

Agriculture Board, Nebraska

RG022
& film

Nebraska. State Board of Agriculture

Records: 1856-1973 & n.d.

Cubic ft.: 11.5

Approx. # of Items: 1000, 103 volumes,
and 3 reels of microfilm

HISTORICAL NOTE

A bill creating a territorial Board of Agriculture was introduced by Robert W. Furnas, a member of the Territorial Council from Nemaha County, on September 24, 1858. On September 27th the bill was read the second time and referred to the Committee on Agriculture consisting of Mills S. Reeves, John R. Porter, and Charles McDonald. On their recommendation the bill was passed by the House September 30, 1858 and signed by Territorial Governor W. A. Richardson October 15, 1858.

The first meeting of the board was held at the Herndon House, Omaha, October 30, 1858. Officers elected were Robert W. Furnas, president; A. D. Jones, secretary; and J. M. Thayer, treasurer. E. H. Chaplain of Douglas, H. Baird of Dakota, M. D. Reeves of Otoe, Board Cole of Cass, and C. Bobst of Pawnee were appointed as the Board of Managers of State Fairs. At that first meeting it was decided to hold the first fair in September 1859 at Nebraska City.

Financial reverses met in the holding of the first fair lead to a loss of enthusiasm among the officers and members of the Territorial Board of Agriculture. As a result there is no record of fairs being held from 1860-1867.

In January 1868 an effort was made to reorganize the State Board of Agriculture. On January 30th, John Patrick was elected president; E. A. Allen & Samuel Maxwell were elected vice presidents; C. H. Walker, Secretary; and L. A. Walker, treasurer. The first State Fair (second fair in Nebraska) was held that year in Nebraska City. The next was also held at Nebraska City. The fairs of 1870 & 1871 were held at Brownville, and the 1872 fair at Lincoln. From 1873-1900 the fairs were held alternately in either Omaha or Lincoln, chosen by the outcome of bidding.

In 1899 a bill was introduced in the Legislature by A. J. Weaver, a representative from Richardson County. This bill located the fair permanently in Lincoln.

RG0022 Nebraska. State Board of Agriculture
ADDED
ENTRIES:

i

AGRICULTURAL EXHIBITIONS--NEBRASKA
AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY
AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURE--SOCIETIES
ARBOR DAY
Barley & Company (Philadelphia, Pa.)
Brush Electric Company (Chicago, Ill.)
CATTLE INDUSTRY AND TRADE
EXHIBITIONS--NEBRASKA
FAIRS--NEBRASKA
HORSE BREEDS
HORSE-SHOWS
HORTICULTURAL EXHIBITIONS--NEBRASKA
LINCOLN (NEB.)--HISTORY
LIVESTOCK BREEDS
LIVESTOCK EXHIBITIONS--NEBRASKA
National Trotting Association
Nebraska. State Fair Board
Nebraska State Horticultural Society
SHEEP BREEDS
SHEEP SHOWS
SIMPKINS, LOUIS E.
United States Centennial Commission
UNITED STATES CENTENNIAL EXHIBITION 1876
United States. Department of Agriculture
Atlantic and Pacific Railroad Company
Burlington and Missouri River Railroad in Nebraska
Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad Company
Kansas City, St. Joseph and Council Bluffs Railroad Company
Midland Pacific Railway Company
Missouri Pacific Railway Company
Omaha and Northern Nebraska Railway Company
St. Louis and Nebraska Trunk Railroad Company
Union Pacific Railroad Company
Allan, J. T. (James Thomas), 1831-1885
Burnham, Leavitt, 1844-1896
Doane, Thomas, 1821-1897
Furnas, Robert W. (Robert Wilkinson), 1824-1905
Hartman, C. (Christopher), 1844-1899
Holt, J. W. (John White), 1857-1911
Kimball, Thomas L. (Thomas Lord), 1831-1899
Kinney, J. F. (John Fitch), 1816-1902

RG0022 **Nebraska. State Board of Agriculture**

ii

Livingston,

Robert R.

(Robert Ramsay), 1827-1888

McBride, J. C. (Joseph Clarke), 1844-1906

Morton, J. Sterling (Julius Sterling), 1832-1902

Thummel, George H. (George Hamilton), 1848-

Wheeler, Daniel H. (Daniel Hotchkiss), 1834-1912

Williams, O. T. B. (Oliver T. B.), 1835-

ADDED
ENTRIES (cont)

Adams County Agricultural Society
Beaver Farmers Club (Beaver, Nebr.)
Buffalo County Agricultural Society
Burt County Agricultural Society
Cass County Agricultural Society
Cedar County Agricultural and Horticultural Society
Chase County Agricultural and Horticultural Fair Association
Clay County Agricultural Society
Colfax County Agricultural Society
Dawson County Agricultural Society
Dodge County Agricultural Society
Douglas County Agricultural Society
Maple Creek Farmers Club (Franklin County, Neb.)
Franklin County Agricultural Society
Liberty Agricultural Society (Exeter, Neb.)
Furnas County Agricultural Society
Gage County Agricultural Society
Hall County Agricultural Society
Hamilton County Agricultural Society
Harlan County Agricultural Society
Jefferson County Farmers Club
Jefferson County Agricultural Society
Johnson County Agricultural Society
Lancaster County Agricultural Society
Madison County Agricultural Society
Merrick County Agricultural Board
Nemaha County Agricultural and Mechanical Association
Otoe County Horticultural Society
Otoe County Agricultural and Mechanical Association
Otoe County Fair Association
Pawnee County Agricultural Society
Polk County Agricultural Association
Richardson County Agricultural and Mechanical Association
Richardson County Agricultural Society
Saline County Agricultural Society
Seward County Agricultural Society
Sherman County Agricultural Association
Sherman County Board of Agriculture
York County Agricultural Society
Chronological Index - 13

The board elects seven members to serve on an executive board each year. The board publishes an annual report and manages the state fair. The state owns 325 acres of land in Lincoln on which the fair is held each year. The present Board of Agriculture has 29 members selected by county agricultural associations statewide from five districts for two-year terms.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of records of the Nebraska State Board of Agriculture, 1856-1936 arranged into two subgroups: 1) Administrative Correspondence, 1856-1973; and 2) State Fair Board, 1870-1936.

Subgroup One is divided into six series: 1) Correspondence, 1856-1902; 2) Minutes and Annual Reports, 1870-1973; 3) County Agricultural Societies, 1871-1889; 4) County Acreage Reports and Assessments, 1872-1880; 5) Miscellaneous, 1881-1896; and 6) Financial Records, 1867-1900. Included in the correspondence are contracts and bids for state fair matters and correspondence concerning entries and transportation for the fair from various railroads in Kansas, Nebraska, and Iowa. Also included in this series are twenty-one volumes of outgoing correspondence kept by Robert W. Furnas, Secretary of the board. The minutes of the Board are on microfilm, scattered for the years 1870-1888 and complete 1896-1973. Series Two consists of unpublished minutes (rough draft) and official minute books of the Board of Agriculture (Fair Board) and reports of its various committees. Records of the county agricultural societies includes correspondence concerning the forming of these organizations and annual reports made to the board. Not all counties are included. Series Four consists of acreage reports turned in by the county agricultural societies and some assessments of value of land in the county. Miscellaneous, Series Five, contains annual programs for meetings, 1881-1896; speeches and papers by members of the board or authored for entrance in fair competition. Most are undated and unsigned. Also included in this series are various background papers and historical notes on the State Board of Agriculture. The final series in this subgroup consists of receipts, vouchers, bills payable, and claims to the Board of Agriculture, 1867-1900. Included in these folders are annual reports & statements of the treasurer.

Subgroup Two, State Fair Board, is divided into five series: 1) Departmental Reports, 1894-1900; 2) Judging Committee Records, 1870-1883; 3) Entry Books, 1871-1887; 4) Pay Books, 1879-1884; and 5) Miscellaneous.

Series two consists of judging committee record books on entries and tally reports for the different classes, 1870-1883. The Pay Books of Series Five register premium awards given at the state fair, 1879-1884. Miscellany, Series five, includes livestock pedigrees, news clippings, advertisements, bulletins, and miscellaneous exhibit material. Also included is a plan of the State Fairgrounds, 1929 and a register of visitors, 1896.

Visitor registers and scrapbooks of the Lewis & Clark Expo, 1905; The Centennial Expo, 1876; and Louisiana Purchase Expo, 1903-1905 have been extracted from records once held by the Board of Agriculture and made into separate collections.

DESCRIPTION

SUBGROUP ONE ADMINISTRATIVE CORRESPONDENCE

SERIES ONE GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE, 1856-1902

B.1	f.1	1856-1857	
	f.2	1869	
	f.3	1870-1871	
	f.4-6	1872 (not in chronological order)	
	f.7	1873 January - April	
	f.8	1873 June - July	
	f.9	1873 August 1 - 20	
	B.2	f.10	1873 August 21 - October 8
		f.11	1875-1880
f.12		1881 Contracts, Bids, etc.	
f.13		1881-1883	
f.14		1884-1886	
f.15		1887-1893	
	v.1	Letterpress book, Robert W. Furnas, Secy October 9, 1886 - August 4, 1887	
B.3	v.2	Letterpress book, Robert W. Furnas, Secy August 1887 - August 4, 1887 - Dec. 1888	
	v.3	Letterpress book, Robert W. Furnas, Secy January 21, 1889 - October 24, 1889	
B.4	v.4	Letterpress book, Robert W. Furnas, Secy October 26, 1889 - August 18, 1890	
	v.5	Letterpress book, Robert W. Furnas, Secy	

RG022

Nebraska. State Board of Agriculture

Sheet 4

August 18, 1890 - July 16, 1891

SUBGROUP ONE ADMINISTRATIVE CORRESPONDENCE**SERIES ONE GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE, 1856-1902**

B.4 (cont)

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|----------|--|
| v.6 | Letterpress book, Robert W. Furnas, Secy
July 16, 1891 - June 29, 1892 |
| B.5 v.7 | Letterpress book, Robert W. Furnas, Secy
September 19, 1892 - April 28, 1893 |
| v.8 | Letterpress book, Robert W. Furnas, Secy
April 28, 1893 - August 28, 1893 |
| v.9 | Letterpress book, Robert W. Furnas, Secy
August 28, 1893 - February 27, 1894 |
| f.16 | Incoming Correspondence, 1893 |
| f.17 | Incoming Correspondence, 1893-1894 |
| B.6 v.10 | Letterpress book, Robert W. Furnas, Secy
February 28 - August 18, 1894 |
| v.11 | Letterpress book, Robert W. Furnas, Secy
August 18, 1894 - January 29, 1895 |
| v.12 | Letterpress book, Robert W. Furnas, Secy
January 29, 1895 - July 6, 1895 |
| B.7 v.13 | Letterpress book, Robert W. Furnas, Secy
July 8 - November 14, 1895 |
| f.18 | Incoming Correspondence, 1895-1896 |
| v.14 | Letterpress book, Robert W. Furnas, Secy
November 14, 1895 - May 25, 1896 |
| f.19 | Legal Data, 1872-1894
including propositions Lincoln and Omaha
for State Fair. |
| f.20 | Contracts, Bids, etc., 1895-1896 |
| B.8 v.15 | Letterpress book, Robert W. Furnas, Secy
May 25 - September 5, 1896 |
| v.16 | Letterpress book, Robert W. Furnas, Secy
September 11, 1896 - April 8, 1897 |
| v.17 | Letterpress book, Robert W. Furnas, Secy
April 9 - September 10, 1897 |
| B.9 f.21 | Incoming correspondence, 1897-1899 |

- v.18 Letterpress book, Robert W. Furnas, Secy
September 8, 1897 - December 6, 1898
- v.19 Letterpress book, Robert W. Furnas, Secy
December 6, 1898 - February 15, 1900

SUBGROUP ONE ADMINISTRATIVE CORRESPONDENCE

SERIES ONE GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE, 1856-1902

B.9 (cont)

- v.20 Letterpress book (missing)
February 15, 1900 - January 22, 1901
- v.21 Letterpress book, Robert W. Furnas, Secy
January 23 - August 13, 1901
- f.22 Incoming correspondence, n.d.
- v.22 Letterpress book (missing)
August 13, 1901 - February 27, 1902
- v.23 Letterpress book, Robert W. Furnas, Secy
March 1, 1902 - August 27, 1902

SERIES TWO MINUTES AND ANNUAL REPORTS, 1870-1904

- B.10 f.1 1870
- f.2 1875-1881
- f.3 1881-1882
- f.4 1887
- f.5 1888
- NOTE: Folders 1-5 above may be found on
reel #1 of microfilm for this series.
- f.6 Annual Report of Secretary, 1889
- f.7 Rough Draft Minutes, 1889
- f.8 Rough Draft Minutes, Semi-Annual Meeting, 1904
- f.9 Committee Reports, n.d.
- v.1 Minutes, Aug. 18, 1896 - Dec. 22, 1905
- v.2 Minutes, Jan. 15, 1915 - Mar. 12, 1918
- v.3 Minutes, Aug. 30, 1917 - Sept 08, 1926
- v.4 Minutes, Jan. 17, 1917 - Dec. 11, 1932
- v.5 Minutes, Jan. 18, 1933 - Dec. 29, 1953
- v.6 Minutes, Jan. 26, 1954 - Jan. 27, 1965
- v.7 Minutes, Feb. 08, 1965 - Feb. 09, 1973

film

SERIES TWO MINUTES OF THE BOARD, 1870-1973

MICROFILM RECORD

Roll #1	Box 10, Folder #1, 1870
SF copy	thru
75-22-16	Box 10, Folder 5, 1888
Roll #2	Vol. #1, Minutes, p.1 - August 18, 1896
SF copy	thru
75-22-11	Vol. #5, Minutes, p.1053 - January 24, 1946

SUBGROUP ONE ADMINISTRATIVE CORRESPONDENCE**film****SERIES TWO MINUTES OF THE BOARD, 1870-1973**

Roll #3	Vol. #5, Minutes, p.1054 - February 18, 1946
SF copy	thru
75-22-12	Vol. #7, Minutes - February 9, 1973

SERIES THREE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES, 1872-1888

B.10	f.1	A-C
	f.2	D-F
	f.3	G-J
	f.4	K-O
	f.5	P-R
	f.6	S-Y

SERIES FOUR COUNTY ACREAGE REPORTS AND ASSESSMENTS, 1872-1880

B.11	f.1	A-C
	f.2	D-F
	f.3	G-J
	f.4	L-N
	f.5	O-P
	f.6	R-Y

OB86	Item #1	Acreege Statistics, 1877 (By County & Precinct)
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SERIES FIVE MISCELLANEOUS, 1881-1896 & n.d.

B.11	f.1	Programs, Annual Meetings, 1881-1896
	f.2	Speeches, Reports, 1891 & n.d.

f.3 History, State Board of Agriculture

SERIES SIX FINANCIAL RECORDS, 1867-1900

B.11	f.1	1867-1879
	f.2	1880
	f.3	Receipts, Vouchers, 1881
	f.4	Treasurer's Vouchers, 1881 including 1 vol. printing supplies Jan-Feb 1881
	f.5	Medical vouchers, 1881
	f.6	Financial Statements, 1884
	f.7	Claims, 1890
	f.8	Receipts, etc., 1891-1893
	f.9	Claims, 1892-1896

SUBGROUP ONE ADMINISTRATIVE CORRESPONDENCE**SERIES SIX FINANCIAL RECORDS, 1867-1900**

B.12	f.10	Claims, 1900
	f.11	Claims, 1900
	f.12	Statements, 1894-1900

SUBGROUP TWO STATE FAIR BOARD, 1868-1936 & n.d.**SERIES ONE DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS, 1894-1900**

B.12	f.1	Reports, 1894-1900 mainly booth superintendent & ticket matters
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SERIES TWO JUDGING COMMITTEE RECORDS, 1870-1883

B.12	f.1	Class Judging, 1873, 1875
	f.2	Class Judging, 1880 (#1 - #7)
	f.3	Class Judging, 1880 (#8 - #19)
B.13	f.4	Class Judging, 1881 (#1 - #10)
	f.5	Class Judging, 1881 (#11 - #20)
	f.6	Committee Reports, n.d.

v.1-10	Judging Record Books, 1870
v.11-75	Judging Record Books, 1883

SERIES THREE ENTRY BOOKS, 1871-1887

v.1	1871
v.2	1872
v.3	1873
v.4	1874
v.5	1875
v.6	1876
v.7	1877
v.8	1878
v.9	1879
v.10	1880
v.11	1881
v.12	1882
v.13	1883

RG022

Nebraska. State Board of Agriculture

Sheet 10

v.14	1884 (missing)
v.15	1885
v.16	1886
v.17	1887

SUBGROUP TWO STATE FAIR BOARD, 1868-1936 & n.d.**SERIES FOUR PAY BOOKS, 1879-1884**

v.1	1879
v.2	1880
v.3	1881
v.4	1882 (missing)
v.5	1883
v.6	1884

SERIES FIVE MISCELLANEOUS, 1868-1936 & n.d.

B.13	f.1	Livestock Pedigrees, 1868-1884
	f.2	News clippings, 1905-1936 & n.d.
	f.3	Miscellany including plan of fairgrounds, 1929
	f.4-5	Advertising cards, tickets, etc., 1872-1900
B.14	f.6	Bulletins, list of Premiums, etc., 1880-1898
	f.7	Register of Corn Exhibits, 1888
	f.8	Stock Record of Stalls, 1884
	f.9	v.1, Names of Hogs, n.d. v.2, Horse log - Board of Managers, 1904
	f.10	v.3, Fair Items - Omaha Ak-Sar-Ben, 1896
	V.1	Visitor's Register - State Fair, 1896
OB84	Item #1	"Nebraska," vol. 19 #2, June 1931

END OF INVENTORY
 JEP/DJJ/pmc 9/6/1972
 PMC/WP5 12/13/1992
 PMC WORD 2000 11/6/2006