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Guide to the 4-H Photograph Collection, 1913-1988

Title

4-H Photograph Collection (P 146)

Dates

1913-1988 (inclusive)
1925-1975 (bulk)

Creator

Oregon 4-H (Program)

Summary

The 4-H Photograph Collection documents Oregon 4-H programs, projects, and participants in agriculture, home economics, natural science, and recreational activities. The 4-H youth program is administered through the Oregon State University Extension Service and was established in the early 1910s.

Quantity

6 cubic feet, including 9,600 photographs (19 boxes, including 2 oversize boxes, and 1 map folder)

Restrictions on Access

Collection is open for research.

Oregon State University Libraries, University Archives
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Corvallis, OR 97331-4501
Phone: 541-737-2165
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Finding aid prepared by Elizabeth Nielsen, 2008.

Historical Note

4-H is the youth program administered in Oregon by the Extension Service with the goal of developing citizenship, leadership, and life skills through experiential learning programs in agriculture, home economics, natural science, engineering, and art. Oregon 4-H developed from industrial clubs established by individual schools in the early 1900s. F.L. Griffin was hired by the Oregon Agricultural College Extension Service as the first state leader in 1914. He was followed by H.C. Seymour who served as State Leader from 1916 until his retirement in 1947. Helen Cowgill and L.J. "Doc" Allen were instrumental, with Seymour, in the development of 4-H in Oregon.

Oregon was the first state to offer 4-H work in a metropolitan area when it established victory gardens on Portland school grounds during World War I. 4-H Summer Week on the Oregon State campus began in 1916 and brought youth from throughout Oregon to the campus in Corvallis. Oregon 4-H began participating in the International Farm Youth Exchange Program in 1951 and the 4-H Japanese Exchange Program was initiated in 1972.

Arrangement

About a third of the images have been individually numbered; the remainder have not been assigned individual numbers and are grouped by topic. The preliminary container list presents the numbered images followed by those arranged by topic.

Content Description

The 4-H Photograph Collection provides extensive visual documentation of Oregon 4-H programs, projects, and participants from the founding in the 1910s through the 1980s. The collection consists of images of the 4-H Summer School on the Oregon State campus in Corvallis, including many group portraits of the participants by county; 4-H activities at the Oregon State Fair and the Pacific International Livestock Exposition; Oregon delegates to national 4-H congresses; a variety of 4-H projects including gardens, livestock and poultry, forestry, cooking and canning, sewing and needlework, and recreational activities; and participants in the International Farm Youth Exchange Program (IFYE) and the 4-H Japanese Exchange Program. The collection includes images of Extension Service staff for 4-H including Helen Cowgill, L.J. Allen, and H.C. Seymour. The collection includes several slide programs developed in the 1960s through 1980s highlighting 4-H programs and as instruction for 4-H projects. Two photograph albums include images of 4-H activities at the 1951 and 1957 Oregon State Fairs. Many of the photographs in the collection have detailed descriptions.

The collection includes a variety of formats; the bulk of the collection is black and white prints. It also includes film negatives, nitrate negatives, slides, color prints, and photograph albums.

Preferred Citation

4-H Photograph Collection (P 146), Oregon State University Archives, Corvallis, Oregon.

Acquisition Information

Acquired in numerous accessions and transfers through 1998.

Future Additions

Additions to the collection are expected.

Processing Note

This collection is not fully processed; this guide is preliminary.

Additional Reference Guides

[Preliminary item-level container list](#) available online.

Related Material

The [Extension Service Records \(RG 111\)](#) include the administrative records for the Oregon 4-H programs. Other photographs of 4-H activities and participants are available in the [Extension Bulletin Illustrations Photograph Collection \(P 020\)](#), the

Extension and Experiment Station Communications Photographs (P 120), and Harriet's Collection. 4-H moving images are in the 4-H Motion Picture Films (FV P 146) and the [Extension and Experiment Station Communications Moving Images \(FV P 120\)](#).

The Archives holdings include many collections of organizations and individuals individuals affiliated with 4-H including the Oregon State University Extension Association/4-H (OSUEA/4-H), [OSU Collegiate 4-H Club](#), [Malheur County 4-H Leaders' Council](#), and Clackamas County Jersey Cattle Club as well as [James F. Bishop](#), [Helen Cowgill](#), [Wallace L. Kadderly](#), and [Buena Maris Mockmore](#).

Subjects

This collection is indexed under the following headings in the OSU Libraries Catalog. Researchers desiring materials about related topics, persons, or places should search the catalog (<http://oasis.oregonstate.edu>) using these headings.

Individuals

Cowgill, Helen Julia

Organizations

International Farm Youth Exchange.

National 4-H Conference.

Oregon State Fair.

Pacific International Livestock Exposition (Portland, Or.)

Topics

4-H clubs--Oregon.

Agricultural extension work--Oregon.

Agricultural extension workers--Oregon.

Agriculture--Oregon.

Farm life--Oregon.

Home economics extension work--Oregon.

Livestock--Oregon.

Summer schools--Oregon--Corvallis.

Youth--Societies and clubs--Oregon.

Geographical Names

Salem (Or.)

Forms of Materials in the Collection

Film negatives.

Nitrate negatives.

Photograph albums.

Photographic prints.

Slides.

Other Creators

Oregon Agricultural College. Extension Service.

Oregon State Agricultural College. Extension Service.

Oregon State College. Federal Cooperative Extension Service.

Oregon State University. Extension Service.