



## **Agribusiness Club of St. Louis Records (S0002)**

**Collection Number:** S0002

**Collection Title:** Agribusiness Club of St. Louis Records

**Dates:** 1937-1970

**Creator:** Agribusiness Club of St. Louis

**Abstract:** The Agribusiness Club of St. Louis was founded in 1937 as the Farmers' Club of St. Louis and was affiliated with the Chamber of Commerce of Metropolitan St. Louis. The club was established to advance research, interest, and cooperation in agricultural business. In 1960, Farmers' Club of St. Louis was renamed the Agribusiness Club of St. Louis. A decade later, in 1970, a decision was made by the club to merge with the St. Louis Chamber of Commerce's Food and Agriculture Committee to form the Food and Agribusiness Committee of the Chamber of Commerce of Metropolitan St. Louis. The records contain meeting minutes, correspondence, membership rosters and cards, and the constitution and bylaws of Agribusiness Club of St. Louis.

**Collection Size:** 0.5 cubic foot  
(16 folders)

**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-St. Louis](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at [stlouis@shsmo.org](mailto:stlouis@shsmo.org). Collections may be viewed at any research center.

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**Preferred Citation:** [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Agribusiness Club of St. Louis Records* (S0002); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-St. Louis [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-St. Louis].

**Donor Information:** The records were donated to the University of Missouri by Richard A. Murray on October 8, 1971 (Accession No. SA0047).

**Related Materials:** Additional materials related to the Agribusiness Club of St. Louis can be found in the following collections:

*St. Louis Regional Chamber Records (S0162)*

**Processed by:** Processed by Western Historical Manuscript Collection staff July 28, 1971.  
Revised by AJ Medlock and Zack Palitzsch February 2020.

**Historical Note:**

The Agribusiness Club of St. Louis was founded in 1937 as the Farmers' Club of St. Louis, which was affiliated with the St. Louis Chamber of Commerce. The club's mission was to advance research, interest, and cooperation in agricultural business. From 1937 to 1960, the club discussed new farming trends, programs, farm and home improvements, foreign competition, agriculture markets, updates on the agriculture economy, and fundraising. One of the club's programs was Farm-City Day, which they held annually beginning in 1958. Each year, panelists, speakers, and vendors of the agriculture community would gather to help educate St. Louisans on agricultural business. In 1961, Farm-City Day officially became Rural-Urban Day. However, Rural-Urban Day suffered from an absence of leadership, leading to its discontinuation in 1962.

In September 1960, Farmers' Club of St. Louis changed its name to the Agribusiness Club of St. Louis, and by 1962, membership had grown to 200 members. In the following years, the Agribusiness Club of St. Louis expanded its functions to include performing research on livestock, meat, crops, and economics. The majority of the club's meetings included a special guest speaker from either a nearby university, local business, or an expert in the field who discussed various studies in agriculture as well as economics. These special guests included individuals from Ralston Purina Company, Monsanto, American Meat Institute, Pet Inc., University of California, University of Missouri, University of Illinois, Southern Illinois University, and local farms and businesses.

Early 1960 marked a decline in membership and meeting attendance for the Agribusiness Club as a result of the rapidly declining number of farms in America in the 1950s and 1960s. In an attempt to increase awareness of agriculture in St. Louis, in 1964, a newly elected board of directors set about advertising agriculture and its value to cities. Some of these advertisements included leaflets stuffed in payroll envelopes, brochures, and commercials on TV and radio. Despite these outreach efforts, membership continued to decline. On November 23, 1970, the Agribusiness Club of St. Louis met the St. Louis Chamber of Commerce's Food and Agriculture Committee to discuss a possible consolidation of the two groups. In December 1970, the Agribusiness Club's membership voted in favor of the merger to form the Food and Agribusiness Committee. January 20, 1971, marked the first meeting of the newly formed committee.

**Arrangement:**

The collection has been arranged alphabetically into 16 folders.

**Scope and Content Note:**

The collection consists of a constitution, bylaws, correspondence, membership rosters, meeting minutes, a newsletter, and membership cards related to the operations and administration of the Agribusiness Club of St. Louis. The majority of this collection contains meeting minutes, which

include executive committee, agriculture committee, board of directors, and monthly club meeting minutes. Also included in the collection are membership cards that date from the Agribusiness Club's inception in 1937 to 1970. These membership cards also include membership payment dates stamped on the back of the card. This collection is incomplete, as the materials in this collection do not chronicle the official dissolution of the group. (Folders 17 through 19 of the *St. Louis Regional Chamber Records*, S0162, provide more information on the merger of the Agribusiness Club of St. Louis and the Food and Agriculture Committee of the Chamber of Commerce of Metropolitan St. Louis). The materials in this collection date from 1937 to 1970 and are arranged alphabetically.

### Container List:

- f. 1 Constitution and bylaws, May 1937
- f. 2-3 Correspondence, 1964-1970
- f. 4 Farmers Club of St. Louis "Swap Sheet" newsletter, August 1945
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