

A History of Trust, Honesty & Integrity

The Andersons, established in 1947, maintains a rich history. Perhaps the most important component of that history is the never-say-die attitude of company founder Harold Anderson.

In the mid-1930s, Anderson left his job with Nabisco in Toledo, Ohio, to pursue a dream — starting his own company. Anderson, an expert in the grain business, believed he could serve farmers better by improving the system of moving grain from farm to market. He formed the Anderson Elevator Co. in 1937 with his wife Margaret and father David. But the business failed and the dream was shattered.

But Anderson, who possessed great confidence in his ability to succeed, didn't let the failed endeavor end his dream. He tried again in 1947 when he and his sons broke ground for The Anderson Truck Terminal. This time, he succeeded.

From this original grain business, The Andersons, as it's known today, has experienced tremendous growth. A corncob processing business was added in the '50s; a wholesale fertilizer division in the '60s as well as the "General Store" retail segment; and a turf fertilizer business in the '70s.

In the '80s and '90s, the company invested more resources in two areas — the rail and turf groups — which have both grown to be major business units. The rail group sells, leases and repairs railroad rolling stock, controlling a fleet of more than 4,800 units. The turf group is a leading manufacturer and marketer of turf fertilizers and control products to the professional and consumer markets. With the development of the TeeTime® products, the acquisition of The Scotts' U.S. Pro Turf busi-

ness and the launching of Andersons Golf Products, this unit has developed into a strategically critical part of The Andersons' overall business.

While these events have contributed to making the company what it is today, commitment to higher values has been the major backbone for the The Andersons' success. The company's mission statement reads: "We firmly believe that our company is a powerful vehicle through which we channel our time, talent and energy in pursuit of the fundamental goal of serving God by serving others. Through our collective action, we greatly magnify the impact of our individual efforts to provide extraordinary service to our customers, help each other develop, contribute to the improvement of the community and grow our company profitably."

Today, The Andersons' organization is comprised of dedicated and talented people built on a solid foundation of family values and service. With more

than 3,000 employees, annual sales of nearly \$1 billion and diverse business units, the company is committed to serving the professional turf market with a strong work ethic and a reputation of honesty and integrity.

This philosophy is practiced as well as preached. It's the common thread that has guided the organization in the past and will continue in the future. This dedication to higher values encourages stronger commitment from employees, stockholders, the community, and most importantly, customers. ■



1947



1951



1960



1972

