Department of Agriculture

C. C. Stiles
The Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Iowa in 1842 passed an act which established the Territorial Agricultural Society, provided for its organization, and defined its powers and duties but there seems to be no evidence that it was ever organized.

The State Agricultural Society was organized at Fairfield on December 28, 1853, and was recognized by law on January 22, 1855. Its objects were to be the promotion of agriculture, horticulture, manufactures and household and mechanic arts. The officers and directors were to be elected at the annual meeting of the officers and directors together with presidents of county agricultural societies. The first secretary was J. M. Shaffer of Fairfield.

The Fortieth General Assembly in 1923 established the Department of Agriculture and provided that the secretary be elected at the general elections when other state officers were elected. This law provided for the transfer of all the duties of the State Agricultural Society, except those pertaining to the State Fair and Exposition, the duties of the latter being left with the State Fair Board. This law also provided for the transfer of the following departments to the Department of Agriculture: Weather and Crop Service, Dairy and Food Department, Department of Animal Health, State Veterinarian Department, State Horticultural Society, Iowa Corn and Small Grain Growers' Association, Beef and Cattle Growers' Association, Iowa Dairy Association, State Poultry Associations receiving aid from the state, and Petroleum Oil Inspection Service.

The following classification is limited to the State Agricultural Society as it existed prior to the year 1910.

The records are practically complete, beginning with the call for the convention to organize the society in 1853,
STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY—CLASSIFICATION
MAIN DIVISIONS

SERIES I. AFFIDAVITS AND STATEMENTS
DOCUMENTS
Butter and Cheese
Garden Seeds, Grains, etc.
Registered Stock
Sorghum
Miscellaneous

SERIES II. BIDS, CONTRACTS AND PROPOSALS
DOCUMENTS
Fair Attractions
Painting
Printing
Rates
Superintendent of Fair Grounds
Miscellaneous

SERIES III. CERTIFICATES
DOCUMENTS
Stock Registration

SERIES IV. CLAIMS
BOUND RECORDS
Claim Registers
DOCUMENTS
Claims, 1893-

SERIES V. CORRESPONDENCE
BOUND RECORDS
Letter Books
Index to Correspondence
County and District Agricultural Societies
Crop Conditions
DOCUMENTS
Farmers Institutes
Registration
State Fair
  Advertising and Printing
  Attractions and Privileges
  Entries and Premiums
  Passes
  Miscellaneous

SERIES VI. REPORTS

BOUND RECORDS
Superintendents
  Cattle, 1884-
  Fine Arts, 1884-
  Fruits and Flowers, 1884-
  Grain, Seeds and Vegetables, 1884-
  Machinery, 1901-
  Sheep and Poultry, 1884-
  Speed, 1889-

DOCUMENTS
Committee
  Credentials
  Enumerating Tickets
  Finance
  Mileage and per diem
  Premium awards
County Auditors
  Crop and Farm Statistics
  Owners of Stallions
Crop conditions
District and County Agricultural Societies
Officers
  Secretary, 1885-
  Superintendents
    Fair Grounds, 1896-
    Fine Arts, 1884-
    Horses, 1884-
    Privileges, 1884-
    Sheep and Poultry
    Speed, 1896-
    Swine, 1884-
  Treasurer, 1888-

SERIES VII. VOUCHERS

BOUND RECORDS
Account Books
  Advertising
  Hay and Straw
  Secretary
  Treasurer
Balance Books
Day Books
Journals
Ledgers
Registers
  Entry, 1894-
  Premium, 1878-
  Race, 1882-
  Tickets
  Secretary, 1894-
  Superintendents, 1891
Warrant Registers

DOCUMENTS
  Expense, 1883-
  Premiums, 1884-

SERIES VIII. MISCELLANEOUS

BOUND RECORDS
  County and District Agricultural Societies
  Farmers' Institutes
  Minutes of State Agricultural Society
  Receipts
  Weather and Crop Service
  Unclassified

DOCUMENTS
  Credentials (alphabetical by societies)
  Entries, Applications for
  Orders, Tickets and Miscellaneous
  Receipts
    Secretary
    Treasurer
    Unsold Tickets
    Miscellaneous
  Score Cards
  Unclassified
    Articles of Incorporation, Co. and Dist. Societies
    Balance Sheets
    Description of lands, bought for Fair Grounds
    Entry and Premium Tags
    List of Machinery Exhibitors
    Manuscript copy of Minutes
    Maps, showing yield of Agricultural Products
    Memoranda Sheets
    Pedigrees of Stock
    Petitions and Protests
    Photographs
    Recommendations for the Appointment of Judges