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Finding Aid to the F. W. Christensen Papers

Christensen, Fredrick Waldemar, 1879-1949

F.W. Christensen papers, 1927-1938

.75 linear feet

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OVERVIEW

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BIOGRAPHY

Fredrick Waldemar (F.W.) Christensen was born in (Mariadahl) Randolph, Kansas on January 22, 1879.. Professor Christensen earned his bachelor's in Science from Kansas State College in 1900 and his Master's in Animal Nutrition Chemistry and Physiological Chemistry from Pennsylvania State College in 1908. He married Alma Johnson in Osage City, Kansas on September 1, 1909. They had three sons, Charles Fredrick, Arthur George, and Paul Edward¹.

¹ All three of the Christensen's sons were in the service during the war. Lt. Col Arthur Christensen survived the Bataan Death March and was held captive in the Philippines. He was later transported to Japan where he was imprisoned in several different camps. He was liberated on September 9, 1945 and was awarded the Silver Star for his service. Lt. Charles F. Christensen was in military intelligence at Aberdeen Proving Grounds in Maryland, and Lt. Paul Christensen was stationed at Fort Lewis, Washington. Professor Christensen's wife, Alma, also did her part for the war effort. She worked two to four afternoons a week in the Surgical Dressings Room for the Red Cross.

Professor Christensen worked as an animal nutrition expert for the United States Department of Agriculture for six years and as an Associate Professor of Agricultural Chemistry and Nutrition Chemistry at the experiment stations of Pennsylvania State College and New Mexico College.

In 1916 he joined North Dakota Agricultural College as a Professor of Animal Nutrition. His time was divided between the experiment station and the college. While at NDAC Professor Christensen was a member of the American Chemical Society, American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the NDAC chapter of Phi Kappa Phi. He was also Assistant Chairman of the Animal Husbandry Department in 1927. Professor Christensen was well known for his work with emergency drought rations for beef cattle and work horses, and the use of leafy spurge, sweet clover silage, Russian thistle and beet tops in animal diets.

In 1941 he was elected president of the North Dakota Kansas State Alumni Association and the same year was president of the North Dakota Academy of Science. He was also honored by inclusion in the "Who's Who in American Education." He retired in 1947 after 31 years at the College. After Professor Christensen retired, he moved to Leavenworth, Kansas where his son Lt. Col. Arthur Christensen was stationed. F.W. Christenson died in Osage City, Kansas in 1949 at age 70.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The F.W. Christensen papers are arranged into four series: two **Correspondence Series**: [Correspondence 1927](#) and [Correspondence 1930](#), one [Administration Series](#) and one [Subject Files Series](#). The bulk of the papers are in the two correspondence series (1927 and 1930).

The correspondence is arranged alphabetically and chronologically. Within the **correspondence series** are communications from/to various people around North Dakota, requesting information and materials about animal feeding amounts for cattle, sheep, and hogs. They requested information on, nutrition and nutrient supplement information, the values of various feedstuffs, for example, flax, barley, rye, and wheat, and silage, and general assistance in keeping their animals healthy and in good condition.

There is also correspondence with F.W Christensen's colleagues; Dr. G Bohstadt (Ohio Experiment Station), J.A Fries (Net Energy System), D.J. Griswold, (maintenance of the NDAC Experiment Station), Paul Howe (Subcommittee on Animal Nutrition), Monroe Kirk, (NDAC Farm Superintendent), J.H. Shepperd (Acting President of the College), P.F. Trowbridge, (Director of the NDAC Experiment Station), H.L. Walster (NDAC Agronomist) and the United States Department of Agriculture.

The **administration series** consists of correspondence when he was the assistant chair of the department, along with some assorted research, circulars, and subject files from, 1928, 1935, 1937, and 1938.

The **subject files series** is arranged chronologically, and consists of: Feeding of Scabby Barley; a Script for a radio talk about feeding balanced rations; History of Animal Nutrition at NDAC; information on Cooking and Canning on Vitamins B and G; Iodine for Livestock; Digestible

Nutrients in Certain Silages, Hays, and Mixed Rations; WPA Project 2500 (The Economic Value of Energy Feeds); the livestock research committee; and a summary of the feeding value of various plants and the publications relating to it.

BOX & FOLDER LIST

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Series 1: 1927 Correspondence

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Series 4: Subject Files

- 1/75 1928 Feeding of Scabby Barley
- 1/76 1928 Radio Talk Script, Why Feed Balanced Rations
- 1/77 1937 History of Animal Nutrition at NDAC Agricultural Experiment Station
- 1/78 1937 Influence of Cooking and Canning on Vitamins B and G Content of Lean Beef and Pork
- 1/79 1937 Iodine for Livestock Circular # 151
- 1/80 1938 1938 Digestible Nutrients and Metabolizable Energy in Certain Silages, Hays and Mixed Rations
- 1/81 Livestock Research Committee (1 page only)
- 1/82 1938 WPA Project # 2500 Economic Use and Value of Energy Feeds
- 1/83 (no date) Summary of Feeding Value of Various Plants and publications related to them