allis Chalmers, John Deere and Massey Ferguson all operating in Barnesville. The high interest rates of the 1980s wiped those businesses out.

The Barnesville Farmers Elevator had been in business for three-quarters of a century. In 1976 forward thinking convinced the BFE board of the possibility of a grain terminal along I-94 that combined with rail service would be state of

the art.

The concept was great, the timing could not have been worse. The high interest rates, some exceeding 20%, brought the BFE down in less

than a decade.

What is happening now in the farming industry is a continuation of a business that is constantly seeing changes being made?



The face of agriculture is ever changing. This photo was snapped about 1900 as farmers were getting ready for spring planting. In the background is the Barnesville Farmers Elevator main building as well as the block office building in the foreground. Both of those structures still stand although BFE became insolvent and went out of business in 1985. The building in the background on the right is the Barnesville Flour Mill where local wheat was converted into flour. The flour mill has been gone for over a century.

Potato Days Festival Set For August 28 And 29

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the main stage. Contestants take the potato sacks that were filled during the Potato Picking Contest, sew them shut then stack them on a pallet. The team with the most sacks sewed and stacked in a specific amount of time, is the winners.

Other events include the Horseshoe Tournament, and the Pinochle Tournament and one is sure to find a game of bingo somewhere.

Don't miss the Mashed Potato Wrestling Competition held on Friday night in Assumption Church parking lot. This is definitely one event not to miss!

Another mainstay of the festival is the Potato Peeling Contest. This contest is held on the main stage downtown. Contestants are given three minutes to peel as many spuds as possible. At the end, judges deduct the weight of the peelings and determine a winner.

Contestants are asked to bring their own peeling device, but a peeler will be provided if necessary. Pre-registration is encouraged but contestants can sign up the day of the contest if there are still openings. The Car Show is making this year

its 23rd anniversary. The show has gone from 45 to over 200 entries. The show is held at McGrath Park, two blocks west of the main street where the Street Fair and Food Court are held. The show is on Saturday, August 29 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

At 5:15 p.m. a Car Cruise will proceed down the parade route and the Potato Days Parade will follow.

The Potato Days Parade is always a big crowd pleaser. Not only are there many units handing out candy along the parade route, but there is over 170 units of antique potato machinery, tractors, trailers, marching bands, floats, and many horses both pulling carts and with riders.

We encourage anyone interested in having a unit in the parade to call the Potato Days office at 800 525-4901. The parade is on Saturday at 5:30 p.m. and begins at the Clay County Fairgrounds.

Potato Festival souvenirs are available both days. Each year a new logo is designed and used for T-shirts and sweatshirts. There are also aprons and the commemorative button, which is a real collector's item!

We have a cookbook and many other potato kitchen items you won't want to go home without! There are also many other souvenirs to check out at the Potato Days souvenir Booth located inside our office right at the four-way stop!

The festival doesn't just happen. If it weren't for the organization of the nine-member board of directors and hundreds of hours from volunteers, there wouldn't be a Potato Days Festival.

It is successful because of corporate sponsors, businesses, churches, civic organizations and the volunteers all working together with the common goal being to make sure visitors have a "s'mashing" good time during the two-day festival.

Whether "spuds" are part of the activity or not, combine all the food and events and you've cooked up a "spud"tacular Friday and Saturday while attending the Potato Days Festival in Barnesville, MN, on August 28 and 29, 2020.

If you would like more information please visit us at www.potatodays.com or call us on the "spud" line at 1 800-525-4901!

See you at Potato Days!



What's not to love about a parade? There is free entertainment, free candy and treats, watchers are shown local groups and businesses and of course animals. The Potato Days Parade has well over 100 units. The parade follows the classic car cruise, set to begin around 6:00 p.m.



After the kids Potato Scramble, it is time for the adults to dig in the dirt during the Potato Picking Contest. Potato pickers do just that. Pick as many potatoes as possible in an allotted amount of time. A

gleaner picks up potatoes left behind and this amount, plus penalty, is subtracted from the total weight.

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