

# **Iron River Cooperatives Inc.**

## **Meat Contract**

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**Effective**  
**01/01/2018 – 12/31/2021**

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### **United Food and Commercial Workers Union Local 1189**

2002 London Road  
Duluth MN 55812  
Phone: 218-728-5174 or  
800-942-3546  
Fax: 218-728-5178  
Website: [www.ufcw1189.org](http://www.ufcw1189.org)

**Other important phone numbers:**

Grocery pension office: 800-570-1012  
Meat pension office: 800-531-2385  
Health care/dental (Wilson McShane): 1-800-570-1012  
Employee assistance program (T.E.A.M., Inc.): 651-642-0182

## **Know Your Rights**

### **Request that your Union Representative be present!**

U.S. Supreme Court ruled in 1975 "Weingarten" that an employee has certain rights when questioned by their employer. The following are rights that were granted under this case. It applies only when your employer is interviewing you for the purposes of determining whether discipline is warranted. It does not apply when the discipline is already decided.

1. You have a right to Union representation, but you must ask for that representation.
2. You must ask for Union representation from the person doing the questioning. The questioner must be told that you do not want to proceed without Union representation.
3. If the discipline has already been decided upon by the Employer, your right to representation is not there; however, you only need to listen – you do NOT have to answer any further questions.
4. This rule does NOT apply to everyday conversations between a supervisor and an employee regarding performance of job duties and normal work performance.
5. After you have requested Union representation, the Employer rights are:
  - a. They can grant your request and bring in a Union Representative.
  - b. They can discontinue the interview and proceed with the investigation without your participation.
  - c. The Employer can offer you the choice of proceeding without Union representation.

**Remember:**  
**What you say can be used against you. Know your rights!**  
**Demand Union representation when you are facing discipline.**

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## **AGREEMENT**

THIS AGREEMENT is entered into and is effective on this first day of January, 2018, between IRON RIVER COOPERATIVES, INC., hereinafter referred to as the "Employer", and the United Food and Commercial Workers Union, Local 1189 - Meat Unit, chartered by the United Food and Commercial Workers' International Union, hereinafter referred to as the "Union".

### **ARTICLE 1 - UNION SHOP**

**SECTION A.** The Union shall be the sole collective bargaining agent for all employees working in the classifications covered by this Agreement for the purpose of collective bargaining with the Employer. There shall be no discrimination against any employee for Union activity.

**SECTION B.** All work performed in the Meat Department will be done by members of the bargaining unit. For the purpose of this Agreement, the Meat Department is defined as the area occupied by the meat storage rooms, the meat preparation rooms and the service and/or self-service display cases where fresh, smoked, cooked and frozen meats, poultry, fish or sea foods are offered for retail sale. The pricing of all meat products shall be done on the premises.

**SECTION C.** If an employer transfers the cutting or fabricating of any retail cuts of fresh meat, presently being performed in its retail store or stores, to a location in the Duluth area, outside of said retail store or stores, such plant or action shall be under the jurisdiction of the Union's Local 1189 Meat Unit.

**SECTION D.** The Employer shall deduct from the wages of employees who have completed their 90-day probationary period and signed an authorization for voluntary dues check-off for fees and dues in such amounts designated by the union. The obligation of the employer under this shall apply only to those employees who have signed an authorization for deduction of fees or dues.

Within ten (10) days of hiring a new employee, Employer shall provide to the union the new employees name, address, telephone number, email address, and date of hire. Upon request, Employer annually shall provide to the union the same personal information for all employees represented by the union. A union representative will be allowed one fifteen-minute meeting with the new employee, during working hours, immediately following the employers new hire orientation.

When authorized by the employee, the deduction of union fees and dues shall be made on a weekly basis. In any pay period during which no wages are due the employee or the wages due are insufficient to cover the required deduction, the employer will deduct whatever portion of the required amount can be deducted.

**Dues withheld by the employer shall be remitted to the union not later than the 20<sup>th</sup> day of the following month. The union shall promptly refund dues improperly deducted and remitted to the union and shall furnish the employer with a record of the refund. The union shall defend, indemnify and hold the employer harmless from and against any and all claims, demands, suits, costs, attorney's fees and all liability whatsoever resulting from any action taken or not taken by the employer for the purpose of complying with this article**

**SECTION E.** This Agreement shall be binding upon the parties hereto, their successors, administrators, executors and assigns. In the event an entire operation or any part thereof is sold, leased or transferred, such operation shall continue to be subject to the terms and conditions of this Agreement for the life thereof. The Employer shall give notice of the existence of this Agreement to any purchaser, transferee, lessee, assignee, etc., of the operation covered by this Agreement or any part thereof, and will require such purchaser, transferee, lessee, assignee, etc., to assume, as part of the transaction, all of the obligations of this contract. Such notice shall be in writing, with a copy to the Union, no later than seven (7) days prior to the effective date of sale. **If the Employer purchases or forms a second business (and not a transfer or continuation of its current operations) this section shall not be deemed to apply to said second business.**

## **ARTICLE 2 - HOURS AND OVERTIME**

**SECTION A.** Management retains the right to schedule specific workdays. Employees will be given shift preference by seniority on days scheduled providing they have the skill and ability to do the required work in Management's judgment. The number of weekly work hours, whenever possible, will be assigned by seniority, providing the total part-time hours are not in excess of thirty-four (34) hours per week exclusive of May through Labor Day. No employee shall be scheduled for more than five (5) consecutive days except by mutual agreement between the employee affected and management. The eight (8) day work schedule shall be posted on the Tuesday before the Sunday that the schedule takes affect.

The Employer may work those part time employees who voluntarily sign up, thirty-four (34) hours or more per week during the period of May through Labor Day. These employees shall receive the appropriate full time rate of pay for weeks worked thirty-four (34) hours or more based on length of service, and no other full time benefit. However, all hours worked shall count towards vacation accrual and pension contribution.

**SECTION B.** Forty (40) hours to be worked in any five (5) days shall constitute a regular workweek. All work performed in excess of eight (8) hours in any one (1) day or forty (40) hours in any one (1) week, shall be compensated at one and one-half (1½) times the regular hourly rate. In weeks wherein a holiday is celebrated, the workweek shall be thirty-two (32) hours, four (4) days of eight (8) hours each.

Employees who work over thirty-two (32) hours in a holiday week shall receive time and one-half (1½) for all hours worked over thirty-two (32) hours.

**SECTION C.** All time worked shall be consecutive, except one (1) hour shall be allowed for lunch if the employee works six (6) or more hours. Regular employees working a full day shall not be scheduled to start work later than 12 noon. Call-ins will be four (4) hours for full-time employees and three (3) hours for part-time employees. No pyramiding of daily and/or weekly overtime or premium pay will be allowed. Employees shall not be sent home before the end of the scheduled shift except in the event of an Act of God, or other event beyond management's control.

**SECTION D.** It is expressly understood and agreed that the Employer shall establish a regular starting time for each employee upon request. A record of such starting time shall be furnished to Local 1189. It is further agreed that the Employer shall keep a record of time showing the hours worked per day, the days worked per week and the wages paid each employee. The payroll record for an individual employee shall be available to that employee or a representative of Local 1189.

**SECTION E.** Employees that work four (4) hours shall receive a fifteen (15) minute rest period. Employees that work six (6) hours or more without a lunch break shall have two (2) fifteen (15) minute rest periods.

Employees that work eight (8) hours shall receive a fifteen (15) minute rest period before lunch and a fifteen (15) minute rest period after lunch.

**SECTION F.** Required attendance at company meetings shall be paid for at the employee's regular hourly wage rate, including premium or overtime rates, if applicable.

**SECTION G.** Employees shall be paid in full for all time spent in the service of the Employer. Any additional available hours are to be offered to existing employees first.

**SECTION H.** Employees shall be required to work before 8:00 a.m. and after 6:00 p.m. when so scheduled. No regular, full-time employee shall be required to work more than two (2) evenings per week.

**SECTION I.** All work is to be distributed as equally as possible between all employees.

**SECTION J.** In the event inventory is taken on Sunday during the year, the employees in the bargaining unit must be offered this time first, at a basis of time and one-half (1½) for all hours worked.

**SECTION K.**

1. Full-time employees shall receive time and one half (1½) for work performed on Sundays either voluntarily or involuntarily.

2. Part-time employees shall receive an add-on to their base rate of fifty cents (\$0.50) per hour for Sunday hours worked.

### **ARTICLE 3 - MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

**SECTION A.** The Employer shall have the right to adjust wages of his employees without Union interference provided such adjustments are made over the contract wage rate range, and provided, further, that such adjustments are made within the contract period.

**SECTION B.** If required to be worn, smocks, aprons, jackets and caps shall be furnished and laundered by the Employer.

Tools and First Aid Kit shall be furnished by the Employer and maintenance of tools shall be on the Employer's time.

All equipment shall be maintained by the Employer in safe, operable condition.

**SECTION C.** The Employer agrees that he will not engage in any lockout of employees; and the Union agrees that they will not engage in any strikes during the life of this Agreement. Participation in any strike, slowdown, sit down or stoppage of work brought about either by action of the Union, in violation of this Agreement, or by action of an individual or group, without Union authority, shall be just cause for dismissal or discipline by the Employer of any and all employees participating therein.

Except as provided above, nothing herein shall affect the right of the Union to call, assist or support a strike officially authorized by the Union, nor shall it be deemed a violation of this Agreement for an employee to refuse to cross an established picket line. If a picket line is established, the Employer reserves the right to close its place of business and the same shall not be considered a breach of this Agreement.

**SECTION D.** All employees shall present themselves on time, ready for work, clean and neat in appearance, and shall not, at anytime, conduct themselves in a way that will reflect unfavorably upon the shop, Employer or the Union.

**SECTION E.** No employee shall be required to make any written or verbal agreement that will conflict with this Agreement.

**SECTION F.** Representatives of the Union shall be admitted to the stores at reasonable times regarding shop conditions and collection of dues, provided he conducts himself in a manner which will not interfere with the normal operation of the Employer's business.

**SECTION G.** All employees working under this Agreement shall be paid on a weekly basis, and it is further agreed that employees shall be paid in full for all time spent in the

service of the Employer.

**SECTION H.** Any employee entering the Armed Forces of the United States shall receive vacation pay which has been accrued as a result of the terms of this Agreement.

**SECTION I.** Only employees in the Meat Department shall be allowed to handle meat and meat products ordinarily sold in the Meat Department.

During the period May 15 to September 15 of any year, the Employer is permitted to use Grocery employees for clean-up in the Meat department, subject to the following contingencies:

The regular helper/wrapper would be scheduled their regular hours and workdays, not scheduled a split shift; and be guaranteed not less than nineteen (19) hours per week. It is further agreed that the cleanup responsibilities will be restricted as follows: Cleaning the slicer will not be done by Grocery employees, and Grocery employees will clean only disassembled machines i.e., saw, grinder, tenderizer; and shall not reassemble. The clean-up duties may be assigned to the most junior part-time grocery employee on the schedule that day who is eighteen (18) years of age or older.

**SECTION J.** Any employee, at the date of entering into this Agreement, receiving a higher rate of pay or enjoying better working conditions than those herein specified, shall suffer no loss as a result of this Agreement.

**SECTION K.** If the Head Meat Cutter is absent for any reason, other than a normal day off, the person designated to take his place will be paid the Head Meat Cutter's contract rate of pay.

**SECTION L.** Customers in the store at closing time shall be waited on by the employees, provided the doors were closed at the store's regular closing time.

**SECTION M.** The designated Local 1189 key carrier may be assigned to operate the chicken roaster and package the chickens for sale in the absence of meat department bargaining unit members on Sundays and nationally recognized holidays. The chicken roaster may also be cleaned by Local 1189 Grocery Unit members.

#### **ARTICLE 4 - APPRENTICESHIP**

**SECTION A.** Apprentices shall be allowed in the Markets on the following basis: one (1) apprentice to a Shop employing three (3) journeymen or fraction thereof; and thereafter, one (1) apprentice to three (3) additional journeymen.

**SECTION B.** An apprentice shall be classified a journeyman upon completion of two and one-half (2½) years, five-thousand (5,000) hours, training. An examination shall be



required to determine the eligibility of an apprentice to become a journeyman. Upon passing such examination, the apprentice shall be issued a Certificate of Completion by the State Apprenticeship Council.

## **ARTICLE 5 - JOB DESCRIPTION**

**HEAD MEAT CUTTER** The Head Meat Cutter shall be a qualified meat cutter. He shall perform all duties of a Journeyman in the Meat Department. Because of the greater skill and work experience that the Head Meat Cutter must possess, he shall, in the performance of his work, direct the movements and operations of the less skilled employees in the Meat Department.

**JOURNEYMAN** A Journeyman is a skilled Meat cutter who has either served his apprenticeship, in accordance with the time set forth in this Agreement, or who has qualified as a skilled Meat Cutter. A Journeyman should be qualified to do the following: receiving, handling, cutting, selling, processing, wrapping, pricing and displaying meat, poultry, sausage or fish, fresh, frozen, chilled or smoked; and the performance of all work incidental thereto.

**APPRENTICE** An apprentice is a person learning all details and developing manual skills for performing, after a stated number of years of training, the duties of a Journeyman Meat Cutter. It is agreed that Wrappers, in self-service and conventional markets, shall only be permitted to mark, weigh, wrap, package, and display merchandise for sale.

## **ARTICLE 6 - VACATIONS**

**SECTION A.** Full-time employees hired prior to March 31, 2006, shall receive an annual vacation with full pay as follows:

- After one (1) year of employment, one (1) week;
- After two (2) years of employment, two (2) weeks;
- After six (6) years of employment, three (3) weeks;
- After fifteen (15) years of employment, four (4) weeks.

Employees, who have earned three (3) weeks of vacation, said third week of vacation shall be taken between October 1 and May 1.

Full-time employees, who have worked 1,500 hours or more in their anniversary year, shall be entitled to a full vacation period. If an employee works less than 1,500 hours in the anniversary year, shall receive 1/10 of full vacation for each 173 hours worked.

**SECTION B.** A full-time employee with six (6) months or more of continuous service with an Employer, who quits, is laid-off or dismissed, except dismissed for cause, shall

be entitled to prorated vacation. Such prorated vacation is to be based on the length of time an employee served from the date of employment during the first year and, thereafter, the length of time an employee served since his last anniversary date of employment, prorated monthly:

First year, 1/10 for each 173 hours worked;  
Second year, 2/10 for each 173 hours worked;  
Sixth year, 3/10 for each 173 hours worked; and  
Fifteenth year, 4/10 for each 173 hours worked.

**SECTION C.** A part-time employee shall be allowed a vacation with pay at his straight-time, classified, hourly rate, prorated as follows: The total number of straight-time hours worked between the anniversary dates of employment the previous year, shall be divided by fifty-two (52) to determine the amount of paid vacation due for each week as provided in Paragraph A, above or E below. Part-time employee's vacation shall not be maximized at thirty-four (34) hours.

**SECTION D.** An employee who, on the date selected for vacation, has less than one (1) year, but six (6) months of continuous service with the same Employer, shall be entitled to a part of one (1) week of vacation pay equivalent to the part of the preceding twelve (12) months that such employee has been employed.

**SECTION E.** Full-time employees hired after March 31, 2006, receive the following annual vacation with full pay:

**After one (1) year of employment part-time employees receive one (1) day (1<sup>st</sup> year only)**

After one (1) year of employment, full-time employees receive one (1) week.

After two (2) years of employment, part-time employees receive one (1) week.

After **two (2)** years of employment, full-time employees receive two (2) weeks.

**After five (5) years of employment, part-time employees receive two (2) weeks.**

After eight (8) years of employment, employees receive three (3) weeks.

Employees shall accrue no vacation and there shall be no pro-ration of vacation paid out during the first two (2) years of employment.

**SECTION F.** Employees hired after March 31, 2006, with at least two (2) years continuous service with the Employer, who quits, is laid-off or dismissed, except dismissed for cause, shall be entitled to prorated vacation. Such prorated vacation is to be based on the length of time an employee served from the date of his/her two (2) year anniversary and, thereafter, the length of time an employee served since his/her last anniversary date of employment, pro-rated monthly:

Second year 1/10 for each 173 hours worked;  
Fifth year 2/10 for each 173 hours worked; and  
Eighth year 3/10 for each 173 hours worked.

given one (1) extra day of eight (8) hours of vacation or pay in lieu thereof.

**SECTION H.** Vacation pay for a full-time employee shall be forty (40) hours at the employee's straight-time rate for each week of vacation to which the employee is entitled.

**SECTION I.** A vacation sign-up schedule shall be posted by January 15<sup>th</sup> of each year. Vacations shall be scheduled on a calendar year basis and shall be scheduled on the basis of seniority, provided the more senior employee notifies the employer of his/her requested dates in writing prior to March 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. After March 1<sup>st</sup> of each year, employees may request vacation on a first come first served basis without regard to seniority. Vacation, as far as possible, shall be granted for the period preferred by the employee; but should the vacation time requested by the employee interfere with the operation of the business, the employer and the employee will mutually arrange a vacation time as near as possible to the time desired by the employee that will not interfere with operation of the business. Each employee will be notified of his or her vacation period as far in advance as practicable. The company reserves the right to make changes in vacation periods when considered advisable for efficient operation. Vacations for each year must be taken during the year or be forfeited. Vacation pay will be paid at the beginning of the vacation period, if requested.

Full-time employees who are eligible for three (3) weeks of vacation shall take at least one (1) week in a one (1) week block of time and may use any other remaining vacation, or personal days, one (1) day at a time. Employees with four (4) weeks of vacation shall use two (2) weeks of vacation in blocks of one (1) week or a two (2) week block together and may use any other remaining vacation, or personal days, one (1) day at a time.

**SECTION J.** After ninety (90) days of absence, a vacation shall be prorated according to the time worked during the vacation calculation period (from anniversary to anniversary); provided the employee has worked six (6) months or more since his last anniversary date, and has a minimum of one (1) year of seniority.

## **ARTICLE 7 - HOLIDAYS**

**SECTION A.** Full-time employees shall receive the following holidays: Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, New Years Day, and Good Friday after 3:00 p.m. Employees will be paid for the full day. In addition to these holidays, one (1) additional day off with pay, to be scheduled by mutual agreement between the employee and Employer, and the employee's birthday, which by mutual agreement between the employee and Employer may be converted to a personal holiday, will be granted to individual employees. The store shall be closed for the Easter, Christmas and Thanksgiving holidays and if open for any other holiday shall be staffed first by volunteers and then assignment by reverse seniority. Employees who work a holiday shall be paid time and one-half (1½) for hours worked in addition to holiday pay.

**SECTION B.** It is agreed that no employee shall work after 4:00 p.m. on December 24<sup>th</sup>, Christmas Eve. All hours worked after 1:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve day shall be on a voluntary basis or assigned by reverse seniority and hours worked by an employee after 1:00 p.m. shall be paid at the rate of one and one-half (1½) times the employees regular hourly rate of pay plus straight time holiday pay.

No deduction shall be made for time not worked after 1:00 pm on December 24<sup>th</sup>, Christmas Eve.

**SECTION C.** Full-time employees shall receive eight (8) hours of straight-time pay for any of the above-mentioned days, if the employees have worked during the holiday week and the scheduled day before or the scheduled day after the holiday.

**SECTION D.** Part-time employees who work the following holidays; Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Good Friday after 3:00 pm and New Years Day shall be paid time and one-half (1½) for hours worked in addition to holiday pay in the amount of hours worked that day. In addition, part-time employees shall receive six (6) hours straight time pay for their birthday or a day mutually agreed upon between the employee and the Employer. The store shall be closed for the Easter, Christmas and Thanksgiving holidays and if open for any other holiday shall be staffed first by volunteers and then assigned by reverse seniority.

## **ARTICLE 8 - SENIORITY**

**SECTION A.** Seniority shall prevail (for employees working twenty (20) hours per week, or more) in regard to laying off and rehiring, provided the employee is qualified to do the work available. The seniority of an apprentice, even though he has been employed first, shall not prevail over the seniority of a journeyman who has been hired to replace a regular journeyman at any time.

**SECTION B.** New employees shall obtain seniority after ninety (90) days from their date of employment, at which time their seniority shall take effect and date to their original date of employment.

Journeymen and wrappers shall have separate seniority lists and Journeymen shall hold seniority only in accordance with the Journeymen's seniority list and Wrapper's shall hold seniority in accordance with the Wrapper's seniority list. No employee shall lose seniority because of sickness, accident or any reason beyond the control of the employee. Seniority shall apply separately to the stores located in each of the individual towns covered by this Agreement. Part-time employees, who become available for permanent, full-time employment, will be given consideration in filling permanent positions. Part-time employees will not accrue seniority over full-time employees, but will have seniority as far as other part-time employees are concerned for the purpose of lay-off and rehire only in each individual store.

**SECTION C.** An employee shall cease to have seniority if the employee:

1. quits;
2. is discharged for cause;
3. fails to return to employment after layoff and reasonable notice of recall; or
4. is absent for any reason except military service for a period of one (1) year or more.

## **ARTICLE 9 - AGREEMENT VIOLATIONS**

All claims for back pay or loss of wages, arising from this Agreement on account of any violations of the terms hereof, must be made in writing within thirty (30) days from the payday following the accrual of the claim, and if not made within such period, the claim shall be barred.

## **ARTICLE 10 - UNION MARKET CARDS**

The Union Shop Card is loaned to the Employers who sign and abide by this Agreement, and is to be displayed in a prominent place in the market.

## **ARTICLE 11 - JOB VACANCIES**

The Union at all times shall endeavor to furnish reliable, competent help at the employer's request, and shall do everything possible to further good will and the interest of the Employers.

## **ARTICLE 12 - ARBITRATION**

**SECTION A.** Should a difference arise between the Employer and the Union or employees as to the meaning and application of the provisions of this agreement, as to the compliance of either party with any of its obligations under this agreement or should there be any complaint or grievance by an employee, the Union or employer, any of the above which has been filed by the employee, Union or employer within thirty (30) calendar days of the date when the employee knew or should have known of the alleged violation, an earnest effort shall be made to settle such difference immediately under the following procedure by negotiations:

1. Between the employee affected and **their** department head or **store manager**.
2. By a representative of the Union and **general manager** of the Employer, at which time either party may call in an outside representative.

3. **By mutual agreement between the parties, a mediator from the Federal Mediation Conciliation service may be requested to assist the parties in resolution of any grievance. Participation in mediation under these provisions shall not preclude either party from proceeding to step 4 in the event the issue remains unresolved any settlement discussions may not be used by one party against the other in any subsequent arbitration.**
4. Any dispute, difference or grievance, relative to the interpretation of or adherence to the terms of this Agreement, which has not been concluded through the above procedure within **ten (10)** days after reduction in writing in the manner herein above provided, the matter may be referred by either party, within **ten (10)** days, to a board of arbitration, composed of three (3) members, one (1) designated by the Employer, one (1) designated by the Union, and the third to be mutually agreed upon by the representatives of the parties. Should the representatives of the Union and the Employer fail to agree upon the third party within three (3) additional days, the parties shall jointly request the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service to supply a list of seven (7) names. The neutral arbitrator in any alternately striking six (6) names, the party to make the first strike to be determined by drawing lots. The remaining name shall be the neutral arbitrator.
5. At any step in this Grievance Procedure, the Executive Committee of the Local Union shall have final authority, in respect to any aggrieved employee covered by this Agreement, to decline to process a grievance, complaint, difficulty or dispute further, if in the judgment of the Executive Committee such grievance or dispute lacks merit or justification under the terms of this Agreement or has been adjusted or justified under the terms of this Agreement to the satisfaction of the Union Executive Committee.

**SECTION B.** The entire matter, in controversy as aforesaid, shall be referred to this Arbitration Board for disposition; and, whatever disposition is made, shall be binding upon the Union, employee, and Employer. However, such Board shall not have the power to add to or modify any of the terms or conditions of this Agreement.

**SECTION C.** The decision of the majority of the Board of Arbitration shall constitute the decision of the Board of Arbitration and be final. Should any expense be involved for the service of the above-mentioned, third member of the Board of Arbitration, such expense shall be borne equally by the Employer and the Union.

## **ARTICLE 13 - DISMISSAL**

**SECTION A.** Any new employee shall be subject to discharge, at the option of the Employer, during the first ninety (90) days of employment. No employee shall be suspended, demoted or dismissed without sufficient cause. If, after proper investigation, it is found that an employee has been disciplined unjustly, he or she shall be reinstated with full rights and compensated in full for time lost. Provided, however,

that no claim for compensation for time lost shall be paid unless the claim is presented to the Employer, in writing, within ten (10) days after the suspension, demotion or dismissal in question. In case of a dismissal, the employee affected may request and shall receive from the Employer, in writing, the reason for said dismissal.

**SECTION B. Employees who voluntarily terminate employment shall provide at least two weeks advanced notice to employer in writing.** Failure to give proper notice may result in the **forfeiture of vacation pay equivalent to the period of the deficiency in the notice vacation.** The employee shall be entitled to two (2) weeks' notice, in writing, of the intent by the Employer to lay-off or terminate the employee, unless such termination is for just cause. Any new employee shall be subject to discharge, at the option of the Employer, during the first ninety (90) days of employment. **No employee remaining employed after ninety (90) days** shall be suspended, demoted or dismissed without sufficient cause. If, after proper investigation, it is found that an employee has been disciplined unjustly, he or she shall be reinstated with full rights and compensated in full for time lost. Provided, however, that no claim for compensation for time lost shall be paid unless the claim is presented to the Employer, in writing, within ten (10) days after the suspension, demotion or dismissal in question.

## **ARTICLE 14 - HEALTH AND WELFARE**

**SECTION A.** All Employers, who are or become signatory or bound by this Agreement, agree to be bound by the Agreement and Declaration of Trust, as amended, establishing the Northern Minnesota-Wisconsin Retail Clerks and the Northern Minnesota-Wisconsin Area Retail Food Health and Welfare Fund, copies of which all parties agree have been furnished and read by all employers bound hereby prior to the execution of this Agreement. It is mutually agreed that the provisions of said Agreement and Declaration of Trust and any rules, regulations or plan adopted by the Trustees pursuant thereto shall become a part of this Agreement as though fully written herein. All employers bound hereby irrevocably designate the employer Trustee of said Fund, and their successors as their representatives for the purpose set forth in said Agreement and Declaration of Trust.

**SECTION B. HEALTH AND WELFARE Effective 2018,** the Employer agrees to pay up to one thousand five hundred and seventy-five dollars (\$1,575.00) per month for eligible employees who elect family coverage and up to six hundred and twenty-five dollars (\$625.00) per month for eligible employees who elect single coverage. **This applies to each employee who is on the payroll the first day of any month, in accordance with the following rules:**

1. a. The Employer agrees to make a monthly contribution for all employees who average thirty-four (34) hours or more per week exclusive of temporary and/or part-time summer employees even though they may work more than thirty-four (34) hours per week during the summer period.
- b. Employees hired shall have payments made on their behalf by the

Employer, commencing the first day of the month following ninety (90) calendar days of employment.

c. Payment to the Fund on behalf of the employees, who are terminated due to discharge or voluntary termination of employment, shall not be required, commencing the first of the month following the date of their termination.

d. Employees returning to work or reinstated following an absence from work when their seniority has not been interrupted, shall have payments made in their behalf on the first of the month following their return to work.

**Effective January 1, 2019, The Employer agrees to pay up to one thousand five hundred and seventy-five dollars (\$1,575.00) per month for eligible employees who elect family coverage and up to six hundred and twenty-five dollars (\$625.00) per month for eligible employees who elect single coverage. Any increase for health care for 2019 will be paid by the employee.**

**Effective 2020, any increase for health care shall be divided with 70% being paid for by the Employer and 30% paid by the Employee.**

**Effective 2021, any increase for health care shall be divided with 70% being paid for by the Employer and 30% paid by the Employee.**

**The current eight (8) employees receiving health care shall be grandfathered and will have the ability to continue to be eligible for family health insurance.**

**The four (4) employees currently receiving single coverage have the ability to move to family coverage with a qualifying event. Any of the eight employees who elect single coverage shall receive an additional one dollar (\$1.00) per hour for any hours worked for the employer. Employees who choose to go from single coverage to family coverage will forfeit the additional one dollar (\$1.00) per hour.**

**Any full-time employee hired after the date of ratification, 7/20/2018, shall only be eligible for single coverage for health insurance.**

**The current LOU for health care shall be deleted, all monies that is left in the separate fund shall be divided equally between the nine (9) employees who are named in the LOU (\$850.00) each. Taxable income.**

2. In the event of absence of an employee from work because of injury, illness or sickness, the Employer shall continue to make the required contributions for a period of three (3) months from the date on which the employee leaves active employment due to illness or injury. In the event of a



leave of absence or military leave, or in the event employees are laid off or are off because of illness, sickness or injury beyond said three (3) months period, they shall be permitted to continue coverage as a member of the group by paying, in advance, the regular monthly contribution, as paid by the Employer, after the respective date that contributions by the Employer cease, pursuant to the provisions hereof, provided such coverage may be continued only to the maximum period allowed under the rules established by the Trustees.

3. During times that the employees, covered hereunder, are on vacation, the Employer shall continue to pay the necessary contributions to secure coverage for the employees.

4. **SPOUSE BENEFITS:** The surviving spouse of an active participant may continue eligibility for benefits following the death of the participant, in accordance with applicable rules and regulations, by paying an amount equal to the contribution rate established by the Trustees.

5. If the Employer elects, at sometime, to provide alternate insurance coverage than Northern Minnesota-Wisconsin Area Retail Food Health and Welfare Fund, it is agreed by and between the parties that the Employer shall provide insurance coverage commensurate as presently provided under the Trust Agreement referred to in Section A, relative to health and welfare (hospital, medical, surgical, etc.), provided the provisions do not constitute a loss to the employees in existing benefits and provided further that the insurance program is submitted for the Union's approval before it is instituted; and there shall be no changes in said insurance program without the participation of the Union. Should any of the provisions above be violated, the Employer shall be held accountable and liable for any non-approved variance; and should any violation occur, the Employer agrees, at the direction of the Union, to institute compliance under the Northern Minnesota-Wisconsin Area Retail Food Health and Welfare Fund within sixty (60) days from the date of direction, at the submission rate in existence at that time; and further agrees to assume any increase in submission rate provided for or arising as a result of negotiations between United Food and Commercial Workers Union Local 1189 and the Area Grocers.

6. **CONTRIBUTION RATES.** The Employer agrees to pay monthly contributions for each eligible employee, to the Health and Welfare Fund.

**SECTION C.** Contributions to the Trust Funds shall be due and payable fifteen (15) days following the end of the preceding month for all employees covered under the collective bargaining agreement or for whom contributions are required. The failure of an employer to pay all amounts due within thirty (30) days following the due date, whether willful or otherwise, shall subject the delinquent employer to a payment of liquidated damages of an additional ten percent (10%) of the amount due, plus all costs and reasonable attorney's fees incurred in connection therewith.

Payments and liquidated damages, unpaid by the first day of the following month, shall

be subject to an interest charge of eight percent (8%) per annum on the payments and liquidated damages. If legal action is taken to recover the amount due the Trust Fund, the delinquent employer shall also be required to pay all court costs including reasonable attorneys' fees. In addition to the other provisions, as herein set forth, any employer who is delinquent in his payments to the Trust Fund shall make such employer primarily liable and responsible to his employees or employees' estates for any claim for benefits accruing to such employees or employees' estates under the administration of this Trust Fund. The payment of any and all claims shall not operate to relieve such employer from his liability to make the payments due the Trust Fund, including the liquidated damage payment.

Any Employer, who, on more than one occasion during any one year, becomes delinquent in his payment to the Trust Fund, shall be required to post bond with the Trustees, in an amount equivalent to the total contributions which he was obligated to make during the preceding calendar year.

Non-payment, by any employer of any contribution or other moneys owed to the Fund, shall not relieve any other employer from his or its obligation to make required payments to the Trust Fund.

**SECTION D.** In no event shall the provisions relating to Pension or Health and Welfare set forth herein, be subject to or suitable for grievance and arbitration under the terms of this Agreement.

The above paragraphs shall not be applicable when, in the judgment of the Trustees, the delinquency results from a clerical error or a bona fide difference or dispute concerning eligibility. The Employer agrees that applicable payroll records shall be made available for audit to employees of the Health and Welfare Fund and/or Pension Fund, as directed by action of the Board of Trustees of these funds.

**SECTION E.** If the Employer fails to make prompt and timely payments of monthly contributions required by this Article, and such delinquency results in an employee or beneficiary or dependent being denied or being rendered ineligible for benefits otherwise payable under the Plans provided by the Trustees, then in such event, the Employer shall be fully and personally responsible to (and hereby agrees to pay) such employee or beneficiary or dependent for all such losses or benefits.

## **ARTICLE 15 - JURY DUTY, ACCIDENT, LEAVE OF ABSENCE, MATERNITY & FUNERAL LEAVE**

**SECTION A. JURY DUTY** A full-time employee, who is called to serve on jury duty, shall be paid for actual hours worked for the Company. If this pay, with his jury duty pay, does not equal his regular weekly pay, the Employer will make up the difference for a maximum period of two (2) weeks; providing the employee works such hours as he is available during the hours when court is not in session. The above shall apply to petit jury duty only. An employee receiving full pay from his Employer while serving on jury,

will be required to turn in to his Employer, the jury duty pay for the period he served on the jury, not to exceed two (2) weeks.

**SECTION B. ACCIDENTS** Employees, injured on the job, shall not be docked for any part of the day in which the injury occurs, providing a call to the Employer is made from the doctor's office by the doctor's personnel, notifying them of the extent of the injury. If the injury is not serious, the employee must return to work at once upon leaving the doctor's office. In no instance will the Employer be obligated to pay an employee for more than eight (8) hours.

**SECTION C. LEAVE OF ABSENCE** An employee may be granted a leave of absence, not to exceed ninety (90) days, upon written permission from the Employer and the Union. Failure to comply with this provision or to return on time shall result in loss of seniority rights.

#### **SECTION D. MATERNITY LEAVE**

1. Such leave shall be granted in compliance with all state and federal rules and regulations.
2. The employee shall retain all seniority rights while on Maternity Leave, but shall not accrue additional vacation credits during this time.
3. An Employee, wishing to return from Maternity Leave, shall provide the Employer with her request for reinstatement and an attending physician's statement of satisfactory, good health.

#### **SECTION E. FUNERAL LEAVE**

Employees shall be allowed paid time off at regular straight-time rates up to but not to exceed three (3) working days (five (5) days in the case of spouse) as normally scheduled for the employee's parent, child, brother, sister, parents-in-law, grandparents, grandchildren or any relative residing with the employee or with whom the employee resides. It is understood that step-parents, step-children, and stepbrothers/sisters are included herein. Further, it is understood that payment for such time off may not extend beyond the day after burial, if such day is a workday.

Moreover, if the employee is notified of such death while at work he shall be excused from further work on that day, without loss of pay and time off provided for above shall begin the following day.

### **ARTICLE 16 - PENSION**

Pension contributions of *one hundred ninety dollars and sixty seven cents (\$190.67)* per month, effective January 1, 2012, shall be paid by the Employer for each Union employee regularly working over thirty-four (34) hours per week. Said payment shall be paid to the United Food and Commercial Workers Union, National Pension Fund,

Employee Contributions, PO Box 19122A, Newark, NJ, 07195. Holidays and vacations, for which the Employer makes payments to the Union employee, shall be counted as time worked for the purpose of determining the 34-hour limitation. It is understood that the Trust and the benefits to be provided from the Pension Trust Fund shall conform in all respects to the requirements of the Treasury Department, Bureau of Internal Revenue, and to any other applicable State or Federal laws and regulations.

The Employer will contribute the amount of one dollar seventeen cents (\$1.17) per hour in 2012, to the Northern Minnesota-Wisconsin Retail Clerks Pension Plan for all eligible part-time meat department Union employees who average less than thirty-four (34) hours per week but are not considered full-time, exclusive of part-time summer employees even though they may work more than thirty-four (34) hours per week during the summer period.

Full-time Employees hired after January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1999 who previously had contributions made to the Minnesota – Wisconsin Area Retail Clerks Pension Fund on their behalf will continue to have contributions made on their behalf to the Minnesota – Wisconsin Area Retail Clerks Pension Fund.

Reports of the Employers as to Union employees who have worked, number of hours they have been paid, and such other data and information required by the Trustees of said Funds, and all contributions payable to the Funds shall be transmitted to the office of the Funds, no later than the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month immediately following the calendar month in which the work was performed on which contributions are being made. In the event said reports are not furnished or such contributions are not paid as aforesaid, remedies, either in law, in equity by contract or authorized by the aforementioned Agreements and Declarations of Trust shall be available.

## **ARTICLE 17 - SICK LEAVE**

All permanent full-time employees will accrue sick leave at the rate of three (3) days per year from the date of their hire, to a maximum of nine (9) days. Current employees, as of the effective date of this Agreement, who have accrued sick leave days in excess of the maximum nine (9) days may keep the existing sick leave over nine (9) days until it is used down to the point it is less than a total of nine (9) days. No current employee shall accrue new sick leave until his/her accrual is less than nine (9) days. **Part-Time employees shall accrue one (1) sick day per year from the date of their hire after five years of employment.**

Employees may utilize accrued unused sick leave for doctor and dental appointments. **Sick days may be utilized for care of a sick child.**

Any employee protected by Workmen's Compensation or sickness and accident benefits shall receive a Workmen's Compensation or sickness and accident benefit, and, in addition, shall be issued a supplemental check for an amount totaling the employee's normal full net wages. This supplemental payment shall be charged against

the employee's accumulated sick leave and shall be paid only to the extent of eligible sick leave.

No employee shall be allowed to draw against future sick leave. No employee shall receive cash payment in lieu of accumulated sick leave.

A. All maternity leave of absence shall be granted in compliance with all state and federal rules and regulations.

### **ARTICLE 18 - SEPARABILITY**

Should any part hereof or any provisions herein contained, be rendered or declared illegal by reason of any existing or subsequently enacted legislation, by a decree of a court of competent jurisdiction or an unfair labor practice by a final decision of a Labor Relations Board of competent jurisdiction, such invalidation of such part or portion of this Agreement shall not invalidate the remaining portions hereof.

Nothing herein shall be construed to replace or abridge the right of either party to appeal courts or administrative decrees or decision.

In the event that any part or portion of this Agreement is declared illegal, the parties shall enter into immediate collective bargaining negotiations, upon the request of either party, for the purpose of arriving at a mutually satisfactory replacement for such part or portion declared illegal.

If the parties do not agree on a mutually satisfactory replacement, within sixty (60) days from the date of the notice of the parties requesting the commencement of collective bargaining negotiations, either party shall be permitted all legal or economic recourse in support of its demands, notwithstanding any provision of this Agreement to the contrary.

### **ARTICLE 19 - WAGE AGREEMENT**

The following classifications and rates of pay shall apply to employees covered by this Agreement with the Iron River Cooperative Food Store:

#### **SCHEDULE A:**

**Start**

**1/1/2017**

Head Meat Cutter

**\$20.48**

<b>1/1/2018</b>	<b>+\$0.50/hour</b>
<b>1/1/2019</b>	<b>+\$0.50/hour</b>
<b>1/1/2020</b>	<b>+\$0.25/hour</b>
<b>1/1/2021</b>	<b>+\$0.25/hour</b>

Journeyman Meat Cutter

**\$16.40**

<b>1/1/2018</b>	<b>+\$0.50/hour</b>
<b>1/1/2019</b>	<b>+\$0.50/hour</b>
<b>1/1/2020</b>	<b>+\$0.25/hour</b>
<b>1/1/2021</b>	<b>+\$0.25/hour</b>

Helper/Wrapper

First 6 Months  
Thereafter

**\$ 9.81**

**\$ 10.82**

<b>1/1/2018</b>	<b>+\$0.35/hour</b>
<b>1/1/2019</b>	<b>+\$0.35/hour</b>
<b>1/1/2020</b>	<b>+\$0.25/hour</b>
<b>1/1/2021</b>	<b>+\$0.25/hour</b>

Apprentices' Percentage of Journeymen's rate

First 6 months	<b>75%</b>
Second 6 months	<b>80%</b>
Third 6 months	<b>85%</b>
Fourth 6 months	<b>90%</b>
Fifth 6 months	95%
After 30 months	Journeymen's rate

**All Full-Time employees will receive fifty cents (\$.50) per hour back pay retroactive from 1/1/2018 after ratification.**

**All Part-Time Employees will receive seventy-five cents (\$.75) per hour back pay from 1/1/2018 after ratification.**

**ARTICLE 20 - GENDER**

Wherever words are used in this Agreement in the masculine gender, they shall also be construed to include the feminine or neutral gender in all situations where they would apply. Wherever words are used in the singular, they shall also be construed to include the plural in all situations where they would also apply; and wherever any words are used in the plural, they shall also be construed to include the singular.

Wherever words are used in this Agreement in the masculine gender, they shall also be construed to include the feminine or neutral gender in all situations where they would apply. Wherever words are used in the singular, they shall also be construed to include the plural in all situations where they would also apply; and wherever any words are used in the plural, they shall also be construed to include the singular.

### **ARTICLE 21 – EMPLOYEE RIGHTS**

The parties recognize that the 2015 Wisconsin Act 1 prohibits collective bargaining agreements that require membership in a labor organization as a condition of employment and the parties agree to administer this Agreement in conformance with such law.

### **ARTICLE 22 – DURATION**

This Agreement shall take effect the first day of January 2018, and shall continue in full force and effect through December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021, and thereafter, from year to year, unless written notice of desire to change or modify the Agreement is given by either party to the other party, sixty (60) days prior to the annual date of expiration; at which time, either party desiring a change shall notify the other party, in writing, of the specific paragraphs or articles they are desirous of changing so that negotiations may be started as early as possible during the sixty (60) day notice period.

Dated this 17 day of AUGUST, 2018.

IRON RIVER COOPERATIVES, Inc.

UNITED FOOD AND COMMERCIAL  
WORKERS UNION, LOCAL 1189

