Background

Annual Reports and other records in Record Group 33, Records of the Agricultural Extension Service, provide general insight into agricultural practices and rural life in the first half of the 20th century as well as give information about specific individuals. They document the work done by Agricultural Extension service employees from 1888 to 2000.

The earliest predecessor agency of the Agricultural Extension Service was the Office of Experiment Stations, 1888–1915, established in the Department of Agriculture, to conduct scientific research on more scientific and effective agricultural practices and to disseminate that information to farmers. The Office of Cooperative Demonstration Work (1904–14) and Office of Farm Management (1906–15) assisted in getting information to rural families. The research and information dissemination functions were combined in 1915 into a single “Extension Service” (its name has varied over time) which continues to this day.

Reports Available as National Archives Microfilm Publications (Archives 2)

Each U.S. county had (and still has) an agricultural Extension Agent, who focused on helping farmers learn about and adopt new scientifically based agricultural practices; a Home Demonstration Agent, who helped rural housewives improve their home economics skills; and a “4H” agent devoted to youth education and activities focusing on agricultural and home economics skills they would need as an adult. Each county agent submitted an annual report. Naturally, content varies, depending upon what information the county agent(s) chose to include. Some are more detailed than others. Sometimes photographs were included. These reports are available on NARA microfilm publications listed below, but it is possible that hard copies of the “state” and/or “county” copy of the report are available at some state or county archives.

The 1909–1944 annual reports are arranged by state, then chronologically by year. For each year, there are reports from state administrators by subject area, followed by reports from each county.

T849. Extension Service Annual Reports: California, 1913–1944 (54 rolls).
T862. Extension Service Annual Reports: Kentucky, 1912–1944 (89 rolls).
T865. Extension Service Annual Reports: Maryland, 1912–1944 (70 rolls).
T872. Extension Service Annual Reports: Nebraska, 1913–1944 (89 rolls).
Photographs Available on Microfilm (Archives 2)


Reports Available as Original Records (at Kansas City, Missouri)

**Annual Narrative and Statistical Reports, 1945–1968.** Arranged by year, then by state. For each year, there are reports from state administrators by subject area, followed by reports from each county. The National Archives Identifier (NAID) listed below may be entered into the National Archives Catalog ([https://catalog.archives.gov](https://catalog.archives.gov)) as a search term.

*Contact information:* National Archives at Kansas City, 400 West Pershing Road, Kansas City, MO 64108, 20740-6001. Phone: 816-268-8000; Fax: 816-268-8038; Email: kansascity.archives@nara.gov. These records are stored offsite. If a researcher would like to view the records in person, please contact National Archives at Kansas at least two business days in advance.

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<th>Quantity</th>
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Photographs Available as Original Records

NARA’s Still Picture Reference section has finding aids in its research room (Archives II, 5th Floor) to assist you in locating photographs of interest. Captions of some photographs name the individuals shown; others do not.
Contact information: Still Picture Reference, National Archives at College Park, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD, 20740-6001. Phone: 301-837-0561; Fax: 301-837-3621; Email: stillpix@nara.gov.

Bibliography

National Archives Catalog online at https://catalog.archives.gov. Includes information about all record series accessioned by the National Archives as well as digital images of materials that have been digitized.

Order Online at https://eservices.archives.gov/orderonline. Click on “Microfilm” tab. Enter state name and extension into search box (such as Ohio extension). Click “Search.” Click on microfilm publication title. Click on “View Important Publication Details” to get to the roll list. Save time! Determine which rolls you want to view before you go to Archives 2 to look at the microfilm!

SAMPLE MICROFILM PUBLICATION ROLL LIST

T873, Extension Service Annual Reports: Nevada, 1915–1944 (19 rolls). (In Nevada, some agents had charge of more than one county).

Roll 1 1915 (Truckee – Carson Proj.) – 1920 (Director)
Roll 2 1920 (State Club Ldr.) – 1922 (State Club Ldr.)
Roll 3 1922 (Co. Agt. Ldr.) – 1923 (Churchill & Pershing Cos.)
Roll 4 1923 (Clark Co.) – 1925 (Co. Agt. Ldr.)
Roll 5 1925 (Churchill Co.) – 1927 (Churchill Co.)
Roll 6 1927 (Clark & Lincoln Cos.) – 1929 (Publicity)
Roll 7 1929 (Director) – 1930 (H. Demon. Ldr.)
Roll 8 1930 (Churchill Co.) – 1931 (Churchill & Lyon Cos.)
Roll 9 1931 (Clark & Lincoln Cos.) – 1932 (Churchill & Lyon Cos.)
Roll 10 1932 (Clark & Lincoln Cos.) – 1933 (Churchill & Lyon Cos.)
Roll 11 1933 (Clark & Lincoln Cos.) – 1934 (Clark & Lincoln Cos.)
Roll 12 1934 (Douglas & Ormsby Cos.) – 1935 (Elko Co.)
Roll 13 1935 (S. Eureka Co.) – 1936 (Washoe Co.)
Roll 14 1936 (White Pine Co.) – 1938 (Publications)
Roll 15 1938 (Director) – 1939 (Clark Co.)
Roll 16 1939 (Douglas Co.) – 1940 (Elko Co.)
Roll 17 1940 (Eureka Co.) – 1941 (Humboldt Co.)
Roll 18 1941 (Lincoln Co.) – 1943 (Clark Co.)
Roll 19 1943 (Douglas & Ormsby Cos.) – 1944 (White Pine Co.)


Legacy Finding Aids listed below include information about record series accessioned up to their publication dates. Although outdated, they are still very useful introductions to the records and are available for study at these three locations: (1) Finding Aids Room (Archives I, Room G-28); (2) Textual Reference Research Room (Archives I, Room 203, binders at east end of the room); (3) Textual Reference Research Room consultation area (Archives II, 2nd Floor).


Primas, James E., and Virgil E. Baugh, comps., *Preliminary Inventory of the Records of the Federal Extension Service Supplementary to National Archives Preliminary Inventory No. 83*, NC 117 (June 1965).