

Inventory of the

**Grundy County Farm Bureau**  
Grundy County, Illinois

Records

In the

Regional History Center

**RC 106**

## INTRODUCTION

Mr. Milford Bjelland deposited the Grundy County Farm Bureau Records in the Northern Illinois Regional History Center on August 28, 1980. An addendum was added in June 1991.

Property rights in the collection are the Grundy County Farm Bureau; literary rights are dedicated to the public. There are no restrictions on access to the collection.

Linear feet of shelf space: 5.5  
 Number of containers: 11  
 Northern Illinois Regional History Center  
 Collection 106

## SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Grundy County Farm Bureau Records document a substantial portion of its history from its inception in 1914 to 1970. A complete set of meeting minutes (1914-1970) details the business concerns of Bureau members providing advice and services to farmers in planning and organizing their farm businesses. Topics discussed at these meetings ranged from improved crop-raising techniques and disease control to farm legislation being considered at the state and national levels. Audit reports (1924-1970) comprise a second major series of the collection and contain income and expense information illustrating the annual financial condition of the Bureau. Additional detailed financial data is recorded in a set of general financial ledger books for the Farm Bureau's later years, 1950-1970.

The collection also includes records from The Grundy County Producers Supply. Organized in 1961, this cooperative distributed serum and biological supplies for the Farm Bureau. The meeting minutes (1961-1970), audit reports, and ledgers completely document this affiliate's history until its demise in 1970. Audit reports from a second affiliate, the Grundy Refrigerated Locker Association, contain financial data for this organization from 1949-1958. Unfortunately, other Locker Association records are missing from the collection. Finally, a minute book from the nineteenth-century Grundy County Agricultural Society traces the movement of that group toward advancing the mechanics of agriculture in Grundy County.

Researchers should note the collection provides very few supplementary materials such as booklets or programs. Related collections held by the Regional History Center include the DeKalb County Farm Bureau Records (RC 52), Kane County Farm Bureau Records (RC 76), Winnebago Farm Bureau Co-op Records ( RC 7 9 ) , DuPage County Farm Bureau Records (RC 87) , North Corn Belt Seed Growers, Inc. Records (RC 90) , Carroll County Farm Bureau Records (RC 96), Kendall County Farm Bureau Records (RC 103), and Kendall Grundy Service Company Records (RC 105). John .J. Lacey's Farm Bureau in Illinois: History of Illinois Farm Bureau (Illinois Agricultural Association: Bloomington, 1965) may also be useful to researchers.

## HISTORICAL SKETCH

On April 1, 1914, Mr. C.H. Root called a meeting of farmers in Morris, Illinois to form an association to advise and educate the agricultural community on crop breeding and seeding, soil cultivation, and livestock inoculation. The Farmer's Soil and Crop Improvement Association elected Fred Harford, President; M. Wilcox, Vice-President; Charles Dirst, Treasurer; and C.H. Root, Secretary. On September 1, 1921, the members changed the organization's name to the Grundy County Farm Bureau.

During its history, the Grundy County Farm Bureau expanded its advisory function in agricultural techniques to include economic and legislative education for local farmers.- Bureau field advisors enlightened farmers on issues of price fluctuations, livestock shipping, fuel taxes, and road improvements. In later years, the Farm Bureau created affiliates to provide other essential commodities and services. Established in 1938, the Grundy Refrigerated Locker Association offered a method for cold storage of meats, fruits, and vegetables. In 1961, the Grundy Producers Supply handled biological supplies for livestock disease control. The Bureau also sponsored social functions such as county picnics, county fair exhibits, and agricultural youth clubs.

Located in Morris, Illinois, the Grundy County Farm Bureau continues to provide many services and benefits to the local agricultural community.

## SUBJECT TRACINGS

Agriculture  
Farm Bureau  
Farm Supply Industries  
Grundy County  
Grundy County Agricultural Society  
Grundy County Farm Bureau  
Grundy Producers Supply  
Grundy Refrigerated Locker Association  
Morris

COLLECTION INVENTORY

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
1	1-7	Farm Bureau, Minutes, 1914-1938
2	1-21	Minutes, 1939-1965
3	1-5 6-12	Minutes, 1966-1970 Audit Reports, (1929-1953)
4	1-6	Audit Reports, (1954-1970)
5	1 volume	General Financial Ledger, (1950-1961)
6	1 volume 1 volume	General Financial Ledger, 1962-1968 Grundy Producers Supply, General Financial Ledger, 1965-1969
7	1-6 7 8-10 11-12	General Financial Ledger Sheets, 1968-1970 Farm Bureau Newsletters, 1938 Grundy Producers Supply, Minutes, 1961-1970 Grundy Producers Supply, Audit Reports, 1961-1969
8	1-5	Grundy Producers Supply, General Financial Ledger Sheets, 1960-1964
9	1-3 4 5	Grundy Refrigerated Locker Association, Audit Reports, 1949-1958 Illinois Agricultural Association, Annual Meeting Program, 1948 American Farm Bureau Federation, Annual Meeting Program, 1956
<u>ADDENDUM - JUNE 19, 1991</u>		
10	1 2-6 7 8 9 10	75 Year History, 1914-1989 Minutes, 1970-1979 Minute Highlights, 1970-1984 Grundy County Annual Meetings, 1979-1981, 1983-1988 Annual Reports, November 30, 1921-November 30, 1923 Officer and Directors Lists, 1960-1989

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	4
10	11	Press Release, 1941	
	12	Photographs, 1973-1976	
	13	<u>Farm Bureau News</u> , (1926-1962)	
11	1-2	Grundy County Farm Bureau News, 1971-1989	