

Growth of Farmer Cooperatives: North Dakota Farmer's Union and North Dakota Farm Bureau

In the early 1900s, North Dakota farmers organized cooperatives to protect their interests and support legislation pertaining to North Dakota agriculture. This pathfinder will lead researchers to several resources available at the North Dakota State Archives highlighting two farmer cooperatives, the North Dakota Farmers Union and the North Dakota Farm Bureau.

Archival Collections

10157 North Dakota Oral History Project Records

Oral history interview transcripts, indexes to recorded oral history interviews, interview referral files, interview files, photographs, lists of donations to the Project, oral history interview transcripts relating to the Governor's Mansion family histories, biographies, reminiscences, and manuscripts.

10274 North Dakota Farmers Union Records

News releases, speeches, committee reports, printed material, biographies of union officers, records relating to the educational and cooperative Union of America - North Dakota division subject files, scrapbooks, local minutes and financial records, newspaper clippings, educational material, film, videocassettes, photographs, publications, and audio recordings.

10478 North Dakota Farm Bureau Records

Records consist of board of directors minutes, committee minutes, subject files, publications, correspondence, audits, financial statements, policies, scrapbooks, reports, publications, photographs, audio recordings, programs, promotional material, memorabilia; records of the NoDak Mutual Insurance Company, 1946-1980s, including audits and annual statements; and minutes of the North Dakota Wheat Growers Association, 1951-1953. Records relate to administration of the Bureau and the NoDak Mutual Insurance Company, annual conventions, legislation, and farm issues.

10625 Farmer's Union Mercantile (Bismarck, N.D.) Records

The records include the accounts of local customers.

10852 North Dakota Farmers Union Education Department Records

Includes correspondence, historical material, council files, junior camp and all states camp materials, camp scrapbooks for camp and the institute, publications, ephemera, and news clippings.

Useful Search Guidance

Subjects

- North Dakota Farmers Union
- Farmers Union Elevator and Mercantile Company
- North Dakota Farm Bureau

People

- Charles Talbott, 1876-1937
- Wilfred A. Plath
- B.E. Groom
- Roy Johnson

Locations

- Jamestown, North Dakota
- Valley City, North Dakota

Journal Articles

North Dakota's Forgotten Farmers Union 1913-1920

Larry Remele – *North Dakota History* Vol. 45 Issue 2

Glen J. Talbott, the Farmers Union, and American Liberalism After World War II

William C. Pratt – *North Dakota History* Vol. 55 Issue 1

Still: The "Union City"

Frances Wold – *North Dakota History* Vol. 45 Issue 3

10904 Jacob and Gertrude (Nickel) Kuller Papers

Consists of four identical copies of color photo postcards of original North Dakota Farmers Union office in Jamestown, membership and delegate ribbons to the statewide convention, a visitor pass to the stockholder meeting of the Grain Terminal Association, a compilation of humorous readings by Frances W. Butts, copies of two reports, several song sheets, and numerous publications. Mr. and Mrs. Kuller were active members of the Spring Valley local chapter in Morton County and the statewide organization. The news broadcast address was given over KXJB Radio by M.W. Thatcher, on November 4, 1943, and the second report is an undated but postwar document, the author is not listed, but is titled "An economy of abundance."

10958 William E. "Bill" Shemorry Paper

The collection consists of office files (research, newspaper and magazine clippings, article drafts, and published articles), slides, photographs, negatives, and glass plate negatives related to Shemorry's career as a newspaper publisher, photographer, reporter, historian, researcher and author in Williston, N.D.

20185 Ole M. Hector Papers

Autobiography, resolutions, correspondence concerning the political activities of the Republican Party, the North Dakota Farm Bureau Federation, the Divide County Farm Bureau, the American Farm Bureau Federation, the National Wheat Conference, the Federal Land Bank Stockholders and Borrowers Association, a brief history of the Farm Bureau movement, copies of the Divide County Farm Bureau News, and the North Dakota Farm Bureau News.

Books

50 Years North Dakota Farmers Union

1976 - Charles and Joyce Conrad

Call Number: 334.68 C763

Changing Landscapes: North Dakota Farmers Union: 75 Years of Growing Our Future

2001 – Nancy Edmonds Hanson

Call Number: 334.68 H2515c

History of Farm Organizations

1945 – Roald Harbo

Call Number: 334.68 H255h

Grass Roots: The Story of the North Dakota Farmers Union

1947 – Harold Vincent Knight

Call Number: 334.68 K744

History of the North Dakota Farm Bureau, 1942-1965

1967 – G. J. Stafne

Call Number: 338.1 St13

The Farm Bureau

1919 – R.C. Pollock

Call Number: 338.47 N864c 32

Farmer Cooperatives in the United States

1955—Farmer Cooperative Service, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture

This bulletin is designed to provide a comprehensive review of the many ways farmers use cooperatives to help meet their economics problems ... the complex problems inherent in marketing their products, buying their farm supplies, and performing many other essential farm business services

Call Number: A 89.3:1

Online Resources

[It Took 6,000 Days' Work To Complete Organization of N.D. Farm Bureau Federation](#)

Bismarck Tribune article from December 29, 1921

[SHSND Photobook](#)

State Historical Society of North Dakota's Online Search Portal for all digitized photographs

[Digital Horizons](#)

Online consortium of historic photographs from the collections of the State Historical Society of North Dakota

[WorldCat](#)

State Historical Society of North Dakota's publication search portal

External Resources

[North Dakota Farmers Union](#)

Current website for the North Dakota Farmers Union

[North Dakota Farm Bureau](#)

Current website for the North Dakota Farm Bureau

State Archives

For more information related to the collections and resources available at the North Dakota State Archives, please email archives@nd.gov or call (701) 328-2668.



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