

Mechanization of Farming and Modernizing Agriculture

North Dakota's economy heavily relies on agriculture. Even today, new advances in technology are making it easier for North Dakota farmers to operate their farms efficiently. This pathfinder will lead researchers to several resources available at the North Dakota State Archives highlighting the mechanization of farming and modernization of agriculture.

Archival Collections

10031 Sarah Boley Papers

Diaries document the weather, daily life, politics, and agricultural conditions in Morton County (N.D.).

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.

10185 Van Houten Brothers and Little Company Records

Letterpress copy books dealing with the sale and purchase of supplies and equipment, and an account book.

10190 Will Family Papers

The collection consists of the papers of Will family members, including Oscar Henry and Elvira Isabel "Belle" (Bird) Will, George Francis Will, Katherine (Sterrett) Will, Vera (Kangas) Will, Mabel (Will) Lumry, Margaret (Will) Exton, George Francis Will Jr., Elvira Susanna (Will) Arman, Oscar Henry Will II, and other descendants and relatives.

11454 Clarence Hartman Collection

Records from the Hartman farm in Hettinger County including photographs, hand-drawn and printed maps of crop rotations, and machinery and equipment inventories

11497 Eastgate Family Collection

Notecards filed alphabetically with agricultural information such as inventory, yields, threshing, expenses, equipment, grain elevator receipts, recipe for homemade chick mash, manure hauled, etc. for various crops including alfalfa, sweet clover, flax, wheat, oats, barley, potatoes, and corn. There are several receipts, miscellaneous notes, bills and correspondence intermingled with the notecards.

Useful Search Guidance

Subjects

- Farm mechanization
- Farm technology
- George F. Will Seed Company
- Seed production
- Modified seeds

People

- Albert Hoiland, 1869-1957
- Joseph Pazandak
- Anna Pazandak
- George F. Will, 1884-1955

Locations

- Fargo, North Dakota
- Fullerton, North Dakota
- Bismarck, North Dakota

Journal Articles

North Dakota Agriculture Since World War II
Fred R. Taylor— *North Dakota History* Vol. 34
Issue 1

Farming in Russia and North Dakota: One German-Russian Family's Experience
John S. Otto — *North Dakota History* Vol. 55
Issue 2

North Dakota's Prairie Communities: The Journey from Twilight to a Dawn
J. Patrick Smith — *North Dakota History* Vol. 56
Issue 1

20108 Albert Hoiland Papers

Papers consist of correspondence, photographs, and sales brochures relating to several of Hoiland's inventions, including the wildoat separator, cow trainer, highway guards, and a furnace grate.

20475 Lester Clark Papers

Papers consist of notes, printed material, licenses, and letters concerning North Dakota seed companies and maintenance of farm equipment.

20745 Olivia (Hanson) Rhoads Papers

The manuscript includes a photocopy of her personal reminiscences of farm life entitled "My life at home from youth to grown-up," and sketches of early farm equipment.

21149 Bill Phillips Papers

Consists of "Growing up in Garrison (N.D.): Recollections of the 1930s," a reminiscence by Phillips about farming and Garrison during the Great Depression.

21195 Pazandak Family Collection (Dickey County, North Dakota)

Includes 17 photographs and post cards of the family farm with identification (ca. 1902-2010), a cassette tape with an interview about the farm, and copies and prints of articles about family members.

30640 Agriculture. Marketing Division. Marketing Service Program Files

Series contains correspondence, reports, memoranda, and printed materials related to the Marketing Division of the Department of Agriculture. Includes records related to various councils (Barley, Sunflower, Ag. Products Utilization, etc.), commodity organizations, foreign trade, Pride of Dakota, the Winter Show, trade shows, ag missions, Marketplace for Kids, Marketplace of Ideas, Mid-America International Agri-Trade Council (MIATCO), Ag in the Classroom (AITC), and other general information.

31580 Agriculture. Public Information. ND Products Council File.

Consists of Pride of Dakota Program Files, containing correspondence regarding the program, logo development with an advertising agency, and state fair correspondence and copies of contracts.

Books

Developments in American Farming

1976 - Robert Charles Hollow Jr.

Reprint of the 1947 ed. of Progress of farm mechanization, by M. R. Cooper, G. T. Barton, and A. P. Brodell

Call Number: 338.16 D492

Cost of Power Farming: Its Improvements and Work Accomplishments

1941 – Thomas E. Long

Agricultural Experiment Station, North Dakota Agricultural College

Call Number: 338.47 N814 305

Farm Mechanization in the Red River Valley 1870-1915

1949 – Asbjorn B. Isaacson

Call Number: 1519

Changes in Technology and Labor Requirements in Crop Production

1938 – William C. Holley and Lloyd E. Arnold

Works Progress Administration, National Research Project

Call Number: Y 3.W 89/2:47/A-7

Seed Disinfection and Crop Production: Methods and Types of Machinery Needed

1910 – H.L. Bolley

North Dakota Agricultural College, Government Agricultural Experiment Station for North Dakota

Call Number: 338.47 N814 87

American Thresherman and Farm Equipment

1931 - 1932

Call Number: 631.3 A512c

Farm Equipment and How to Use It

2001—Harry C. Ramsower

Call Number: 631.3 R183f 2001

Online Resources

[Farms in North Dakota: A Historic Context 2014](#)

State Historical Society of North Dakota website

[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 Agriculture in One Word](#)

Article on the U.S. Department of Agriculture website that explains the types of crops grown in North Dakota

[Farmer Still Does 60 Pct. Of Work by Hand Method](#)

Richland County Farmer Globe article from August 27, 1948

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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