

DESCRIPTION OF COLLECTION:

American Turpentine Farmers Association Papers (1936-75)

Georgia Agrirama
State Museum of Agriculture
Tifton, Georgia Agrirama

EXTENT: 13 Filing Cabinets, 12 boxes

SOURCE: American Turpentine Farmers Association

ACCESS: Open for general research.

REPRODUCTION: All requests subject to Limitations. See Curator.

COPYRIGHT: Information on copyright available from repository.

CITATION: ATFA Papers Georgia Agrirama State Museum of
Agriculture, Tifton, Georgia

BACKGROUND:

The American Turpentine Farmers Association was organized in March of 1936 for the purpose improving the market position of pine gum producers. Their activities included developing advertising and educational programs, reducing production costs, encouraging good forest conservation programs, and promoting production and marketing research.

In 1938, ATFA became the field administrator of a newly developed naval stores price support program under a loan agreement with the Commodities Credit Corporation. Upon a receipt of this loan from CCC, ATFA, in turn, made advances to eligible producers on the security of eligible naval stores. These naval stores could be sold and the advances redeemed at a later date giving ATFA a better marketing position.

Under the auspices of different agencies in the Department of Agriculture, ATFA administered storage agreements with warehousemen, inspected warehouse facilities, and verified quality and quantity of loan collateral. ATFA was also the sole redeeming agent and seller of loan stocks the redemption pool.

ATFA became a very effective agent. In 1962 ATFA had about 4,000 members which comprised about 87% of gum producers who produced

95% of the domestic crop of crude pine gum. Its effectiveness can be attributed to able leadership consisting of a board of directors committed its success, a very efficient administration, and two outstanding presidents (ATFA's only presidents), Judge Harley Langdale of Valdosta, Ga. and Jim L. Gillis, Jr. of Soperton, Ga.

Because of foreign competition there is no longer a naval stores industry in the United States. There are no commercial gum producers. However, ATFA still maintains a field office in McRae, Ga. Jim Gillis is the president.

SCOPE & CONTENT NOTE:

The main content of The ATFA Papers is reports and contracts. Production of gum rosin (extracted from pine trees) is the first segment of the naval stores industry. Producer invoices (12D, 13D) and Cabinet Drawer 1A of the warehouse section house production reports. There are four filing cabinets of memberships (filed alphabetically) which indicates production by amount of dues paid annually. These folders also contain membership agreements as well as number of faces (where gum is extracted) worked by each member.

The second segment of the industry-processing of crude gum into rosin and turpentine and storage of these products- required warehouse inspection reports (Drawers 1B & 5D) and warehouse contracts (Drawer 1C, 5B). Since these products were considered loan collateral stock reports were necessary (1D, 5B).

Marketing was the third segment of the naval stores industry. Sales announcements and invitations to bid (7C) were advertised prior to sales. Sales contracts and delivery orders are found in 3A & 3B. as these stocks were sold they were "redeemed" through the redemption pool (3C, 4D).

Correspondence between ATFA and agencies regulating the commodities program can be be found in 7B. There are also two drawers of other ATFA correspondence (2C, 2D). There are naval stores publications such as the ATFA Journals (2A, 3D), Naval Stores Review (box H), and miscellaneous publications (box G).Annual Convention reports and calendar girl contests are in drawer 6D. There are four boxes of ATFA calendars (I, J, K, L).

The research at the naval stores experimental station at Olustee, Fla. are housed in four drawers (4B, 4C, 6B, 6C) and indexed in a directory listed as "Olustee research". There five drawers of miscellaneous files which are also in a directory and can be accessed alphabetically or by classification.

Photographs and negatives are found in boxes A, C, F. The collection covers a time period dating from 1936 to 1975.

ORGANIZATION:

The collection is housed in 13 filing cabinets and 12 boxes. Each filing cabinet drawer and box is arranged topically with the exception of five drawers. There is an inventory directory which briefly explains the contents of each drawer and box. The Olustee files are indexed in the database (ATFA Directories) as is the miscellaneous files. The miscellaneous files can be accessed alphabetically or by classification.

The classification system is not complex. ATFA internal affairs are found in either "office" or "administration". Any subjects relating to finances such as audits and banking is "financial". Public relations and good will programs are under "promotions". Areas relating to the naval stores commodities program are classified "commodities program". Youth programs with 4-H clubs are in "education". Warehouse issues are "warehouse" and producer affairs are under "producer". Loan agreement forms and contracts are under "loan agreements". Other departments include "research", "board of directors", "insurance", "forestry", "legal", "labor", and "marketing".