STATE OF NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

APR 1 9 2024

FILED

CERTIFICATION

April 19, 2024

I, Eric Dunning, Director of Insurance of the State of Nebraska, do hereby certify that

the attached is a full and correct copy of the Financial Examination Report of

KNOX COUNTY FARMERS MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY, INC

AS OF

DECEMBER 31, 2022

The report is now on file and forming a part of the records of this Department.

I hereto subscribe my name under the seal of my office at Lincoln, Nebraska.



DIRECTOR OF INSURANCE

CERTIFICATE OF ADOPTION

Notice of the proposed report for the financial examination of

KNOX COUNTY FARMERS MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY, INC. 212 N. BROADWAY

BLOOMFIELD, NE 68718

dated as of December 31, 2022, verified under oath by the examiner-in-charge on March 20, 2024, and received by the company on March 26, 2024, has been adopted without modification as the final report pursuant to <u>Neb. Rev. Stat.</u> § 44-5906(3) (a).

Dated this 9th day of April 2024.

STATE OF NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

Klawford

Lindsay Crawford, CFE Chief Financial Regulator

STATE OF NEBRASKA

Department of Insurance

EXAMINATION REPORT

OF

KNOX COUNTY FARMERS MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY, INC.

as of

December 31, 2022



Bloomfield, Nebraska February 27, 2024

Honorable Eric Dunning Director of Insurance Nebraska Department of Insurance 1526 K Street, Suite 200 Lincoln, Nebraska 68508

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to your instruction and authorizations, and in accordance with statutory

requirements, an examination has been conducted of the financial condition and business affairs of:

KNOX COUNTY FARMERS MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY, INC. 212 N. Broadway Bloomfield, NE 68718

(hereinafter also referred to as the "Company"), and the report of such examination is respectfully presented herein.

INTRODUCTION

The State of Nebraska last examined the Company as of December 31, 2017. The current financial condition examination covers the intervening period to and includes the close of business on December 31, 2022 and such subsequent events and transactions as were considered pertinent to this report. The State of Nebraska participated in this examination and assisted in the preparation of this report.

SCOPE OF EXAMINATION

The Nebraska Department of Insurance conducted this examination pursuant to and in accordance with the provisions of Section §44-5904(1) of the Nebraska Insurance Statutes.

The Nebraska Department of Insurance made a general review of the Company's operations and the manner in which its business has been conducted in order to determine

compliance with statutory and charter provisions. The Company's history was traced and has been set out in this report under the caption "Description of Company." All items pertaining to management and control were reviewed. The Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws were reviewed, including appropriate filings of any changes or amendments thereto. The minutes of the meetings of the members and Board of Directors held during the examination period were read and noted. Attendance at meetings and election of Directors and Officers were also noted.

The fidelity bond and other insurance coverages protecting the Company's property and interests were reviewed. The Certificate of Authority to conduct the business of insurance in the State of Nebraska was inspected and a survey was made of the Company's general plan of operation.

The Company's reinsurance facilities were ascertained and noted and have been commented upon in this report under the caption "Reinsurance." Accounting records and procedures were tested to the extent deemed necessary through the substantive examination process.

All accounts and activities of the Company were considered in accordance with the provisions of Section §44-5904(1) of the Nebraska Insurance Statutes. The assets were verified and evaluated, and the liabilities were determined in order to present the statement of the Company's financial condition as of December 31, 2022.

Any failure of items to add to the totals shown in schedules and exhibits appearing throughout this report is due to rounding.

DESCRIPTION OF COMPANY

HISTORY

The Farmers Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Knox County, Nebraska was organized under the laws of the State of Nebraska on March 18, 1893, as a mutual assessment company for the purpose of insuring farm properties, country school, country churches and parsonages and their contents against loss by fire and lightning. Dwellings, garages, barns and personal property of members living in fire protected towns and cities were also insured. Its amended Articles of Incorporation allowed for an existence of ninety-nine years from February 19, 1934, unless sooner dissolved by law. A sister company, namely Farmers Mutual Whirlwind and Tornado Insurance Company of Knox County, Nebraska, was organized on July 3, 1905, for the purpose of providing windstorm and tornado coverage on like properties. Its corporate existence likewise was for ninety-nine years from February 19, 1934, unless sooner dissolved by law.

These two companies were merged into a single consolidated corporation under and pursuant to the provisions of the applicable Nebraska Statutes. Said consolidation was effective March 29, 1984. The consolidated corporation was named Knox County Farmers Mutual Insurance Company, Incorporated. Its purpose is to continue the business of the two consolidated companies as an assessment insurance company insuring the properties of its members against loss as set forth in its By-Laws. Article V of the Company's Articles of Incorporation provide that, "the duration of this corporation shall be perpetual."

MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL

<u>Members</u>

Article VIII of the Company's Articles of Incorporation states that, "every person, corporation, association or partnership insuring in this corporation shall be a member thereof and

entitled to one vote which may be cast in person or by proxy." Article IX of the Company's Article of Incorporation states that, "at any meeting of the Directors, a majority shall constitute a quorum." Article IV of the Company's By-Laws provides that, "the regular annual meeting of said Company shall be the first Tuesday in February in each year and shall be held in the City of Bloomfield, Knox County, Nebraska, at which time said corporation shall elect its Officers and transact other regular business."

Board of Directors

Article IX of the Company's Articles of Incorporation states that, "the general management of this corporation shall be vested in a Board of not less than five nor more than nine Directors, who shall be elected at the annual meeting of the corporation and shall act as such Directors until their successors are elected and qualified. A Director of this corporation must be a member thereof and reside within the territory embraced by the By-Laws."

Article V of the Company's By-Laws states that, "the Officers to be elected at said annual meeting shall consist of at least five Directors and no more than nine Directors in whom management of said corporation shall vest, and a majority of whom shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. Directors shall be elected for a term of one year. Vacancies in said board shall be filled by the other Directors, to serve until the next annual meeting." Article VI of the Company's By-Laws states that, "all members of the Board of Directors so chosen by the members of this corporation shall be members in good standing of this corporation." Article VII of the Company's By-Laws further states that, "the Board of Directors so chosen at the regular meeting of said corporation shall hold a regular meeting of said board on or before the first Tuesday in March of each year in the City of Bloomfield, Knox County, Nebraska..."

The following persons were serving as Directors at December 31, 2022:

<u>Name</u>

Residence

Loren Bratetic Kelly Bruns Richard Eisenhauer Kenneth Gill Alvin Kathol Martin Kleinschmit Kevin Mackeprang Norbert Pinkelman	Bloomfield, Nebraska Bloomfield, Nebraska Bloomfield, Nebraska Bloomfield, Nebraska Hartington, Nebraska Hartington, Nebraska Bloomfield, Nebraska Wynot, NE
Craig Rolfes	Hartington, NE

Each Director receives \$100 and 50 cents per mile per meeting attended. They also

receive a fee of \$15 plus 50 cents per mile for each appraisal or loss adjustment. In addition,

Directors receive \$25 per day plus mileage of 50 cents per mile while attending to incidental

business of the Company.

Officers

Article VII of the Company's By-Laws states that the, "...Board shall choose from their

own number a President, Secretary and a Treasurer."

The following is a listing of Officers elected and serving the Company at December 31, 2022:

<u>Name</u>	Office
Loren Bratetic Kevin Mackeprang	President Secretary
Kevin Wackeprang Kelly Bruns	Treasurer

TERRITORY AND PLAN OF OPERATION

As evidenced by a current Certificate of Authority, the Company is licensed to transact business in the state of Nebraska. Article XVI of the Company's By-Laws provides that, "the district in which this corporation may do business shall be limited to the State of Nebraska for which Knox Co Farmers Mutual Insurance Company is licensed to write insurance."

Article II of the Company's By-Laws also states that, "the purpose of this corporation is to insure for a term of four years or less, against loss or damage, the urban and rural buildings, including churches, parsonages, schools, dwelling houses, garages, barns and other outbuildings as well as personal property of members of this corporation, excluding commercial property." Article IX of the Company's By-Laws further states that, "the Directors so chosen at the regular meeting of said corporation, if licensed to do so, shall be the agents of said corporation to solicit new members for this organization." The Company had three licensed agents as of December 31, 2022. The agents receive a 10 percent commission for each new policy and renewal policies written.

The Company, as a convenience for its members and agents, makes available general liability insurance coverage written by Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company (Grinnell). Commissions received by the Company are transferred and disbursed to the agent responsible for the production of such business.

FIDELITY BOND AND OTHER INSURANCE

Article VIII of the Company's By-Laws state that, "the Treasurer so chosen by the Board of Directors shall give bond in the sum of One Hundred Thousand and no/100 Dollars, conditioned for the faithful performance of the duties of his office and the accounting for all moneys coming into his hands." A fidelity bond on the Treasurer in the amount of \$100,000 was in-force at December 31, 2022.

REINSURANCE

<u>Ceded</u>

The Company has a reinsurance contract with Grinnell, which became effective January 1, 2011, and continues until terminated at the end of any calendar year with 90 days written notice. This contract establishes the Company as a member of Grinnell. Coverage applies to all policy forms and endorsements issued by the Company once they are filed and accepted by Grinnell. The Company is issued a coverage schedule each calendar year setting the premium rates, individual occurrence retention limit, individual occurrence coverage limits, and aggregate loss attachment point.

The Property Per Risk Excess of Loss coverage for 2022 has the Company's individual occurrence retention at \$150,000. For the first layer, Grinnell is liable for losses in excess of the retention, up to a limit of \$1,000,000 for livestock/poultry/horse operations, commercial and public property, farm products storage structures, and dwelling. For the second layer, Grinnell is liable up to a limit of \$4,000,000 for farm machinery and equipment storage buildings. For the third layer, Grinnell is liable for 100% in excess of \$5,000,000 for each loss with maximum recovery of \$15,000,000 per risk.

The Property Aggregate Excess of Loss coverage for 2022 has the Company's aggregate net loss retention at \$525,000. Grinnell is liable for all aggregate losses in excess of this retention.

Facultative coverage is available for exposures that exceed the \$20,000,000 individual occurrence limit. The Company does not have any exposures that are applicable.

General

The contract reviewed contained standard errors and omissions, insolvency, arbitration, entire agreement, and termination clauses.

BODY OF REPORT

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The following financial statements reflect the Company's operations during the examination period and the financial condition of the Company at December 31, 2022. All amounts are based on the findings of the current examination:

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND DISBURSEMENTS

		<u>2018</u>		<u>2019</u>		<u>2020</u>		<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
Balance, beginning of year	<u>\$1</u>	,760,032	<u>\$1</u>	1,718,203	<u>\$1</u>	,830,936	<u>\$2</u>	,267,973	\$2,568,052
<u>Income</u>									
Gross receipts from assessments Return on cancellations	\$	791,403	\$	833,389 7,706	\$	908,907 14,604	\$	931,367 <u>8,764</u>	\$1,097,545 <u>13,925</u>
Net received from members	\$	791,403	\$	825,683	\$	894,303	\$	922,602	\$1,083,620
Interest on investments Liability sold for AIC Liability premium GMRC direct Investment Activity		19,527 89,676 33,100 (52,407)		10,183 70,249 37,828 152,292		8,815 73,291 36,704 87,567		5,398 100,482 48,024 145,002	3,914 100,305 35,588 (56,702)
Total revenue	\$	881,300	<u>\$1</u>	1,096,236	<u>\$1</u>	,100,680	<u>\$1</u>	,221,509	<u>\$1,166,724</u>

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND DISBURSEMENTS (continued)

		<u>2018</u>		<u>2019</u>		<u>2020</u>		<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
<u>Disbursements</u>									
Gross losses paid Less discount and salvage Less reinsurance recovered	\$	439,993 1,500 75,734	\$	626,379 15,277 201,334	\$	159,351 16,200 <u>111,091</u>	\$	274,270 15,850	\$1,434,960 40,706 <u>849,502</u>
Net losses paid	\$	362,759	\$	409,768	\$	32,060	\$	258,420	\$ 544,752
Adjusting expense Commissions paid to agents Expenses of agents Salaries of agents		10,172 79,174 281		10,847 72,528 35,479		10,748 82,757 42,390		10,833 93,784 52 30,995	19,847 131,817 315 34,853
Salaries and expenses of director and officers All other taxes Advertising, printing and		32,895 25,945		27,794		28,849		26,677	33,450
stationery Telephone, postage and utilities Reinsurance premiums paid		1,048 3,336 270,936		1,434 4,241 284,472		1,897 4,238 312,924		1,096 4,983 347,340	3,113 3,893 334,191
Liability premiums GMRC Direct Rent		78,447 30,453 4,400		84,646 33,443 4,400		90,725 37,472 4,400		79,020 48,024 4,400	87,265 35,578 4,075
Miscellaneous Premium refunds Withholding tax		17,058 5,308 <u>918</u>		14,449		15,182		15,805	13,023
Total disbursements	<u>\$</u>	923,129	<u>\$</u>	983,503	\$	663,642	\$	921,430	<u>\$1,246,172</u>
Balance, end of year	<u>\$1</u>	<u>,718,203</u>	<u>\$1</u>	,830,936	<u>\$2</u>	2,267,973	<u>\$2</u>	2,568,052	<u>\$2,488,604</u>

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES DECEMBER 31, 2022

ASSETS

Ledger Assets

Invested assets (RBC investments) Cash in ICS account Certificates of deposit Cash deposited in banks	\$1,880,296 250,735 250,000 <u>107,573</u>						
Total ledger assets		<u>\$2,488,604</u>					
Total admitted assets		<u>\$2,488,604</u>					
LIABILITIES AND SURPLUS							
Claims reported but not adjusted Less reinsurance Net unpaid losses Unearned premiums Unpaid wages Payroll taxes payable Premium taxes payable Transposition error	\$ 135,000 (123,000)	\$ 12,000 528,510 14,266 4,404 4,641 (180)					
Total liabilities		\$ 563,639					
Surplus as regards members		<u>\$1,924,964</u>					
Total liabilities and surplus		<u>\$2,488,604</u>					

COMPLIANCE WITH PREVIOUS RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations appearing in the previous report of examination are reflected

below together with the remedial actions taken by the Company to comply therewith:

<u>**Premium Tax Liability</u>** - It is recommended that the Company accrue for premium taxes within the Annual Statement on page 5 line 34, "Premium Tax Liability."</u>

Action: The Company has complied this recommendation. For this exam period, Premium tax liability is accrued and reported on Page 5, Line 34 as recommended.

<u>Return on Cancellations</u> - It is recommended to the Company that premium refunds be accounted for on the Income Statement within the Annual Statement on page 3, line 6 "Return of cancellations".

Action: The Company has complied with this recommendation. In 2018, the Company reported policy refunds on Line 23 of page 4 as an expense. This was corrected starting in 2019 and the amount is now being reported on page 3, line 6 as recommended.

<u>Amount of Losses Adjusted and Unpaid</u> - It is recommended that the Company report all prior year unpaid claims on page 5, line 25 of the Annual Statement.

Action: The Company has complied with this recommendation. The Nebraska Department of Insurance provided the Company with additional explanation of the recommendation. The change required by this recommendation was immaterial and affected only the 2019 reporting year.

<u>Conflict of Interest Statements</u> – It is recommended that the Company have all Board of Directors sign a conflict of interest statement on an annual basis.

Action: The company has not complied with this recommendation. This recommendation will be repeated under the caption "Commentary on Current Examination Findings" in this report.

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COMMENTARY ON CURRENT EXAMINATION FINDINGS

Invested Assets (RBC Investments)

As of December 31, 2022, the Company had \$597,366.81 invested in equity investment instruments and \$1,282,928.75 invested in fixed income investment instruments both held at Comerica Bank.

Cash in ICS Account

As of December 31, 2022, the Company had \$250,735.20 in an Insured Cash Sweep (ICS) savings account with Brunswick State Bank. This savings account allows Brunswick State Bank to trade funds with other banks, thereby the Company can have a balance exceeding \$250,000 and still be federally insured.

Certificates of Deposit

As of December 31, 2022, the Company had two certificates of deposit with a value of \$250,000 with Brunswick State Bank. Each certificate of deposit was verified by direct confirmation from the depository.

Other Cash Deposited in Banks

The Company maintains these funds in a checking account with a local bank. These deposits were verified by obtaining a direct confirmation from the bank. The amount indicated thereon for the checking account was reconciled to the Company's records as of December 31, 2022, by giving consideration to outstanding checks.

Net Unpaid Losses

The Company reported a gross liability for unpaid losses amounting to \$135,000 in its December 31, 2022 Annual Statement. The Company also reported reinsurance recoverable in

<u>\$1,880,296</u>

<u>\$ 250,735</u>

<u>\$ 107,573</u>

<u>\$ 250,000</u>

<u>\$ 12,000</u>

the amount of \$123,000, reflecting a net unpaid loss of \$12,000. Unpaid losses were tested for subsequent settlement, and it appears the reserve was appropriate.

Unearned Premiums

The Company reported unearned premium as \$528,510 in its Annual Statement. The amount is calculated by taking 45% of the premium received during the year. Liability premiums, which are forwarded on to Acceptance Casualty Insurance Company and Grinnell are not reserved for.

Unpaid Wages

The Company reported outstanding wage in its 2022 Annual Statement for the amount of \$14,265.87. This amount was paid after the valuation date. This amount has been accepted for purposes of this examination.

Payroll Taxes Payable

Company reported Nebraska State Withholding in the amount of \$694 in its 2022 Annual Statement. Additionally, the Company reported FICA, Medicare & Federal Withholding in the amount of \$3,710. This amount has been accepted for purposes of this examination.

Premium Tax Liability

The Company reported a premium tax liability amount of \$4,641 in the 2022 Annual Statement. This amount was paid after the valuation date. This amount has been accepted for purposes of this examination.

Member's Surplus

Surplus as regards policyholders amounted to \$1,924,964 at December 31, 2022, as developed through this examination.

<u>\$ 528,510</u>

\$ 4,404

\$

\$ 14,266

\$1,924,964

4.641

Investment Transactions and Policy Review and Approvals

The Company's Board of Directors did not approve the Company's investment transactions on a quarterly basis nor did it approve the investment policy on an annual basis as required by Neb. Rev. Stat. Chapter 44-5105 (3).

It is recommended that the Board of Directors of the Company or a designated Investment Committee thereof, review and approve the investment transactions on a quarterly basis and review and approve the investment policy on an annual basis per Neb. Rev. Stat. 44-5105(3).

Conflicts of Interest Statements

Annual signing of the conflicts of interest statement was recommended during the prior exam. The Company has mostly complied with this recommendation, but one Director did not sign the conflict of interest statement.

It is recommended that the Company have all members of the Board of Directors sign a conflict of interest statement on an annual basis.

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The following comments and recommendations have been made as a result of this

examination:

<u>Investment Transactions and Policy Review and Approvals</u> - It is recommended that the Board of Directors of the Company review and approve the investment transactions on a quarterly basis and review and approve the investment policy on an annual basis per Neb. Rev. Stat. 44-5105(3).

<u>**Conflict of Interest Statements**</u> – It is recommended that the Company have all members of the Board of Directors sign a conflict of interest statement on an annual basis.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The courteous cooperation extended by the Officers and employees of the Company

during this examination is hereby acknowledged.

Respectfully submitted,

Santosh Chimire

Santosh Ghimire, CFE Examiner-in-Charge Department of Insurance State of Nebraska

State of Nebraska,

County of Lancaster,

Santosh Ghimire, being duly sworn, states as follows:

- 1. I have authority to represent the Department of Insurance of the State of Nebraska in the examination of Knox County Farmers Mutual Insurance Company, Inc.
- 2. The Department of Insurance of the State of Nebraska is accredited under the National Association of Insurance Commissioners Financial Regulation Standards and Accreditation.
- 3. I have reviewed the examination work papers and examination report, and the examination of Knox County Farmers Mutual Insurance Company, Inc. was performed in a manner consistent with the standards and procedures required by the Department of Insurance of the State of Nebraska.

The affiant says nothing further.

Examiner-in-Charge's Signature

Subscribed and sworn before me by Santosh Chimice on this 20 day of March, 20 21/.

GENERAL NOTARY - State of Nebraska PATRICIA K. HILL My Comm. Exp. August 8, 2027

Notary Public

My commission expires $8 \cdot 27$ [date].

Organized March1,1893

Incorporated February 6, 1934

P O Box 250 Bloomfield NE 68718-0250

State of Nebraska County of Knox

AFFIDAVIT

Let my signature on this document indicate my desire to state under oath that I have received a copy of the December 31, 2022 Examination Report prepared by the Nebraska Department of Insurance.

Director

5-10-24 Date

) day of Subscribed and sworn to me, a Notary Public, this // 2024. αu

General Notary - State of Nebraska PAIGE A. POPPE Comm. Exp. Dec. 27.

(Notar (Public)

ļ

Organized March1,1893

Incorporated February 6, 1934

P O Box 250 Bloomfield NE 68718-0250

State of Nebraska County of Knox

AFFIDAVIT

Let my signature on this document indicate my desire to state under oath that I have received a copy of the December 31, 2022 Examination Report prepared by the Nebraska Department of Insurance.

Director

5-10-2024

Date

Subscribed and sworn to me, a Notary Public, this <u>10</u> day of <u>May</u> 2024.

GENERAL NOTARY - State of Nebraska	1
HALEY A. NEUHALFEN	
My Comm. Exp. May 26, 2025	

(Notary Public)

Organized March1,1893

Incorporated February 6, 1934

P O Box 250 Bloomfield NE 68718-0250

State of Nebraska County of Knox

AFFIDAVIT

Let my signature on this document indicate my desire to state under oath that I have received a copy of the December 31, 2022 Examination Report prepared by the Nebraska Department of Insurance.

Director

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Date

Subscribed and sworn to me, a Notary Public, this $\underline{\mathcal{H}}$ day of _

у____ 2024. <u>~ Е. Ло</u>чски

Organized March1,1893

Incorporated February 6, 1934

P O Box 250 Bloomfield NE 68718-0250

State of Nebraska County of Knox

AFFIDAVIT

Let my signature on this document indicate my desire to state under oath that I have received a copy of the December 31, 2022 Examination Report prepared by the Nebraska Department of Insurance.

Director - Kevin

5-2-2024

Date

Subscribed and sworn to me, a Notary Public, this 2 day of _ 1 ay 2024.

State of Nebraska - General Notary ALLAN A. KERSTEN My Commission Expires September 28, 2027

Notary Public)

Organized March1,1893

Incorporated February 6, 1934

P O Box 250 Bloomfield NE 68718-0250

State of Nebraska County of Knox

AFFIDAVIT

Let my signature on this document indicate my desire to state under oath that I have received a copy of the December 31, 2022 Examination Report prepared by the Nebraska Department of Insurance.

5-7-24

Date

Subscribed and sworn to me, a Notary Public, this <u></u>day of _ 2024.

General Notary - State of Nebraska PATRICIA J. TAUBER ly Comm. Exp. Jan. 20, 20

Organized March1,1893

Incorporated February 6, 1934

P O Box 250 Bloomfield NE 68718-0250

State of Nebraska County of Knox

AFFIDAVIT

Let my signature on this document indicate my desire to state under oath that I have received a copy of the December 31, 2022 Examination Report prepared by the Nebraska Department of Insurance.

Director

2024 Date

Subscribed and sworn to me, a Notary Public, this 7 day of May 2024.

(Notary Pub

