

Finding Aid to the North Dakota Grimm Alfalfa Association Records

North Dakota Grimm Alfalfa Association

North Dakota Grimm Alfalfa Association records, 1916-1939.

.4 linear ft.

MSS 129

[Biography](#)

[Scope and Content](#)

[Folder List](#)

OVERVIEW

Access: The collection is open under the rules and regulations of the NDSU Archives.

Provenance: Donor unknown.

Property rights: The NDSU Archives owns the property rights to this collection.

Copyrights: Copyrights to this collection is held by the NDSU Archives.

Citation: [Identification of item]. North Dakota Grimm Alfalfa Association (MSS 129), NDSU Archives, North Dakota State University, Fargo.

BIOGRAPHY

Wendelin Grimm was born October 18, 1818 in Germany. In 1857, he immigrated to the United States with his wife and three children. He brought with him a bag of seed for “everlasting clover.” He purchased 160 acres in Laketown Township, and in 1872 purchased a second farm. Grimm planted a crop over the winter months using the seed he brought from Germany. He saved the seeds that survived the cold, and replanted with them the following year. Grimm alfalfa became winter hardy. At first, he only sold this crop to his neighbors. But it became very popular due to its high yields and hardiness. Grimm died in 1890, but his legacy lives on.

Grimm alfalfa was first planted in North Dakota in 1901. The Dickinson Experiment Station planted 68 strains of alfalfa in 1908. In the spring, the Grimm alfalfa was the only variety to thrive. In 1916, the Grimm Alfalfa Growers Association was organized by the North Dakota Agricultural College and the Experiment Station. The Association was the first to handle and sell the Grimm alfalfa seed cooperatively. In 1924, a rival cooperative, the Northwest Seed Growers Association, was organized. One of the prime figures in the new organization was W.R. Porter, manager and secretary of the Grimm Association. Porter resigned from the Grimm Association in 1924, but the animosity between the two cooperatives continued. Much of the correspondence relates to the rivalry between the two groups.

The Grimm Association honored Wendelin Grimm with a plaque on his original farm in 1924. By the 1930s, Grimm alfalfa was the preferred variety in the United States.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Grimm Alfalfa Association Papers consist of material related to the development of the organization and its business dealings including by-laws; accounting; advertising; a list of stockholders, and correspondence.

FOLDER LIST

Box-Folder	Content
1/1	Correspondence
1/2	By-laws; Articles of Incorporation for Northwest Seed Growers Association
1/3	Proxies
1/4	Accounting
1/5	Advertising
1/6	Stockholders
1/7	Application for Field Registration
1/8	Meeting Minutes
1/9	Correspondence
1/10	Correspondence
1/11	Correspondence
2/1	Correspondence
2/2	Stock Certificates
2/3	Correspondence
2/4	Re: W.R. Porter, Northwest Seed Growers Association