National Plant Board
Records Archive Inventory Project

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National Plant Board Archive Project

• Purpose
  • Inventory records archived at Kansas Historical Society

• Outcomes
  • Determine materials and records to be submitted (and not submitted)
  • How to organize submitted materials
  • Document the material being submitted
  • Develop a procedure for submitting records to the archive
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• Background
  • Records transferred to new Secretary-Treasurer until mid-1970s
  • Decision made to house NPB records at the Kansas Historical Society

• Why was this project initiated?
  • NPB leadership realized that no one knew what was in old records
  • NPB leadership decided an inventory would be useful
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• Current Project
  • Initiated in 2014
  • 29 boxes of NPB material stored at KHS
  • Content of boxes is highly variable
  • 7 boxes have been inventoried to date
  • Latest records are from 2005

• Method
  • Attempting to inventory records in chronological order
  • Information being placed in an Excel spreadsheet
  • Submitting quarterly reports to NPB Executive Secretary
Kansas Historical Society Archives

Public records: 50,000 cubic feet of storage space

3,600 visitors/researchers in FY 2017

29 boxes of NPB material in the archives
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• Lessons learned to date
  • NPB to archive records on a regular basis
  • NPB to develop an archiving procedure
  • NPB to determine what records need to be archived
    • NPB only “owns” records originated by NPB
    • Other records are not considered “official”
  • NPB to develop practices to protect personally identifiable information
• NPB to determine availability of inventory
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• Historical tidbits
  • NPB predecessors
    • American Association of Horticulture Inspectors
    • American Association of Economic Entomologists
    • National Plant Quarantine Conference Board
  • NPB established in 1925
  • Earliest federal counterpart was Federal Horticulture Board
  • Initial focus was nursery stock
    • Ensure pest-free interstate movement
Historical Tidbits

Early pests of concern include:
- San Jose scale
- European corn borer
- Mexican fruit fly
- First biocontrol – 1928; parasites against citrus blackfly introduced into West Indies to reduce populations
- Larch canker
- Mediterranean fruit fly
- Gypsy moth
- Japanese beetle
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• Historical Tidbits
  • Meeting costs for 1963 meeting in New York City
    • Hotel Wellington in mid-town Manhattan
      • $7.50 for singles
      • $10.50 for doubles
      • $11.50 for twins
      • in air conditioned section
  • All states became NPB members in 1976
  • First discussion of systems approach - 1977
    • Meeting Keynote Address
    • Sister Thomas More Bertels, Silver Lake College, Manitowoc, Wisconsin
    • Discussed systems approach in various applications