



Women's Progressive Farmers Association of Missouri, Inc. Records (C3726)

Collection Number: C3726

Collection Title: Women's Progressive Farmers Association of Missouri, Inc. Records

Dates: 1921-1985

Creator: Women's Progressive Farmers Association of Missouri

Abstract: The records of an organization dedicated to the improvement of rural life and the support of its counterpart, the Missouri Farmers Association, consist of correspondence, meeting minutes membership lists, newsletters, and account books. The association was affiliated with Associated Country Women of the World.

Collection Size: 5.5 cubic feet
(243 folders, 16 oversize volumes)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia](https://www.shsmo.org). If you would like more information, please contact us at columbia@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

Restrictions on Use: The donor has relinquished their rights in the collection and authorized their release to the public domain.

Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Women's Progressive Farmers Association of Missouri, Inc. Records* (C3726); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Columbia].

Donor Information: The records were donated to the University of Missouri by the association through Mae Hughes on September 26, 1985 (Accession No. CA4669). An addition was made on April 13, 2010 by Joann Sabel.

Processed by: Processed by Nancy Sandleback, January 16, 1987. Finding aid revised by Nicholas Raya, February 7, 2023.

Historical Note:

The Women's Progressive Farmers Association of Missouri (WPFA) began as a single club formed in 1920 by a small group of women impressed with the Missouri Farmers Association (MFA) and its goals. By August of 1921 that small group of women had grown to over a hundred. They met during the fifth annual MFA convention and put together a state association--the WPFA. A constitution and bylaws were adopted and officers elected. On August 31st this newly-organized state association was accepted unanimously on an equal basis with the MFA.

The WPFA's objectives were simple--to offer service and loyalty to the MFA by supporting its marketing agencies, to lend strength to its legislative program, and to carry on various community activities, such as beautifying country homes and cemeteries, improving rural churches, and contributing to worthwhile causes. Subsisting on funds obtained from the MFA and the sale of cookbooks, pins, soap (White King Washing Powder), and other items, the WPFA was able to accomplish many of its objectives. It annually raised funds for the "Pennies For Friendship" drive, cofounded Missouri Girls Town, cared for the Rock Hill Cemetery (where several WPFA/MFA members are buried), and sponsored numerous self-improvement contests and workshops. It also affiliated itself with the Country Women's Council (CWC) and Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW).

The WPFA was incorporated in 1928. Its governing structure consisted of a board of directors, a president and vice-president, and a secretary-treasurer. Organized on a county basis, each county club secretary was responsible to the state secretary of secretary-treasurer for the collection of dues and other fees. By 1960 the county clubs had been reorganized into a handful of districts, reducing confusion and pulling the state association closer together.

In 1985 the WPFA disbanded, after nearly seven decades of effective community participation.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into the following twelve series:

Histories
Bulletins and Yearbooks
Program Committee Publications
Annual Convention Programs
Newsletters
Today's Farm Woman
Awards
Minutes
Membership Lists
Correspondence
Audit Reports
Account Books

Scope and Content Note:

These records provide a comprehensive view of the WPFA and its activities during its sixty-four year existence. The records are arranged by type of record with the majority spanning the entire life of the association. Only the meeting minutes and correspondence are incomplete.

Histories

This series contains histories of the Missouri Farmers Association, 1914-1964; Women's Progressive Farmers Association, 1914-1977; and Associated Country Women of the World, 1929-1953.

Bulletins and Yearbooks

This series contains bulletins and yearbooks, they have a directory of leaders, list of objectives, question and answer sessions, and reviews of yearly projects and contests.

Program Committee Publications

This series contains publications designed to improve farm productivity and overall rural life.

Annual Convention Programs

This series contains annual convention programs from 1924-1980.

Newsletters

This series contains two different newsletters in the records; the newsletters from 1927 to 1936 discuss contest results, progress of various projects, and annual convention news.

Today's Farm Woman

This series contains a newsletter containing articles on farming, tax laws, and other information pertinent to women engaged in farming.

Awards

This series contains awards of the Association from 1957-1985. The items are arranged chronologically.

Minutes

This series contains Association minutes from 1921-1971.

Membership Lists

This series contains membership lists of the Association. This series makes up the largest part of the collection and arranged chronologically.

Correspondence

This series contains correspondence between the WPFA state secretary and board members, county secretaries, and officials from the following agencies: Missouri Farmers Association, MFA Oil Company, MFA Insurance Company, and MFA Milling Company. It concerned fund-

raising projects, improvement projects, contests, board meetings, and conventions but only covers the years from 1978 to 1985.

Audit Reports

This series contains audit reports from 1922-1984.

Account Books

This series contains account books that show annual income and expenses. Volume 5 contains the White King Washing Powder accounts from 1936 to 1942 and a list of county club officers, arranged by county and city, for 1947.

Container List:

Histories Series

- f. 1-2 Histories, 1914-1977
 - f. 3 Constitution, 1921
 - f. 4 Bylaws, 1923-1982

Bulletins and Yearbooks Series

- f. 5-10 Annual bulletins and yearbooks, 1923-1985

Program Committee Publications Series

- f. 11 Program committee publications, 1922, 1924

Annual Convention Programs Series

- f. 12 Annual convention programs, 1924-1980.

Newsletters Series

- f. 13 Newsletters, 1927-1936

***Today's Farm Woman* Series**

- f. 14 *Today's Farm Woman*, 1982-1984

Awards Series

- f. 15-20 Awards, 1957-1985

Minutes Series

- f. 21-28 Minutes, 1921-1971

Membership Lists Series

- f. 29-173 Membership lists, 1939-1985
- f. 29-55 1939-1950
 - f. 56-147 1951-1960
 - f. 148-157 1961-1970
 - f. 158-165 1971-1975
 - f. 166-168 1975-1980
 - f. 169-173 1980-1985

Correspondence Series

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Audit Reports Series

- f. 179-243 Audit reports, 1922-1984
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 - f. 189-198 1930-1940
 - f. 199-208 1940-1950
 - f. 209-217 1950-1959
 - f. 218-228 1960-1970
 - f. 229-239 1970-1980
 - f. 240-243 1980-1984

Account Books Series

- v. 1-16 Account books, 1921-1984
- v. 1 1921-1924
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