

Inventory of the

**Mid-West Dairymen's Company**  
Rockford, Illinois

Records

In the  
Regional History Center

**RC 81**

## INTRODUCTION

The Board of Directors of Mid-West Dairymen's Company deposited their records with the Northern Illinois Regional History Center on October 12, 1979.

Property rights in the materials belong to Mid-West Dairymen's Company of Rockford, Illinois. Literary rights are dedicated to the public. There are no restrictions on access to this collection.

Linear feet of shelf space: 11  
Number of containers: 9 + 3 volumes  
Northern Illinois Regional History Center  
Collection 81

## SCOPE AND CONTENT

The records of Mid-West Dairymen's Company document the origin and development of a northern Illinois non-profit milk producers' cooperative during the period 1924-1980. The collection contains corporate record books (1924-1963) which include articles of incorporation, by-laws, minutes of the meetings of the board of directors and special committees, resolutions, and bills. This valuable source furnishes essential legal, financial, production, and marketing information from the cooperative's founding in 1924 until 1963. Correspondence (1933-1961), membership agreements (1936-1961), financial ledgers, and production records provide supplementary and important data which makes possible a thorough and accurate study of the period 1930-1960. In addition, exhibits, reports, hearing proceedings and legal decisions on federal orders pertaining to the marketing of milk, 1934-1964, are included. Researchers should note that there are few materials available beyond 1963 and may wish to consult related Northern Illinois Regional History Collections: DeKalb Milk Consumers Association Records (RC 15), Gurler Family Papers (RC 25), Pure Milk Association (RC 62), Stephenson County Pure Milk Association (RC 93).

## HISTORICAL SKETCH

On February 20, 1924, the Board of Directors of Mid-West Dairymen's Company met in Chicago to approve the by-laws of a dairy cooperative, organized under the Cooperative Marketing Act of the State of Illinois passed June 21, 1923. The purpose of the new organization was "to be a non-profit cooperative agricultural association without capital stock organized for the mutual help and benefit of its members and to provide better and more economical methods of marketing the dairy products of its members through cooperation..." In 1924 the main office was located in Chicago, but the original plan encompassed six geographical territories - - Indiana, Wisconsin, Rockford East, Rockford West, Winnebago County, Illinois outside of Winnebago County.

Membership in the cooperative declined during the Depression so that by May 1932 there was only one operating district, Rockford: as a result, the headquarters moved to Rockford in 1932. For a short time the Producers Milk Company also existed as a subsidiary non-profit cooperative association handling financial matters and accumulating capital stock. In the 1930's the cooperative dealt with the Rockford's Milk Dealers Association and others to obtain higher prices for dairy products.

In response to the Depression and a crisis of overproduction in agriculture, the New Deal's Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1933 sought to aid agriculture by reestablishing farm prices at parity level, prices comparable to those in the 1909-1914 base period. It also sought to control production. Since 1933 an increasingly important task of dairy cooperatives, including MidWest Dairymen's Company, has been to lobby the federal government concerning prices, surpluses, foreign trade, and protection from substitutes for dairy products. As part of the Illinois Milk Producers Association, MidWest also lobbied in Springfield. It has actively followed, if not participated in, federal, state, and city milk control legislation, for example, Rockford's milk codes concerning health and pasteurized milk in the 1940's to federal pricing and marketing orders in the 1950's and 1960's. In 1980 it continues to advocate federal milk support prices, restrictions on imports, and support for and funding of the School Lunch Program and Special Milk Program. Over the years it has also sought to increase milk and dairy consumption through the advertising media and has worked with many other dairy organizations and cooperatives.

Mid-West Dairymen's Company was founded in an "era of cooperatives" in the 1920's. The Capper-Volstead Act of 1922 had legalized marketing associations and defined terms for producers to organize. Mid-West's basic aim - - to benefit dairy producers - - has not changed since its founding. In times of relative prosperity or outright depression, Mid-West has been part of the larger cooperative movement which has tried to solve problems of agricultural overproduction by voluntary cooperation and governmental aid. It continues today to maintain a strong membership.

#### SUBJECT TRACINGS

Associated Milk Producers  
Dairying  
Dairying, Cooperative  
Midwest Dairymen's Company  
Pure Milk Association  
Rockford (Ill.)

COLLECTION INVENTORY

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
1	1 5 volumes 2 3	Corporate Record Book, 1924-1931 Corporate Record Books, 1932-1963 Midwest Dairy vs. General Business Service Corp., Testimony, 1935 By-Laws, 1969
2	1-6 7-23 24-25 26 27 28	Correspondence, General, (1933-1961) Correspondence, Alphabetically by Organization, 1939-1962 I.M.P.A. Condensery Prices, 1945-1963? I.M.P.A. Milk Market Reports, 1949-1960 Stephenson County Pure Milk Assoc., Report, 1957 Census of Business, 1958
3	1 2 3 4 5-10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19	Federal Milk Market Administration, Produce Reports, 1957- 1960 Godfrey's Milk Work Sheets, 1951-1960 Name Change Form, 1960 List of Cancellations, (1946-1963) Agreements, Cancellations, 1936-1963 List of Assignments, 1958-1960 Assignments, 1938-1961 Monthly Financial Reports, 1958-1960? Payroll Records, 1946-1960 Proceedings, Hearing on Proposed Marketing Agreement, 1934 Hearing for Proposed Milk Marketing Order, 1948 Exhibits 5-60, 1948 Assorted Orders, 1957-1962 Pasteurized Milk Analysis, Rockford, 1960-1962
4	1 2 3-4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14	Order 41: As Amended, 1955, 1957 Membership Report, 1957-1959 Compilation of Statistical Material, 1947-1961 Material Used in Hearing, 1961 Decisions and Recommended Decision, 1947-1961 Order 91: As Amended, 1949-1952 Material Used in Hearing, 1949 Recommended Decisions and Finding, 1949-1952 Hearings on Amendments: Exhibits 1-32, May 1951 Exhibit (1-47), December 1951 Hearing Record, December 1951 Exhibits R1-R29, March 1952 Reports, 1959-1960

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	4
4	15	Membership Report, 1955-1959	
	16	Compilation of Statistical Material, 1948-1961	
	17	Hearing, June 1961	
	18	Material Used in Hearing, June 1961	
		Order 30:	
	19	Materials Used in Hearing, June 1951	
	20	Utilization and Classification of Order 41 Milk, 1961	
	21	Official Announcement of Uniform Price, (1961-1962)	
	22	Official Price Announcement, (1961-1962)	
	23	Statistical Summary with Computation of Uniform Price, (1961-1962)	
	24	Supply-Demand Ratio, (1961-1964)	
	25	Recommended Decision, 1964	
	26	Orders 30 and 38, 1958-1962	
		Order 38:	
	27	Briefs and Exceptions, 1951-1952	
	28	Official Price Announcement, (1959-1962)	
	29	Utilization and Classification of Order 38 milk, (1959-1962)	
	30	Computation of Uniform Price, (1960-1962)	
	31	Recommended Decision, 1961-1962	
	32	Final Decisions, Compensatory Payments, 1964	
	27	Orders 30 and 38, 1958-1962	
	28-33	Order 38, Reports, Prices, Decisions, 1951-1964	
5	1	Order 68, June 1963	
	2	Dairy Publications, 1952-1959	
	3	Photographs, Dairy Princesses, 1966 (5)	
	4-8	<u>Midwest Dairyman</u> , 1933-1961	
6	1-8	<u>Midwest Dairyman</u> , 1979-2008	
7	1-	<u>Midwest Dairyman</u> , 2009-	
8		Monthly Production Records, 1932-1939	
9	4 volumes	Monthly Production Records, 1940-1955	
	1-4	Monthly Production Records, A-Q, 1956-1963	
10	1-2	Monthly Production Records, R-Z, 1956-1963	
	3-4	Supplies Inventory, 1958-1960	
11	1-7	Audit Reports, 1932-1950	
	8	General Ledger, 1932-1961	
Oversize	1 volume	General Ledger, 1934-1957	
Oversize	1 volume	Bank Account Ledger, 1939-1940	
Oversize	1 volume	Ledger, 1932-1961	