

Iowa Ag History Collections—North Central

This resource includes information from historical societies and organizations from North Central Iowa that have reported research or museum collections related to Iowa’s agricultural history. In addition to contact, accessibility information, and onsite materials, our partners shared their organizations specific regional focuses, time periods with strength, and other thematic intersections. This is not a comprehensive list of all Iowa history organizations throughout the state, but rather a list of those who have chosen to share information at this time. All partners have been listed alphabetically.

This bibliography was compiled in August 2022 by Diane Corsones.

Algona Community School District/Camp Algona POW Museum
114 S. Thorington St, Algona, IA 50511
<https://www.pwcampalgona.org/>
Museum Open Regular Hours

Regional Focus: Kossuth County, Statewide

Time Period Focus: 1943–46

Thematic Intersections: Political History, Cultural History, Labor History

Types of Archival Materials: Oral Histories

Museum is associated with Camp Algona and has some items dealing with agriculture and the impact of wartime labor shortages

Algona Public Library

210 N Phillips Street, Algona, IA 50511

<https://www.ci.algona.ia.us/pview.aspx?id=12621&catid=0>

Library Open Regular Hours

Regional Focus: Kossuth County, Statewide

Time Period Focus: none specified

Thematic Intersections: none specified

Types of Archival Materials: Personal/Family Collections

Fenton Public Library

605 Maple St, Fenton, IA 50539

<https://www.youseemore.com/NILC/FentonPL/>

Open Regular Hours

Regional Focus: Kossuth County, with some Emmet, Dickinson and Palo Alto. Some Statewide.

Time Period Focus: 1899–present, pre-1950 strongest

Thematic Intersections: Cultural History, Immigration History, Gender History, Religious History

Types of Archival Materials: Personal/Family Collections, Atlases and Soil Maps, Farm Directories, Institutional Histories/Scrapbooks

Small library in a town of 270 people. The library has plat books, town history and county history books, and information dating back to 1899, when Fenton was founded.

Heartland Museum

119 9th St SW, Clarion, IA 50525
<https://www.heartlandmuseum.org/>
Open Regular Hours or by Appointment

Regional Focus: Wright County, Statewide

Time Period Focus: 1870s–1950s, strongest 1920s–1960s

Thematic Intersections: Cultural History, Immigration History, Gender History

Types of Archival Materials: Trade Literature, Farm Organization Records, Farm Periodicals, Posters, Broadsides, or other Paper Signage, Personal/Family Collections, Oral Histories, Atlases and Soil Maps, Deeds, Cookbooks, Farm Directories, Institutional Histories/Scrapbooks, Photos, Early School Records, 4-H Record Books

Types of Artifacts: Machinery/Implements and Equipment, Tools, Buildings, Structures, and Other Objects on the Landscape, Street scenes (1950s, Depression, Victorian businesses)

Some genealogy assistance is available.

Iowa State University — University Archives

403 Parks Library, 701 Morrill Road, Ames, IA 50011-2102
<https://specialcollections.lib.iastate.edu/>
Open Regular Hours or by Appointment

Regional Focus: Story County is strongest, but materials represent all counties of Iowa via Extension and Outreach and Experiment Stations

Time Period Focus: 1868–present

Thematic Intersections: none specified

Types of Archival Materials: Farm Organization Records, Oral Histories, ISU Experiment Station, ISU Extension and Outreach, ISU College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

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Iowa State University — Special Collections

403 Parks Library, 701 Morrill Rd, Ames, IA 50011-2102

<https://specialcollections.lib.iastate.edu/>

Open Regular Hours or by Appointment

Regional Focus: Statewide

Time Period Focus: 1850s–2010s, strongest 1930s–1980s

Thematic Intersections: Political History, Cultural History, Latino/a History, Gender History, Labor History

Types of Archival Materials: Trade Literature, Farm Organization Records, Farm Periodicals, Posters, Broad­sides, or other Paper Signage, Personal/Family Collections, Oral Histories, Atlases and Soil Maps, Cookbooks, Farm Directories, Institutional Histories/Scrapbooks

Kossuth County Historical Society

122 S. Dodge St, Algona, IA 50511

<https://www.facebook.com/kossuthhistorical/>

Open Weekend Hours, Appointments Required for Research

Regional Focus: Kossuth County, Some Statewide

Time Period Focus: 1850s–1980s

Thematic Intersections: none specified

Types of Archival Materials: Atlases and Soil Maps, Cookbooks, Farm Directories, Institutional Histories/Scrapbooks, Kossuth County History Books

Types of Artifacts: Machinery/Implements and Equipment, Tools

Organization doesn't keep a separate collection area of farm life although primarily we hold personal photos and artifacts together.

Lehigh Public Library

241 Elm St, Lehigh, IA 50557

<http://www.youseemore.com/NILC/LehighPL/>

Open Regular Hours—Some Titles May be Checked Out, Some Can Only be Viewed Onsite

Regional Focus: Lehigh and Webster County, Some Statewide

Time Period Focus: none specified

Thematic Intersections: Indigenous History

Types of Archival Materials: none specified

Mason City Public Library- History Department

225 2nd St SE, Mason City, IA 50401

<https://www.mcpl.org/services/archives>

Research by Appointment

Regional Focus: Cerro Gordo County

Time Period Focus: none specified

Thematic Intersections: none specified

Types of Archival Materials: Photographs

Mitchell County Historical Society

18791 Hwy 9, PO Box 51, Osage, IA 50461

<https://www.mitchellcountyhistoricalsociety.org/>

Cedar Valley Memories Site by Appointment, Mitchell County Historical Museum Open
Regular Hours

Regional Focus: Statewide

Time Period Focus: late 1800s–1960

Thematic Intersections: none specified

Types of Archival Materials: none specified

Types of Artifacts: Machinery/Implements and Equipment, Tools, Buildings, Structures, and Other Objects on the Landscape, Ag Steam Engines, Tractors, Vintage Farm Implements, Tools

Annual Steam Power Show 2nd full weekend in August

Rockwell Public Library

307 Main St E, Rockwell, IA 50469

<https://www.youseemore.com/NILC/Rockwell/>

Open Regular Hours

Regional Focus: Statewide

Time Period Focus: 1900–present

Thematic Intersections: Political History, Cultural History, Immigration History, Gender History, Religious History, Labor History

Types of Archival Materials: Trade Literature, Farm Organization Records, Farm Periodicals, Posters, Broadside, or other Paper Signage, Personal/Family Collections, Atlases and Soil Maps, Cookbooks, Farm Directories, Institutional Histories/Scrapbooks

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Tyden Farm No. 6

1145 300th St, Dougherty, IA 50433

<https://tydenfarm.com/>

Open by Appointment

Regional Focus: Floyd County

Time Period Focus: 1915–1960

Thematic Intersections: Immigration History, Labor History

Types of Archival Materials: Personal/Family Collections, Oral Histories

Types of Artifacts: Machinery/Implements and Equipment, Tools, Buildings, Structures, and Other Objects on the Landscape, Household

The man featured at the Farm was a Swedish immigrant, industrialist, inventor, farmer.

Winnebago Historical Society

PO Box 27, Forest City, IA 50436

<https://whsiowa.org/>

Hours Vary by Location, Contact for Appointment

Regional Focus: Northern Iowa, but also have extensive gas tractor and steam tractor exhibits, as well as other equipment common throughout the Midwest.

Time Period Focus: mid-1800s–mid-1900s

Thematic Intersections: Political History, Cultural History, Indigenous History, Religious History, Labor History

Types of Archival Materials: Personal/Family Collections, Oral Histories, Atlases and Soil Maps, Cookbooks, Farm Directories, Institutional Histories/Scrapbooks

Types of Artifacts: Machinery/Implements and Equipment, Tools, Buildings, Structures, and Other Objects on the Landscape

A diverse variety of collections from the mid-1800s through the mid-1900s are held by WHS at Heritage Park of North Iowa including machinery/implements, equipment, tool displays, a working steam powered saw mill, black smith shop, functioning train, relocated & one site buildings (68 buildings on 92 acres). We also grow and harvest crops with equipment. Please contact with additional questions.
