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Arthur W. Farrall Papers UA.17.16

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Michigan State University Archives and Historical Collections

Conrad Hall

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East Lansing , MI 48824

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Summary Information

Repository:	Michigan State University Archives and Historical Collections
Creator - dnr:	Farrall, Arthur William, 1899-
Title:	Arthur W. Farrall papers
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Date [inclusive]:	1922-1972
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Language of the Material:	English

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Biographical Note

Arthur W. Farrall (born in 1899 in Harvard, Nebraska) was Professor and head of the Department of Agricultural Engineering at Michigan State College (now Michigan State University) from 1945 until his retirement in 1964. Prior to his tenure at MSU, Farrall was a junior Agricultural Engineer and instructor at the University of California from 1922-1928. In 1929, he joined the Douthitt Engineering Company in Chicago as a research engineer. Farrall developed various techniques in the spray drying of food and dairy products while he was in the employ of Douthitt. However, due to the financial problems he faced, Farrall left this company in 1934, and began work as the chief of research engineering at the Creamery Package Company. He was employed by Creamery Package from 1934 until the time he came to MSC. During this time he patented a continuous butter process (1945), a continuous ice cream freezer, a continuous feeder for ice cream machinery, and was instrumental in the research that led to the process of irradiation of milk.

In the latter half of 1945, Farrall came to MSC. Upon his arrival he found the Agricultural Engineering Department located in a corner of the Agriculture Building and an enrollment of six students. He immediately started work on a new building which was completed in 1948. He enlarged the teaching

staff and research facilities. By 1950, there were over 100 students enrolled in the department. And by the time of his retirement over 200 students, including 50 graduate students. Farrall initiated the short course in farm equipment sales and service, and a number of short courses covering an array of farm and dairy problems.

In 1946, Farrall patented an infra-red frost prevention device, a development that brought national attention to the Agricultural Engineering program at MSU. In 1955, Farrall was instrumental in the Centennial of MSU with a program entitled "The Centennial of Farm Mechanization." Over 40,000 people viewed this event in a five day period. "The Centennial of Farm Mechanization" was a pageant depicting America's agricultural progress from 1855-1955. The display included old and new farm implements, a display on the improvement of household technology, and a look at the future of agricultural technology. This gave Farrall the idea that the university should have a permanent display of old and modern farm equipment. From 1957 to 1963 Farrall pursued this idea, called Technorama, but funds were insufficient for such a display.

Farrall was instrumental in the development of the food technology curriculum at MSU, and in 1972, received the Dairy and Food Science Industry Award and the American Society of Agricultural Engineers Food Engineering Award.

A life-long member of American Society of Agricultural Engineers (ASAE), Farrall served as that organization's president in 1962-1963. During this time, he traveled extensively overseas conducting research on dairy techniques and throughout the United States giving lectures. Farrall was the U.S. State Department representative to the 16th Dairy Food Congress in Germany during his tenure at ASAE President.

Upon his retirement from MSU, Farrall took a position with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) from 1964-1969. Farrall spent a good deal of time in India, helping to develop a curriculum for Agricultural Engineering. He also worked on various research projects for USDA, including the heat transfer quality of powdered milk. During this time, Farrall also continued to teach and conduct research at MSU.

During the time of his "retirement," Farrall developed and patented (in the name of MSU) an inertial propulsion engine. He also built and operated an electric Volkswagen for which a patent and trademark was applied.

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Scope and Contents

The papers of Arthur W. Farrall consist of correspondence, class materials, research materials and lectures, and have been arranged chronologically. Farrall's contribution and work with the American Society of Agricultural Engineers closes out the papers as it is the common thread that ties together the entire collection, and all of Farrall's work.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Conditions Governing Access

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Controlled Access Headings

- Agricultural engineering -- Study and teaching
- Photographs
- Letters (correspondence)
- Automobiles -- Design and construction
- Farm equipment
- Farm mechanization
- Family histories
- Course materials

- Dairying -- Equipment and supplies
- Michigan State University. Agricultural Engineering Department
- American Society of Agricultural Engineers
- Michigan State University. Agricultural Engineering Department -- General subdivision--History;

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances	
Correspondence, 1924	box 772	folder 1

University of California-Davis

Title/Description	Instances	
Correspondence, Janaury - March 1925	box 772	folder 2
Correspondence, April - December 1925	box 772	folder 3
Correspondence, 1926-1929	box 772	folder 4-5
Class Materials, 1922-1928	box 772	folder 6-8
Research Materials, 1922-1929	box 772	folder 9-15
Research Materials, Undated	box 772	folder 16
Talks, Undated	box 772	folder 17

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Douthitt Engineering Company

Title/Description	Instances	
Correspondence, 1928-1933	box 772	folder 18-21
Correspondence, Undated	box 772	folder 22
Research Materials, 1929-1933	box 772	folder 23-26
Research Materials, Undated	box 772	folder 27

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Creamery Package Company

Title/Description	Instances	
Correspondence, 1933-1945	box 772	folder 28-32
Research Materials, 1934-1946	box 772	folder 33-43

Research Materials, Undated	box 772	folder 44-47
Talks, 1935-1942	box 772	folder 48-49
Talks, Undated	box 772	folder 50

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Michigan State University		
Title/Description	Instances	
Correspondence, 1946-1959	box 773	folder 1-6
Correspondence, 1961-1969	box 773	folder 7-16
Class materials, 1946-1968	box 773	folder 17-38
Class materials, Undated	box 773	folder 39-42
Research Materials, 1945-1949	box 773	folder 43-47
Research Materials, 1950 - 1967	box 774	folder 1-13
Research Materials, Undated	box 774	folder 14-15
Talks, 1945	box 774	folder 16
Talks, 1948 - 1967	box 774	folder 17-38
Talks, 1972	box 774	folder 39
Talks, Undated	box 774	folder 40-41
MSU Agricultural Engineering Dept.-Department Operation, 1945 - 1950	box 774	folder 42-43
MSU Agricultural Engineering Dept.-Department Operation, 1952 - 1953	box 774	folder 44-45
MSU Agricultural Engineering Dept.-Department Operation, 1955 - 1956	box 774	folder 46-47
MSU Agricultural Engineering Dept.-Department Operation, 1957, 1959	box 774	folder 48
MSU Agricultural Engineering Dept.-Department Operation, 1960 - 1963	box 774	folder 49-53
MSU Agricultural Engineering Dept.-Department Operation, 1964 - 1965	box 775	folder 1-3
MSU Agricultural Engineering Dept.-Department Operation, 1968	box 775	folder 4
Centennial Of Farm mechanization, 1954 - 1966	box 775	folder 5-13
Technorama, 1955	box 775	folder 14
Technorama, 1957 - 1959	box 775	folder 15-17

Technorama, 1961	box 775	folder 18
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Volumes

Title/Description	Instances	
<i>Congres International Technique du Mechinisme</i> , 1961	box 5896	volume 1
<i>Contemporary Views on World Dairy Education</i> , 1965	box 776	volume 2
<i>Curriculum and Instructing Staff in Agricultural Engineering</i> , 1960	box 776	volume 3
<i>The 5 Secretary's Program</i> , 1961	box 776	volume 4
<i>History of the Agricultural Engineering Department</i> , 1964	box 776	volume 5
<i>All India Symposium in Refrigeration, Air Conditioning and Environmental</i>	box 776	volume 6
<i>History of Michigan Section of American Society of Agricultural Engineers</i> , 1960	box 776	volume 7
<i>Questionnaire for Review of Engineering Curriculum</i> , 1960	box 5896	volume 8
<i>Introduction to Agricultural Engineering</i> , McColley & Martin, 1955	box 5896	volume 9
<i>50 Years on Tracks - Caterpillar Tractor Company</i> , 1954	box 5896	volume 10
<i>Farrall and Frazell (Fraser) Families: A History-A. W. Farrall-1970, 1970</i>	box 5896	volume 11
<i>A Report on Agricultural Engineering in China</i> , 1949	box 5896	volume 12
<i>Juventud Rural de las Americas</i> , 1962	box 5896	volume 13

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Photographs

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Agricultural Consulting Groups, President's Committee for Traffic Safety	box UA	Photo 63
American Society of Agricultural Engineers	box UA	Photo 63
Cottage Maid Ice Cream Plant	box UA	Photo 63

Dairy equipment. Diagrams

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Dairy equipment. Sweden	box UA Photo 63
Dairy equipment. Test results. Graphs	box UA Photo 63
Dairy equipment. University of California, Davis	box UA Photo 63
Farm equipment. Frost guards	box UA Photo 63
Farm equipment. Infra-Red Frost Guards	box UA Photo 63
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Future Farmers of America. Awards	box UA Photo 63
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International Dairy Congress	box UA Photo 64
Meetings. Unidentified	box UA Photo 64
Michigan State University. Buildings. Technorama of Agricultural Engineering. Sketch of proposed building	box UA Photo 64
Michigan State University. Conferences. Dairy Engineering Conference, 1960	box UA Photo 64
Michigan State University. Students	box UA Photo 64
Northern Europe. Map	box UA Photo 64
People. Farrall, Arthur W.	box UA Photo 64
People. Groups	box UA Photo 64
People. Hansen, Clarence	box UA Photo 64
People. McColly, Howard F.	

box UA
Photo 64

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Oversize Photographs

Title/Description	Instances
Faculty, 1909	box OS 12

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