

## Finding Aid to the Northwest Farm Managers Association Records

### Northwest Farm Managers Association

Northwest Farm Managers Association Records, 1917-1984

3.4 linear ft.

Collection number: Mss 122

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### OVERVIEW

**Links:** Finding Aid to the [Northwest Farm Managers Association Photograph Collection](#).

**Access:** The collection is open under the rules and regulations of the Institute.

**Provenance:** Donated by Northwest Farm Managers Association, 1983 (Acc. 2089).

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**Citation:** [Identification of item]. Northwest Farm Managers Association Records, MS 122, Institute for Regional Studies, North Dakota State University, Fargo.

### HISTORY

The Northwest Farm Managers Association was organized in 1909 to help solve problems confronting agriculture. Thomas Cooper of the Minnesota Agricultural College is credited with originating the farm management movement. Along with Charles R. Wright of Fergus Falls, he sent letters to farmers. The best response was from North Dakota, so they decided to organize in Fargo.

The first meeting was held during the Tri-State Grain Growers Association at the Waldorf Hotel in Fargo. Mr. Wright was the first president, and R.C. Doneghue was the first executive secretary. There were twelve to fifteen original members, which included Walter Reed, Robert Reed and John Dalrymple. The original name was The Farm Managers Association, with Northwest being added later. Some of the more influential members of the association through the years include Cap E. Miller, John H. Sheppard and Hiram Drache.

The association presently meets twice a year, with the annual Winter Conference being held in February. This is a two day meeting to discuss and introduce new ideas and technology to aid in farm management. The Pioneer of the Year Banquet, which honors an individual for service and achievement, is held in conjunction with this conference.

The association meets in the summer for NDSU Field Day. Here they observe the university's experimental plots and other new ideas. This meeting combines the Idea Hunting Tour, previously held in June, and the NDAC Field Day, previously held in July.

Today the Northwest Farm Managers Association has between three and four hundred members, mostly from the Red River Valley. It is one of the main groups promoting new ideas and developments in agriculture.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT**

The **Northwest Farm Managers Association Records** have been organized into nine series: Executive Committee, Correspondence, Annual meetings, Annual reports, Membership, Biographical, Publicity, Finance, and Subject files.

The history file includes written material from two people that helped organize the Association, Charles R. Wright, the first president, and Ray C. Doneghue, the first executive secretary.

The [Executive Committee Series](#) covers meetings minutes and correspondence from various years between 1925 and 1980. The committee organized the events of the association.

The [Correspondence Series](#) includes letters to members, possible speakers, and other information about annual events. Answers from these people are also included. It covers nearly every year from 1926 through 1982.

The [Annual Meeting Series](#) has the programs from various meetings. The material for the Winter Meeting starts at 1917 and stops at 1980. There is a division in the Summer Field Day records through 1960. The Summer Idea Hunting Tour covers 1926 through 1959.

The [Annual Reports Series](#) covers 1958, and 1960 through 1967. These file reports cover information on all events of these years, including the annual meetings.

The [Membership Series](#) consists of directories for 1952-53 and from 1966 to the present. There are also mailing lists from 1935-1974.

The [Biographical Series](#) includes information on Cap. E. Miller, who was one of the greatest promoters of the association, and Ole A. Olson. Other files include Pioneer of the Year, association members, and some speakers.

The [Publicity Series](#) includes radio promotions, newspaper advertisements, and some of the sponsors associated with the organization.

The [Finance Series](#) includes financial reports from 1929 to present and income tax returns from various years.

The [Subject Files Series](#) includes material that is not associated with other events. The farm management program is one example. The newspaper clippings cover material from 1927 through the 1970s. This collection shows the evolution of agriculture and its ideas from the early 1900s to present.

## **SERPARATION RECORD**

The following non-manuscript items have been removed from the Northwest Farm Managers Association records and sent to the section indicated.

### **Photographs and slides** (Institute Photographs Collection: Photo 2046)

535 photographic prints - Topics featured: meetings, tours & demonstrations, and topical (harvesting, haying, plowing, hog, cattle, sheep raising, gadgets and machinery).

40 slides - Banquets and field demonstrations.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Drache, Hiram. *Plowshares to Printouts : Farm Management as viewed through 75 years of the Northwest Farm Managers Association* (Danville, Ill. : Interstate Printers & Publishers, 1985).

## **BOX AND FOLDER LIST**

<b>Box/Folder</b>	<b>Contents</b>
1/1	Historical material, and Finding aid
	<b>Executive Committee Series</b>
1/2	1925-1969

1/3 1970-1975  
1/4 1976  
1/5 1977-1980

**Correspondence Series**

1/6 1926  
1/7 1927  
1/8 1929-1930  
1/9 1931-1938  
1/10 1940, 1943-1944  
1/11 1948  
1/12 1951-January 1952  
1/13 Feb. 1952  
1/14 March 1952-December 1952  
1/15 January 1953  
1/16 February 1953-December 1953  
1/17 1954-1955  
1/18 1956  
2/1 1957-1958  
2/2 1959  
2/3 1960  
2/4 1961  
2/5 1962  
2/6 1963-1967  
2/7 January 1968  
2/8 February 1968-December 1968  
2/9 1969  
2/10 1970  
2/11 1971  
2/12 1972  
2/13 1973  
2/14 January 1974-February 1974  
2/15 March 1974-December 1974  
3/1 January 1975-February 1975  
3/2 March 1975-December 1975  
3/3 January 1976  
3/4 February 1976-June 1976  
3/5 July 1976-December 1976  
3/6 January 1977  
3/7 February 1977-December 1977  
3/8 January 1978-February 1979  
3/9 March 1978-December 1978  
3/10 January 1979-February 1979

3/11 March-December 1979  
3/12 January 1980  
3/13 February 1980  
4/1 March 1980-1982

**Annual Meetings Series**

**Winter Meetings**

Programs-

4/2 1917, 1921, 1923, 1926-1936  
4/3 1937-1944, 1946-1984

Banquet programs-

4/4 1953, 1955-1956, 1958-1961, 1963, 1966, 1968-1969, 1971-1973,  
1975-1983

Meeting agendas-

4/5 1926-1929  
4/6 1930-1935  
4/7 1936-1939  
4/8 1941-1946  
4/9 1948  
4/10 1950-1951  
4/11 1952  
4/12 1953-1954  
4/13 1955  
4/14 1956  
5/1 1957  
5/2 1958-1959  
5/3 1960  
5/4 1961-1962  
5/5 1963-1967  
5/6 1968-1973  
5/7 1974-1975  
5/8 1976-1977  
5/9 1978-1980

**Summer Field Days**

Programs-

5/10 1951, 1955, 1960, 1960, 1962, 1965-1966, 1968-1970, 1972-, 1976,  
1978, 1980-1983

Agendas-

5/11 1939, 1940, 1943, 1945  
5/12 1947-1948, 1950  
5/13 1951-1954  
5/14 1955-1959

5/15	1960
6/1	1961-1962
6/2	1963-1965, 1968, 1972-1975
6/3	1976
6/4	1978, 1980-1982

**Summer Tours**

6/5	1926-1927
6/6	1929
6/7	1930
6/8	1935, 1939
6/9	1940-1941, 1946-1947
6/10	1948-1950
6/11	1952-1955, 1959

**Annual Reports Series**

6/12	1958
6/13	1961
6/14	1962
7/1	1963
7/2	1964
7/3	1965
7/4	1966
7/5	1967

**Membership Series**

Directories-

7/6	1952, 1966-1970, 1972-1977, 1981-1982
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Mailing lists-

7/7	1935-1942
7/8	1947-1950
7/9	1951-19547
8/1	1955-1959
8/2	1960-1966
8/3	1972-1974
8/4	1974

**Biographical Series**

8/5	Cap Miller Ole A. Olson
8/7	NWFM members Pioneer of the Year nominees-

8/8 1975, 1976  
8/9 1977-1979  
8/10 1980-1983  
8/11 Speakers

**Publicity Series**

8/12 Advertising  
8/13 Advertising  
8/14 Advertising  
8/15 Sponsors

**Finance Series**

Annual reports-  
9/1 1929-1952  
9/2 1967-1983  
Income tax returns  
9/3 1944-1959, 1963-1966, 1975

**Subject File Series**

9/4 Miscellaneous  
9/5 Newspaper clippings  
9/6 December Christmas Stories for Farm Managers 1928