



1995 Inductees



Oscar C. Johnson



1880-1965

Like many Scandinavians, Oscar Johnson inherited a strong cooperative philosophy from his parents. When he was six years old, his parents emigrated from Sweden and settled in rural Kingsbury County.

As a young farmer, he became active in both local cooperatives and in the developing Farmers Union. He served as president of the Kingsbury County Farmers Union from 1929 until 1936 and helped to found the Tri-County Farmers Union Cooperative at Oldham.

The South Dakota Farmers Union State Brokerage merged with the Farmers Union Central Exchange (now Cenex Harvest States Cooperatives) during World War II and in 1944 Johnson became the first South Dakotan to serve on the regional co-op board. He continued to serve on the Central Exchange board until 1962.

In addition to his cooperative service, Johnson was a member of the South Dakota House of Representatives from 1934 until 1938. He was also Spring Lake Township assessor.

The South Dakota Farmers Union honored him in 1995 with the posthumous Memorial Award for Meritorious Service.

Following his death in 1965, the Central Exchange board praised him and noted that “he will long be remembered for his business judgment, his practical idealism and for the enthusiasm he displayed for cooperative causes.”

Quentin E. Loudon

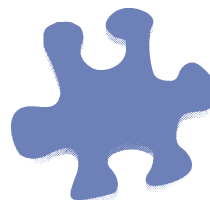


A wheat farmer and cattle rancher, Quentin Loudon became an early leader in development of rural electric cooperatives in southwestern South Dakota. He was a member of the board of directors of the Lacreek Electric Association from 1950 until 1989.

His talents as a local cooperative leader led to his selection as Lacreek’s representative on the board of directors of the Rushmore Electric Power Cooperative at Rapid City – a position he held from 1968 until 1989. Rushmore is the power transmission cooperative for eight rural distribution systems in western South Dakota.

Rushmore Electric Cooperative selected Loudon as its representative on the board of directors of Basin Electric Power Cooperative in 1972. Headquartered in Bismarck, N.D., Basin generates power for 118 rural electric systems in eight states.

The Bennett County farmer/rancher also served on the board of directors of the Farmers Cooperative Grain Association at Martin, the Western Fuels Association and Mid-West Electric Consumers Association of Denver.



Businesses People Trust