

Inventory of the

Pure Milk Association
Chicago, Illinois

Records

In the

Regional History Center

RC 62

INTRODUCTION

Walter Kirchner deposited the records of the Pure Milk Association in the Northern Illinois Regional History Center on May 14, 1979

Property rights to the materials belong to Associated Milk Producers, Incorporated of Chicago, Illinois. Literary rights are dedicated to the public. There are no restrictions on access to the materials in this collection.

Linear Feet of Shelf Space: 10.50
Number of Containers: 11
Northern Illinois Regional History Center
Collection 62

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Pure Milk Association records document the origin and development of a northern Illinois milk producers' cooperative during the period 1924 to 1969. The collection contains eleven boxes of materials including the articles of incorporation and amendments (1926-1961), by-laws (1962-1969), minutes and proceedings from board of directors and special committees (1924-1969), membership agreement forms (1926-1950) official records (1936) business manuals (1945), and publications (1951-1964). Minutes and proceedings comprise a major portion of the collection and include reports on the Association's financial position, membership services, plan operations, sales, and public relations activities. Of special note are corporate records documenting the history of Pure Milk Association Products Co., a subsidiary of Pure Milk Association. The records detail the organization and dissolution of the shortlived subsidiary from 1936 to 1940. In all, these records provide an accurate account of the association's organization and development in the 1920's, its expansion of membership from 1930 to 1950, and its role as a major dairy bargaining agency from 1950 to 1970. Researchers using these materials may also wish to consult other related manuscript collections hold by the Regional History Center: DeKalb Consumers Association Records (RC 15), Gurler Family Papers (RC 25), and John P. Case Papers (RC 86).

Researchers should note that further information on the Pure Milk Association may also be found at the National Archives in Washington, D.C. The material deals with a Federal Trade Commission investigation ca. 1930's.

HISTORICAL SKETCH

On November 30, 1925, thirty-five men representing the University of Illinois Agricultural Extension Service and Farm Bureau dairy farmers from eight counties in northeastern Illinois met to discuss a new dairy marketing organization. Foremost among their concerns was a new ordinance under consideration in Chicago which would require that all milk

sold in the city come from herds certified to be free of tuberculosis. Eight men, each representing one county, were to go back to talk with local dairymen to assess interest in a new marketing organization: Boone County, L. E. Johnson; Cook County, Herman Schwake; Kane County, W. C. McQueen; Lake County, H. K. Vose; McHenry County, Ole Stalheim; Will County, J. H. Cryder; DeKalb County, George Swanberg; DuPage County, Harold Vial.

The Dairy Department of the Illinois Agricultural Association called a second meeting in Chicago on December 15 to hear the reports of the committee of eight. Clear and nearly unanimous support for a new organization resulted in the creation of the Pure Milk Association in the second meeting. In subsequent meetings in December and early January, these dairymen completed the details of administration, structure, and purpose of the cooperative and on January 13, 1926, the Pure Milk Association incorporated under the laws of the State of Illinois. During these weeks Chicago had passed an ordinance (on December 24, 1925) requiring tuberculin tests for all herds producing milk to be sold in the city.

From a financial standpoint, the first few years of operation for the Pure Milk Association were lean and discouraging. Only after the eighteen day milk strike of 1929 was the Association recognized by the Chicago milk dealers as the bargaining agent for northern Illinois milk producers. In spite of a plunging stock market, stagnant industry, and bankrupt farmers, the Pure Milk Association maintained full production. Prior to January 1929, the Association had less than 500 members. By the end of that year membership had grown to 15,000.

With the increase in membership and financial strength the Pure Milk Association instituted more programs to insure greater protection for its members. Among the services rendered by the Association, the most important were aggressive milk sales, promotion, guaranteed market and milk check, and surplus milk handling through expanded marketing facilities.

On July 21, 1931, the Association organized the "Milk Foundation incorporated" to handle promotional advertising of fluid milk in the Chicago market. On March 15, 1932, the Association established the Market Adjustment Fund to provide a guaranteed market and guaranteed milk check for every member. In 1933, the Association began expanding operations to solve the problem of surplus milk disposal by leasing and operating plants in Elgin, Hinckley, Lisle, St. Charles, and Richmond, Illinois, and in Kansasville, Orfordville, Salem, and Thorpe, Wisconsin.

In one decade, the Pure Milk Association demonstrated its ability as a producer cooperative to increase dairy product sales and encourage dairy farmer cooperation. In 1969, the Association explored the feasibility of merging several dairy cooperatives into one large cooperative. In 1969, Pure Milk Association, under the direction of Avery Vose, became a part of the consolidation of 17 cooperatives into the Associated Milk Producers incorporated.

SUBJECT TRACINGS

Associated Milk Producers
 Chicago
 Dairying
 Dairying Cooperatives
 Milk Foundation
 Pure Milk Association

COLLECTION INVENTORY

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
1	1	Pure Milk Association A History, 1951, 1964
	2	Articles of incorporation and Amendments, 1926-1961
	3	By-Laws, 1952, 1963, 1964, 1969
	4-5	Pure Milk Association, Corporate Records, 1945-1949
	6	Pure Milk Association Products Co., Corporate Records, 1936-1940
	7-24	Minutes, Board of Directors and Association, February 1924-October 1940
2	1-22	Minutes, Board of Directors and Association, November 1940- August 1947
3	1-22	Minutes, Board of Directors and Association, August 1947-June 1955
4	1-25	Minutes, Board of Directors and Association, July 1955-December 1958
5	1-27	Minutes, Board of Directors and Association, January 1959-May 1961
6	1-26	Minutes, Board of Directors and Association, June 1961 July 1963
7	1-7	Minutes, Board of Directors and Association, August 1963-March 1969
	8	Minutes, Board of Trustees, 1932-1939
	9-13	Minutes, Finance Committee, 1939-1940, 1959-1961
	14	Minutes, Incooperative Relations, Committee, 1959-1969
	15	Minutes, Plant Committee Meetings, 1959-1961

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	4
7	16 17-23 24-25	Minutes, Public Relations Committee Meetings, 1936-1938 Minutes, Re-Districting Committee, 1926-1941, 1945-1950, (1951-1968) Minutes, Sales Committee, 1932-1937	
8	1-2 3-14 15-16 17 18 19-23	Minutes, Sales Committee, 1938-1939 Proceedings, Board of Directors, 1929-58 (missing 1940- 1949, 1951-1952 Proceedings, Advisory Committee, 1934-1935 Proceedings, Advisory Committee, 1936-1937 Proceedings, Board of Arbitration, 1937 Proceedings, Board of Delegates and Advisory Committee, 1938, 1951-1953	
9	1-5 6-9 10-12 13 14-15 16-20 21-29	Proceedings, Board of Delegates and Advisory Committee, 1954-1958 Annual Reports, 1966-1969 Annual Reports, Delegate Meetings, 1958, 1964-1969 A Report, Pact Finding Committee, 1939 Resolutions adopted by Resolutions Committee, 1950-1963 Resolutions, 1963-1969 Financial Reports, Board of Directors Meetings, March 1961- June 1962	
10	1-20 21	Financial Reports, Board of Director's Meetings, July 1962- September 1965 Financial Reports, Income and Expense Statements, 1957	
11	1 2-4 5 6 7 8 9	Financial Reports, Income and Expense Statements, 1958- 1959 Financial Reports, Statement of Operations, 1958-1959 Membership Agreement Forms, 1926-1950 Regular and Standing Committees List, 1952-1967 Federated Dairy Cooperative, Price Announcement, 1963 Annual Programs and Bulletins, 1931-1968 <u>Pure Milk News</u> , [individual issues] 1951, 1954, 1959, 1964- 1966, 1969	