



## Our History

- Aberdeen Cattle and Farm Produce Association Ltd (now the ANM Group) was one of four firms setting up marts in Aberdeen between 1877 and 1882—locating close to the railway and the advantages in the transportation of livestock, customers, employees and materials. Aberdeen's fourth auction mart, the Central Mart, erected in 1882, was the base for the association and owned and controlled by its farmer shareholders. By 1885, trade at our Central Mart had been firmly established with fat stock sales every Tuesday and Thursday and store stock and agricultural produce on Fridays.
- Our business diversified into the provision of a wider and more complete range of services for our members than just the core business of buying and selling livestock. This diversification came in the way of estates agency, dispenish sales, valuations, egg sales, slaughter house and meat marketing facilities and catering.
- The Association set up a separate Estate Agency Department in 1920 selling estates by auction and business at Aberdeen & Northern (Estates) Limited which is still thriving today.
- In 1930, the Association became an Industrial and Provident Society, changing its name to Central and Northern Farmers' Co-operative Society. The importance of this change was to retain current members and attract new ones now that the Society could now pay a bonus to our member customers on stock sold during the year in addition to the dividend paid on shares held. Co-operative status meant that no single shareholder could have a majority shareholding and our Society continued to be farmer-owned and answerable to our farmer directors.
- In 1931, the auction of hand tools, implements and farm machinery began at our marts. Similarly, vehicle auctions became established at marts by the late 1950's. These sales still take place at Thainstone today.
- By 1947 - following a series of takeovers and amalgamations during the 1940's – our Central and Northern Farmers' Co-operative Society was left the one firm operating marts in Aberdeen.
- In 1947, Central and Northern then bought over Reith and Anderson Ltd for £48,319 (equivalent of 20 shillings per share) and this was the final stage in the amalgamation process which saw the number of auction mart companies in Aberdeen fall from four to one within the space of three years. Our new firm was named Aberdeen and Northern Marts Ltd.

