AGRICULTURE

A List of Holdings

Dwight D. Eisenhower Library

Compiled by

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The eight years of the Eisenhower Administration saw many significant developments in agriculture. Flexible price supports, the Soil Bank Program, the Rural Development Program, Food for Peace, and PL 480 are just some of the important new programs and policies inaugurated during these years. This guide is a survey of historical materials in the Eisenhower Library that relate to agriculture.

The Eisenhower Library has a substantial quantity of documentation dealing with all aspects of agriculture and related subjects. This documentation can be found in over thirty-five different manuscript collections and in a number of oral history transcripts. Our audiovisual holdings contain many still photographs relating to this topic. The Library’s materials on agriculture represent a largely untapped resource which very few researchers have utilized.

In the domestic arena the Eisenhower Administration sought to institute flexible price supports on a sliding scale in the hopes of gradually lowering the price supports and reducing government involvement in the marketing of agricultural produce. The Agricultural Act of 1954 tried to implement these concepts. In 1956 and 1958 President Eisenhower vetoed major farm bills which attempted to keep price supports fixed at high levels. In 1955 the Department of Agriculture began its Rural Development Program to assist small farmers with low incomes. In 1956 the Soil Bank Program was established with the aim of reducing the acreage for certain crops. In addition, there were many irrigation and reclamation projects during these years which benefited agricultural interests.

On the international scene our agricultural surpluses affected our foreign policy and were utilized in our Food for Peace and PL 480 programs. Administration policies on tariffs, quotas, and trade with the Sino-Soviet Bloc also involved matters of great importance to agriculture.

Congressional opposition forced Eisenhower to make many compromises on his agricultural programs, and he never really achieved his goal of moving agriculture toward a freer market with less government involvement.

A complete list of holdings is available upon request. Copies of finding aids for individual collections are also available through interlibrary loan.
Persons who wish to use material held in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Library are required to submit an application form stating the scope and purpose of their research. Advance application to the Director facilitates the processing of the request and allows staff archivists time to prepare materials for the research visit.

Dwight D. Eisenhower Library
Abilene, Kansas 67410
“Present laws discourage increased consumption of wheat, corn, cotton, and vegetable oils and encourage their excessive production. The huge and growing surpluses held by the government act as a constant threat to normal markets for these products....Partly because of these excessive stocks, farm income has fallen steadily over the past three years.”

[SPECIAL MESSAGE TO THE CONGRESS ON AGRICULTURE; JANUARY 11, 1954]

“The proper role of government, however, is that of partner with the farmer -- never his master. By every possible means we must develop and promote that partnership -- to the end that agriculture may continue to be a sound, enduring foundation for our economy and that farm living may be a profitable and satisfying experience.”

[SPECIAL MESSAGE TO THE CONGRESS ON AGRICULTURE; JANUARY 9, 1956]

“Unwise and unbalanced price support legislation of the past many years has distorted production and markets, and piled up price-depressing surpluses. These surpluses are our main agricultural problem today.”

[Radio and Television Address to the American People on the Farm Bill Veto; April 16, 1956]

“You know, farming looks mighty easy when your plow is a pencil, and you’re a thousand miles from the corn field.”

[Address at Bradley University, Peoria, Illinois; September 25, 1956]

“The farm and rural people of our country have always made, and must continue to make, a vital contribution to the leadership, integrity and strength our Nation.”

[Night letter to Most Rev. Leo A. Pursley of the 35th Annual Convention of the National Catholic Rural Life Conference]

“In those Columbia years, when Mamie and I drove down to Gettysburg to look at a farm to buy, one of the attractions about the place we examined was the evidence of run-down soil. This was a chance, I thought, to prove that careful husbandry could restore land to its original fertility. The challenge outweighed certain obvious faults. Although we haven’t achieved the greatest success -- the soil to start with, two centuries ago, was probably thin and after a few plowings was spotted with gravel and stone patches -- there are enough lush fields to assure me that I shall leave the place better than I found it.”


This small collection includes memoranda and a daily diary which runs from December 1955 to January 1958. The material (about 300 pp.) chronicles his efforts as a congressional liaison for the farm program, and there are numerous references in these files to Secretary Benson, price supports, farm policy, drought, the 1956 farm bill, corn sales, water rights, reclamation, tariffs, and reciprocal trade.


There are about six hundred pages of materials relating to agriculture in this collection. Types of materials include reports, telegrams, correspondence, memoranda, statements, press releases, clippings, and charts. There are references to such subjects as current farm problems, agricultural legislation, farm income, grain, meat packers, and watershed projects.


Contains over one thousand pages of materials dealing with such matters as reclamation and irrigation projects, water resources, grazing on public lands, land grants, and land claims. Types of materials include briefing books, background papers, press releases, memoranda, correspondence, speeches, reports, proceedings of meetings, statements, resolutions, bills, notes, and minutes of meetings.

BENSON, EZRA TAFT, Secretary of Agriculture, 1953-1961: Papers, 1952-1961. [Collection consists of four boxes of manuscripts and thirty-nine reels of microfilm -- originals are located in the Archives of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Salt Lake City, Utah.]

This entire collection relates to Benson’s official duties as Secretary of Agriculture. It includes correspondence, speeches, statements, transcripts and reports of congressional hearings and committee meetings, and USDA reports and bulletins. The development of U.S. farm policy is documented in this collection, and there are materials on such subjects as the Soil Bank Program, Food for Peace, the Rural Development Program, agricultural research, the Agricultural Advisory Commission, the legislative program, foreign markets, conservation, reorganization of USDA, commodity price supports, and surplus disposal.

This collection contains a moderate quantity of materials, including reports, studies, memoranda, and correspondence, relating to a variety of agriculture-related subjects. There are materials on a drought study coordinated by Bragdon, plus documentation on such topics as water resources policy, reclamation projects, water rights, and public works planning.


Contains a large quantity of documentation relating to agriculture. Types of materials include reports, memoranda, correspondence, bulletins, papers, speeches, statements, drafts of reports, drafts of bills, tables, charts, and outlines. Some of the subjects covered are water resources, watershed protection, water rights, conservation, and irrigation and reclamation projects. There is also a report taking a fifty-year look ahead at agriculture in the U.S. and over two thousand pages of materials relating to the drought study conducted by Bragdon.


The Burns Papers contain nearly a thousand pages relating to agricultural matters. This documentation includes reports, correspondence, memoranda, press releases, speeches, notes, statements, drafts of bills, tables, charts, articles, and booklets. Some of the subjects illuminated in these files include the Agricultural Act of 1956, the farm situation, farm prices, farm credit, parity prices, price supports, wheat, cotton, the Soil Bank Program, and farm production.


The Butterfield Papers contain a large volume of material on aid from the US Agency for International Development to developing nations for use in agriculture, natural resource management and rural development. Almost every series of the collection contains relevant material.

This collection has around four to five hundred pages of documentation concerning agricultural matters. Included in this material are memoranda, correspondence, staff studies, statements, fact sheets, notes, clippings, and charts. The general agricultural situation is discussed, and there are materials on such specific topics as agricultural surplus disposal, the Commodity Credit Corporation, farm housing, farm income, farm credit, real estate values, Secretary Benson, farm legislation, the National Grange, the International Wheat Agreement, and family farms.


The Dulles Papers have a small to moderate quantity of scattered materials relating to such subjects as PL 480, cotton policy, farm surpluses, and foreign trade. These documents include correspondence, memoranda, and memoranda of conversation.


This collection contains the personal files of President Eisenhower, and it has some of the highest level documents in the Library. The volume of materials relating to agriculture is large -- probably amounting to several thousand pages. There are eighteen series in this collection, and a number of these series have documentation relevant to this topic.

The Ezra Taft Benson folders in the Administration Series contain about fifteen hundred pages, including considerable correspondence between Benson and Eisenhower. Other materials include memoranda, messages, reports, tables, clippings, press releases, farm production figures, and USDA bulletins and publications. Some of the subjects discussed are farm exports, drought relief, surplus commodities, the cattle market, agriculture policy, soil conservation, tariffs, price supports, acreage controls, and the Commodity Credit Corporation.

The Cabinet Series, which contains the minutes of Cabinet meetings, Cabinet Papers, and reports, documents such subjects as agricultural surpluses, drought, grazing legislation, agricultural exports, migrant labor, price supports, farm legislation, wheat marketing, cotton, and hog prices.

The DDE Diary Series includes correspondence, memoranda of conversation, reports, and minutes of meetings, and it has references to such topics as farm prices, agricultural surplus, farm legislation, Soil Bank Program, research, water resources, foreign trade, drought, and price supports.

The Legislative Meetings Series has documentation on farm legislation, agricultural policy, poultry inspection, REA loan policy, water resources, school lunches, Soil Bank Program, conservation, farm labor, PL 480, surplus commodities, the Commodity Credit
Corporation, and migrant workers. Included in the series are minutes of meetings, notes, memoranda, agenda, and reports.

Other series which have some documentation on this subject are the ACW Diary Series, the Dulles-Herter Series, the International Series, the NSC Series, the Name Series, the Press Conference Series, and the Speech Series. Included in this documentation are diary entries, reports, memoranda, correspondence, summaries of discussion, transcripts of meetings, speeches, and speech drafts.


This collection has considerable material on all aspects of agricultural policy, programs and farm issues. Three principal series of the Central Files contain several thousand pages of farm and agricultural related materials. They are organized by file codes and then chronologically under the codes.

There are documents on such specific topics as the Department of Agriculture, Eisenhower Administration farm bills, soil conservation, drought, the Commodity Credit Corporation, REA (Rural Electrification Administration), Federal Crop Insurance, farm credit, farm labor, agricultural surplus disposal, foreign trade, insect control, the Soil Bank Program, PL 480, price supports, irrigation, water resources, water rights, reclamation, tariffs and Food for Peace. Types of documentation includes reports, correspondence, memoranda, telegrams, press releases, newsletters, clippings, bills, minutes of meetings, executive orders, fact sheets, policy statements, tables and staff studies.

In the Official File, the researcher will find numerous folders entitled Agriculture and Farming (organized by year) with extensive correspondence between administration officials and state-national farm organizations and publications, farm state members of Congress, state governors, individual farmers and ranchers plus rural bankers and newspaper editors. Also found is a considerable body of material on rural life, drought, fertilizers, cattle and livestock, various fruit, grain and other food crops (often by name; i.e. wheat, soybeans, onions, etc.)

The General File’s agricultural materials are organized similarly to those in the Official File. There are approximately 2,500 pages under “Agriculture and Farming” consisting of correspondence similar to that in the Official File with somewhat more of it being from individuals. Several hundred pages on “Cattle and Livestock” deal with market prices, feed costs, letters from ranchers, cattlemen’s associations, livestock sales catalogs and humane livestock slaughter. The General File also has much information on severe droughts in the states of the Great Plains and Southwest.

The President’s Personal Files feature folders on specific farm and agribusiness organizations such as the American Farm Bureau Federation, National Association of
Wheat Growers, National Dairy Council, Future Farmers of America and others plus files on farm publications and radio broadcasters. Boxes 48-49 contain considerable documentation regarding Presidential visits to drought afflicted agricultural states. The researcher will also find copies of agriculture related speeches made by the President, in folders identified by audience, location and date. Lastly, for those interested in Eisenhower’s Gettysburg farm, which was actually a working farming operation, they will find a great deal of information in boxes 503-507.


Contains about four hundred pages of materials relating to cattle ranching. This documentation consists primarily of correspondence with the ranch managers and accountants regarding ranch business.

FRANCIS, CLARENCE, Corporation Executive; Author; Special Consultant to the President and Chairman, Interagency Committee on Agriculture Surplus Disposal: Papers, 1933-1973.

Contains about three hundred pages of materials relating to the distribution or disposal of agricultural surpluses. This documentation includes reports, memoranda, correspondence, press releases, notes, agenda, papers, studies, and clippings.


The entire collection (over twenty thousand pages) is concerned with the disposal of agricultural surpluses. Related subjects also discussed include East-West trade, PL 480, Food for Peace, the Commodity Credit Corporation, and the Council on Foreign Economic Policy. Among the types of materials found in this collection are reports, fact papers, correspondence, memoranda, press releases, minutes of meetings, bills, acts, drafts of bills, studies, policy papers, statements, and speeches.


His diary contains a few entries with references to agricultural legislation and the drought. There are also some press conference transcripts and speeches with occasional references to agricultural matters.

There are over one thousand pages of agriculture-related materials in this collection. This documentation includes correspondence, memoranda, reports, speeches, speech drafts, outlines, notes, bills, statements, charts, newsletters, tables, clippings, fact sheets, articles, press releases, and a transcript of a television show. The agricultural surplus, price supports, conservation, farm legislation, the 1959 cranberry scare, Food for Peace, the Soil Bank Program, watershed protection, and the administration’s overall farm policy are among the subjects covered in these files.


Contains a small quantity of correspondence, memoranda, and memoranda of telephone conversation with references to agricultural matters. PL 480, tariffs, foreign trade, GATT, Food for Peace, the wheat agreement, disposal of surplus foodstuffs abroad, sugar legislation, and the World Agricultural Fair in New Delhi, India, are some of the subjects mentioned in these files.


Contains over fifteen hundred pages of materials relating to agriculture. Since Mr. Lambie served as coordinator of public information programs between the Advertising Council and the U.S. Government, some of the materials relate to programs and policies that agencies, such as USDA, wanted the public to be informed about. There are materials relating to farm safety, preventing forest fires, 4-H clubs, and water resources. Mr. Lambie also served as Deputy Chairman of the Interagency Committee for Agricultural Surplus Disposal, and his records contain considerable materials on surplus disposal, PL 480, the CCC, foreign trade, the milk program, and related matters. Types of documents include press releases, posters, advertising materials, memoranda, correspondence, reports, drafts of reports, statements, acts, articles, brochures, drafts of statements, telegrams, tables, charts, newsletters, bulletins, minutes of meetings, speeches, and clippings.


Two small folders labeled, “Agriculture,” contain references to price supports, the cost of the farm program, and labor regulations. There is also a folder on food additives which contains a report by the Panel on Food Additives of the President’s Science Advisory
Committee. Types of materials include memoranda, letters, statements, reports, a Cabinet Paper, notes, and an article.


Contains three to four thousand pages of materials on the subject of farm labor, and the bulk of this focuses on migratory farm labor and related problems involving housing, health services, and school facilities. These materials include memoranda, correspondence, telegrams, reports, working papers, notes, resolution, studies, surveys, legal briefs, summaries of meetings, and bulletins.


Mr. Morgan’s files contain over two thousand pages of materials relating to agriculture. Some of the subjects highlighted in this collection are agricultural trade, farm credit, Food for Peace, PL 480, Soil Bank Program, farm legislation, the cranberry scare, chemicals and food, REA, farm costs, Commodity Credit Corporation, price supports, surplus commodity disposal, water resources, watershed projects, and water conservation. These materials include correspondence, memoranda, bills, drafts of bills, notes, press releases, reports, tables, charts, acts, clippings, presidential statements, drafts of presidential message on agriculture, and minutes of meetings.


There is a small quantity of documents, including reports, speech materials, and a briefing handbook, with references to PL 480, agricultural trade, the U.S. sugar market, sugar quotas, and agriculture in the U.S.


Mr. Paarlberg’s records contain several thousand pages of materials dealing with agricultural matters. These files have considerable material on Food for Peace and PL 480, and there is also documentation on such subjects as rural development, corn legislation, farm income, Kennedy farm proposals, surplus commodities, school lunch program, REA, cotton, sugar, farm credit, GATT, price supports, food contamination --
cranberry scare, foreign trade, tariffs, parity payments, tobacco, wheat, milk, and wool. Types of materials include fact sheets, letters, speeches, reports, memoranda, bulletins, tables, statements, messages, bills, position papers, speech drafts, press releases, a draft of a Cabinet Paper, and notes.

ODLUM, FLOYD B.: Chairman of the Board, Atlas Corporation, 1923-60; Chairman of the Board, Federal Resources Corporation, 1961-69; Chairman of the Board, RKO Radio Pictures, 1937-48; Chairman of the Board, Consolidated Vultee Aircraft Corporation, 1947-53; Director, Office of Production Management, 1941-42; special adviser to the chairman, War Production Board, 1943-44; special adviser to the chairman, Office of Price Administration, 1940-44; Chairman, Arthritis and Rheumatism Foundation; President, Hertz Foundation; Trustee, Lovelace Foundation. Papers, 1892-1976.

There are detailed records for the years 1951-1971 of Odlum’s farming operations in Southern California where he grew primarily dates and citrus fruits. There are also documents relating to proposed rain-making in Spain and to farming in colonial Rhodesia.


Randall’s journals contain numerous brief entries with references to such subjects as East-West trade, tariffs, commodity agreements, agricultural policy, price supports, GATT, trade legislation, disposal of surplus commodities, PL 480, Secretary Benson, economic reports, and Food for Peace.

SEATON, FRED A., U.S. Senator, Nebraska, 1951; Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs, 1953-1955; Administrative Assistant to the President, 1955; Deputy Assistant to the President, 1955; Secretary of Interior, 1956-1961: Papers, 1900-1972.

Seaton’s Papers have a lot of materials relating to Interior Department activities in the areas of water resources, irrigation and reclamation projects, and watershed protection. There is also a surprising amount of documentation on such subjects as parity prices, crop production, farm income, the 1956 farm bill, the farm program, and the President’s message on agriculture to Congress. Included among these materials are acts, bills, reports, memoranda, correspondence, fact sheets, notes, statements, press releases, speeches, clippings, bulletins, articles, maps, agreements, tables, charts, lists, speech drafts, message drafts, and transcripts of committee hearings.

These records have over fifteen hundred pages of materials relating to agriculture. Some of the topics are East-West trade, PL 480, disposal of surplus commodities, the international wheat agreement, cotton, rice, sugar, tariffs, commodity agreements, Food and Agricultural Organization, and Food for Peace. Types of documentation include reports, working papers, minutes of meetings, memoranda, letters, telegrams, tables, charts, briefing papers, agendas, and fact sheets.


Contains over three thousand pages relating to agriculture. Some of the topics covered are the international wheat agreement, PL 480, surplus agricultural products, commodity agreements, Point Four Program, technical assistance, Food for Peace, foreign trade, tariffs, Foreign Agricultural Organization, Interagency Committee on Agricultural Surplus Disposal, International Cooperation Administration, and American Farm Bureau. These files include information papers, notes, memoranda, resolutions, staff studies, correspondence, tables, reports, statements, press releases, speeches, acts, agendas, fact sheets, briefing papers, minutes of meetings, executive orders, transcripts of hearings, papers, and bills.


The Randall Commission Records contain over a thousand pages of documentation relating to agriculture. Included are studies, reports, statements, transcripts of hearings, drafts of reports, tables, and bills. There are references to tariffs, trade, foreign aid, agricultural organizations, American Farm Bureau, National Grange, agricultural production, farm price supports, sugar policy, commodity agreements, and import quotas.


This collection contains two to three hundred pages of materials relating primarily to a report on Agricultural Technical Assistance, plus some references to PL 480. The documents include reports, drafts of a report, an act, memoranda, and correspondence.


A sizeable portion of this collection, which has about eighty thousand pages, relates to agricultural or farm workers. These records contain materials on foreign and domestic
migratory workers, the USDA Migrant Worker Committee, Secretary Benson, child labor, migrant housing, Sugar Act, surplus foods, unions, and farm and grower organizations. Types of materials include press releases, memoranda, reports, correspondence, minutes of meetings, newsletters, bills, laws, lists, agendas, drafts of bills, pamphlets, articles, speeches, fact sheets, and clippings.

WHEELER, CLYDE A., Executive Secretary to Congressman Page Belcher, 1951-1954; Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, 1954-1955; Assistant to Secretary of Agriculture, 1955-1957; Special Assistant to Secretary of Agriculture, 1957-1959; Staff Assistant to the President, 1959-1960: Papers, 1951-1988. [This collection is not processed and is currently closed to researchers.]

Wheeler’s Papers contain over two thousand pages of materials relating to agricultural issues during the Eisenhower Administration. Wheeler worked as a congressional liaison for the Department of Agriculture from 1955 to 1959 and continued to be involved in agricultural issues as a Staff Assistant to the President, 1959-1960. Among the subjects covered in these papers are farm prices, agricultural markets, agricultural surplus disposal, Food for Peace, PL 480, Secretary Benson, price supports, national forests, Farm Bureau programs, wheat, tobacco, REA, agricultural research, Soil Bank Program, Mexican farm labor, farm income, sugar legislation, cottonseed products, the Farmers Home Administration, and the Republican agricultural platform for 1960. Types of documents include correspondence, speeches, memoranda, reports, USDA bulletins, bills, newsletters, press releases, executive orders, articles, speech drafts, press conference transcripts, tables, charts, fact sheets, and clippings.


Contains over one thousand pages of materials on such subjects as chemicals and food, drought areas, agricultural surplus disposal, irradiation to preserve food, water resources policy, water rights, PL 480, low income farmers, cotton exports, agricultural policy, legislative program, Bracero program, food production, wheat referendum, migratory labor, and the rural development program. The documents include Cabinet Papers, Cabinet Information Papers, Cabinet records of action, memoranda, reports, statements, staff studies, fact sheets, tables, notes, resolutions, maps, press releases, and clippings.


This collection has a small quantity of scattered materials, including reports, studies, letters, and memoranda, which relate to agricultural matters. There is a copy of a study, “Agricultural Assistance and the American Image”, plus there are some memoranda on the sale of agricultural commodities to the Soviet Bloc. Additional scattered references
to East-West trade and international development can also be found in these files. Some of the documents are still classified and not available to researchers.


There are three to five hundred pages of documentation scattered throughout this collection on such subjects as the disposal of agricultural surpluses, trade with the Sino-Soviet Bloc, economic defense policy, PL 480, International Cooperation Administration, and agricultural technical assistance abroad. This material includes correspondence, memoranda, NSC policy papers, reports, and notes. Some of the documents are still classified.


This collection contains a few letters on agricultural matters and a ninety-five page published report on the USDA research program.


These records contain the handwritten notes from which the official minutes for all Cabinet meetings and Legislative Leaders meetings were compiled. There are many references to agricultural issues in these notes. A topical card index to Cabinet and Legislative Leaders meetings contains about two hundred entries under the heading of “agriculture”.

**WHITE HOUSE OFFICE, RECORDS OFFICER REPORTS TO PRESIDENT ON PENDING LEGISLATION, 1953-1961.**

This collection has a large quantity of documents relating to every piece of agricultural legislation passed during the Eisenhower Administration. There is a file for each act passed by Congress, and this file contains a copy of the act, plus correspondence, recommendations, reports, press releases, and speech drafts relating to the legislation.

Contains about eight hundred pages of materials covering such subjects as farm income, PL 480, foreign trade, farm commodity prices, farm production, agricultural surplus, legislation, and the agricultural outlook. USDA reports and publications, memoranda, press releases, notes, and statements make up the bulk of these materials.
ORAL HISTORY TRANSCRIPTS


OH 321 ANDERSON, JACK Z., Special Assistant to Secretary of Agriculture, 1955-1956; Administrative Assistant to the President, 1956-1961.  64 pp.


OH 30 BURNS, ARTHUR E., Economist; Consultant to White House Office, 1957; Consultant to International Cooperation Administration, 1953-1957.  46 pp.

OH 95 BUTZ, EARL L., Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, 1954-1957.  52 pp.


OH 387 FITZGERALD, DENNIS, Deputy Director of the Foreign Operations Administration, 1953; Deputy Director of the International Cooperation Administration, 1956.  42 pp.

OH 23 FRANCIS, CLARENCE, Special Consultant to the President and Chairman, Interagency Committee on Agricultural Surplus Disposal, 1954-1960.  38 pp.

OH 374 FRANCIS, CLARENCE.  31 pp.


OH 306  NEWSOM, HERSCHEL D., Master of the National Grange, 1950-1968; member of various boards and commissions.  109 pp.

OH 43  O’ROURKE, DENNIS, General Counsel, Holly Sugar Corporation (worked with USDA on sugar legislation).  42 pp.

OH 52  PAARLBerg, DON, Economic Advisor to the Secretary of Agriculture, 1953-1957; Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, 1957-1958; Special Assistant to the President and Food for Peace Coordinator, 1958-1961.  165 pp.

OH 388  WHEELER, CLYDE, Confidential Assistant to Secretary of Agriculture, 1954-1957; Special Assistant to Secretary of Agriculture, 1957-1959; Staff Assistant to President, 1959-1960.  116 pp.