

## Reference Guide

# Agriculture Sources at the Hocken Collections



*Ryan's threshing mill, Waitahuna district, c.1910. Original lent by Miss V. Potts, Lawrence.  
Photographs Collection, S04-305b.*

## Nau Mai Haere Mai ki Te Uare Taoka o Hākena:

### Welcome to the Hocken Collections

He mihi nui tēnei ki a koutou

kā uri o kā hau e whā arā, kā mātāwaka o te motu, o te ao whānui hoki.

Nau mai, haere mai ki te taumata.

### As you arrive

We seek to preserve all the taoka we hold for future generations. So that all taoka are properly protected, we ask that you:

- place your bags (including computer bags and sleeves) in the lockers provided
- leave all food and drink including water bottles in the lockers (we have a researcher lounge off the foyer which everyone is welcome to use)
- bring any materials you need for research and some ID in with you
- sign the Readers' Register each day
- enquire at the reference desk first if you wish to take digital photographs

### Beginning your research

This guide gives examples of the types of material relating to New Zealand agriculture held at the Hocken. All items must be used within the library. As the collection is large and constantly growing not every item is listed here, but you can search for other material on our Online Public Access Catalogues:

- for books, theses, journals, magazines, newspapers, maps, and audiovisual material, use Library Search|Ketu. The advanced search - <https://tinyurl.com/mtske2x9> gives you several search options, and you can refine your results to the Hocken Library on the left side of the screen.

The Library Search Guide <https://otago.libguides.com/ketuhelp> contains helpful tips and assistance for using Library Search|Ketu;

- for pictures, photographs and archives and manuscripts, use Hākena - <https://hakena.otago.ac.nz>. Listing of the ephemera collection has just begun on Hākena; please talk to desk staff if you have any questions about this collection.

The Hākena Search Help Guide <https://otago.libguides.com/hakena> contains helpful tips and assistance for using Hākena;

- some of the photographs from the Pictorial Collections are available for viewing online via Hocken Snapshot at <https://hocken.recollect.co.nz/>. Some other photographs and artworks can be viewed at <https://otago.ourheritage.ac.nz/>.

If you have any enquiries about ordering or other research questions, please ask the reference desk staff – they will be happy to assist you.

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# General

The Hocken has extensive holdings relating to agriculture, particularly in the Otago and Southland regions.

## Archives

We hold the historic records of several farms and runs. Examples include:

**Preston family papers** [ARC-0435]. The Preston family have owned, and managed sheep runs and farms in Otago and Southland since the 1850s. This large collection includes material relating to several different properties, as well as the family's involvement in other activities, including local body politics.

**Ida Valley Station records** [MS-0658]. This collection covers the period 1863 to 1957 and includes farm diaries, accounts, letterbooks and shearing tallies.

**Ramsay family papers** [AG-680]. Consists mostly of diaries for the Ramsay family farm in Hyde, for 1894 and 1910 to 1929.

**Bryce Brothers papers** [MS-0615]. Includes diaries, accounts, and catalogues from the Bryce brothers farm at Lovells Flat, dating from the 1870s to 1910s.

**Harwood family papers** [ARC-0420]. Octavius Harwood ran the store at the Weller Brothers' whaling station and farmed on the Otago Peninsula. These papers include material relating to the family's farming enterprises. For further records of the Harwoods, see ARC-0055.

For other archives relating to farming, try the following subject searches on Hākena, the pictures, photographs, ephemera, archives and manuscripts catalogue:

- *Agriculture*
- *Farm life*
- *Runs and runholding*
- *Shepherds*
- *Rural women*
- *Sheep farming*
- *Dairy farming*
- *Wool trade and industry*
- *Wool brokers and industry*
- *Meat industry and trade*

For farm diaries - we have many of these – try a ‘record type’ search (in the advanced search options) for *Diary – Farm*.

We hold New Zealand and Australian Land Company Records (1862 - 1963) on microfilm (Micro-387); copied as part of the Australian Joint Copying Project from the originals in the Scottish Record Office. Much of the material refers to the financial and administrative aspects of the Company's operations, but there are also documents relating to agricultural management, economic conditions in the colonies, the difficulties of settlers with insufficient capital, supplies destined for Company staff's use, and details of yields of crops and wool from Company holdings. There is an index which lists in broad detail the contents of the original collection, and another which provides the microfilm reel numbers and briefly lists the contents of each reel. The two lists should be used in conjunction. For a summary of the collection, including item descriptions, see <https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-1126191277/findingaid#collection-summary>.

## Publications

We have many books and pamphlets relating to New Zealand farming. Try searching Library Search|Ketu for the subject that interests you. Holdings include:

Noel Crawford (2018). *Antipodean empire: the New Zealand and Australian Land Company in New Zealand*. Timaru, New Zealand: Henry Elworthy Publishers.

Roberta McIntyre (2008). *Whose high country?: a history of the South Island high country of New Zealand*. North Shore, N.Z.: Penguin Books

Many general subjects have geographical sub-headings, for instance:

- *Dairy farming – New Zealand – Waikato*
- *Farmers – New Zealand – Southland – Biography*
- *Sheep – New Zealand – Canterbury*

Please note that the Library of Congress cataloguing system used at the University of Otago uses the term *ranch* rather than *run*, so items may be catalogued under the following terms:

- *Sheep ranchers*
- *Sheep ranches*
- *Ranches*

We have a large collection of newspapers, especially for the Otago and Southland regions. These include many agricultural reports. Some older newspapers are available on microfilm, and others in hard copy – check Library Search|Ketu for our holdings. Many newspapers are now available digitally on the National Library of New Zealand's Papers Past website at <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/>. This has the great advantage of being searchable.

We also have a large collection of New Zealand journals and magazines. Major agricultural periodicals in our collection include:

*New Zealand country journal* (1877-1898)

*New Zealand dairy exporter* (1940-1981, some gaps)

*New Zealand journal of agriculture* (1910-1988)

*Rural news* (1991-2007, some gaps)

For others, try a subject search on Library Search|Ketu for:

- *Agriculture – New Zealand – Periodicals*
- *Farm life – New Zealand – Periodicals*

Or try a more specific search, for example:

- *Dairying – New Zealand – Periodicals*
- *Sheep breeds – New Zealand – Periodicals*

For maps and plans, try a keyword search on Library Search|Ketu for the district which interests you and refine your results to *Maps*. We have a number of specialist maps, such as farm location maps – see the advice below under 'Tracing land holdings'.

Archives New Zealand also holds a large number of maps -

<https://www.archives.govt.nz/research-guidance/research-guides/land> and many are

gradually becoming available online via Collections Search

<https://collections.archives.govt.nz/web/arena#/> or see

<https://www.archives.govt.nz/research-guidance/whats-been-digitised>.

## Ephemera and Posters

We have ephemera and posters relating to agriculture, including Agricultural and Pastoral Association Annual Show posters and advertising matter for various agricultural firms. The

ephemera and posters collections are starting to be listed on Hākena - please ask the reference desk staff for assistance.

## Tracing land holdings

Many researchers wish to locate information on farms or land owned by a particular person or family. Official government records relating to land ownership are held by Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) and Archives New Zealand. Archives New Zealand Dunedin Regional Office holds, for example, records of Otago crown grants, a runs register, and the Otago and Southland land transfer registers and indexes. The Hocken has several other resources which may assist you to trace land ownership or the history of a particular property.

*Return of the Freeholders of New Zealand* (1884). Wellington: Government Printer. This is available, in 3 volumes, in the ready reference area. It lists owners of freehold land as at October 1882, arranged alphabetically by surname. For country lands, it includes the county, area in acres and value of the land. For borough or town lands, it includes the name of the borough and value of the land.

**Electoral rolls.** From 1853 to 1879 there was a property qualification for voters – they had to own or lease land over a set value. The electoral rolls therefore state the location and description of property owned or leased by all voters. The amount of information varies, but if the property was freehold, it may include the legal description and/or the number of acres and/or the property name. From 1879 the property qualification was removed, and all men were entitled to vote (women did not obtain the vote until 1893) – the information describing property was no longer included in electoral rolls. New Zealand electoral rolls up to, and including, 1981 are available on microfiche in the ready reference area and via Ancestry (available on any of the public computers in the library. University of Otago/Otago Polytechnic staff and students can also access this database offsite with their account details). Some early Otago electoral rolls have been indexed as part of the Otago Nominal Index, which can be searched online at <https://www.otago.ac.nz/library/hocken/oni>.

**Rates and valuation records.** We hold the archives of several Otago local authorities (the Dunedin City Council has its own archives). The following records in our collection include rating and/or valuation records which may help you locate a property:

- Balclutha Borough Council
- Clutha County Council
- Hampden Borough Council
- Kaitangata Borough Council
- Lawrence Borough Council



- Milton Borough Council
- Palmerston Borough Council
- Queenstown Borough Council
- Tuapeka County Council
- Vincent County Council

The information in these books varies, but they often include the name of the owner, district, section and block number, number of acres and rateable value. Some books are arranged geographically, and others alphabetically by name of owner within each district. A few have access restrictions. See Hākena for details of our holdings and any restrictions.

**Directories.** We have a large collection of historic directories. Our holdings of Otago and Southland directories are the most complete, but we do hold some for other regions as well. These are useful for identifying which district a person lived in, though they do not give the exact location of properties. They only list the head of the household. Many directories include a section organised by surname, as well as a section organised by location. A list of our Otago and Southland directories is available in the ready reference area; for other regions check Library Search|Ketu. Some early Otago directories have been indexed as part of the Otago Nominal Index, which can be searched online at <https://www.otago.ac.nz/library/hocken/oni>. Directories for 1866-1955 are available to browse on the Ancestry database.

***Cyclopedia of New Zealand.*** This was published between 1897 and 1908 in 6 volumes (Wellington; Auckland; Canterbury; Otago and Southland; Nelson, Marlborough, and Westland; Taranaki, Hawke's Bay, and Wellington). Each volume is arranged geographically and includes a nominal index. The entries for rural districts often include a brief description of farming in the area. Individuals and families (who paid to be included) provided their own biographical information. The *Cyclopedia* is available in our ready reference area and can also be viewed online via the New Zealand Electronic Text Centre at <https://nzetc.victoria.ac.nz/tm/scholarly/tei-corpus-cyclopedia.html>.

Tait, G.A. (Ed.) (1957-61). ***Farms and stations of New Zealand.*** Auckland: Cranwell Publishing. A three-volume record of New Zealand farms and stations of this period. Gives the names of current owners, and sometimes a history of the development of the property. Includes numerous photographs. Request via Library Search|Ketu.

**Farm location maps.** From the 1960s to 1990s farm location maps were produced by service clubs or fundraising committees in many districts of New Zealand. These generally name the owners of properties. A newer series of farm location maps, covering most of rural New Zealand, has been published by Arcadia Marketing, starting in 2004. Check Library Search|Ketu with a keyword search for *farm location map* or try the subject headings *Farms – location – New Zealand* or *Land tenure – New Zealand – maps*. These subject searches will also direct you to other maps which may help locate land holdings, such as the Otago Land District series, which generally show blocks of land available – often due to new subdivision – for sale or lease. Sometimes these note the names of

properties and existing landowners. If you have the official description of the land – such as block number – you may be able to locate it on a map. Try search on Library Search|Ketu using the name of the district and *map*.

***Early pastoral runs of Otago and Southland.*** This resource, compiled by J.G. Sinclair in 2003, is available at the reference desk. It lists the early runs by name and by number and includes a map showing location for each run. The names of runholders are noted at the bottom of each map. Also available at the reference desk is Sinclair's *Who was who in Otago*, which includes brief biographies of runholders.

**Runholding histories.** The following books, available on the ready reference shelves, are a useful place to start when tracing the history and ownership of pastoral runs:

Beattie, Herries (1947). *Early runholding in Otago*. Dunedin: Otago Daily Times.

Beattie, James Herries (1979). *The southern runs*. Invercargill: Gore Historical Society.

Chandler, Peter (1996). *Land of the mountain and the flood: a contribution to the history of runs and runholders of the Wakatipu district*. Queenstown: Queenstown and District Historical Society / Hocken Library.

Pinney, Robert (1971). *Early South Canterbury runs*. Wellington: Reed.

Pinney, Robert (1981). *Early Northern Otago runs*. Auckland: Collins.

The following books can be requested via Library Search|Ketu:

Acland, L.G.D. *The early Canterbury runs*. Various editions available.

Beattie, H. (1980). *More about the southern runs*. Invercargill: Gore Historical Society.

Macgregor, Miriam (1970). *Early stations of Hawke's Bay*. Wellington: Reed.

Wheeler, Colin (1989). *Historic sheep stations of New Zealand*. Auckland: Beckett.  
Earlier editions also available.

There are also some histories of individual runs – check Library Search|Ketu using the name of the run which interests you.

**Local histories.** Local histories frequently include information on early farming families in a district. We have a number of Otago and Southland local history books available on the ready reference shelves or try searching Library Search|Ketu for other books in our collection.

**Pinney and Chandler papers.** We have the research papers of Robert Pinney [ARC-0587] and Peter Chandler [MS-1270], both of whom wrote about rural Otago and Southland, particularly the large runs. See Hākena for details.

**Newspapers and the New Zealand Gazette.** Some land transactions resulted in an official notice appearing in the local newspaper or the government gazette. A searchable version of the gazette is available on the public computers: the reference staff can help get you started with a search. Gazettes for 1845-1846 and 1913-1992 are available online at [http://www.nzlii.org/nz/other/nz\\_gazette/](http://www.nzlii.org/nz/other/nz_gazette/). We also have large holdings of newspapers or try a search of Papers Past <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/>.

## Stock and station firms

### Archives

We hold the archives of several stock and station firms, including Reid Farmers Limited; Wright Stephenson and Company Limited (Invercargill and Lawrence branches); Stronach Morris and Company Limited; N.M.A. Company of New Zealand Limited; Otago Farmers' Co-operative Association of New Zealand Limited; and Wrightson N.M.A. Limited / Wrightson Dalgety Limited (Gore branch). See Hākena for further details – try a subject search for *Stock and Station Agents*.

### Publications

Some stock and station firms have published histories, newsletters, and annual reports – try a search on Library Search | Ketu using the name of the firm. For a general history, see

Ville, Simon (2000). *The rural entrepreneurs: a history of the stock and station agent industry in Australia and New Zealand*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

## Agricultural machinery

### Archives

**Reid and Gray Limited** [ARC-0695]. The firm was founded in Oamaru but soon moved to Dunedin; it was the largest firm of agricultural implement manufacturers in the southern hemisphere. We have a large collection of their archives, including correspondence, financial records, catalogues, ploughing manuals, order books and numerous photographs.

### Publications

Evans, B.L. (1984). *A history of farm implements and implement firms in New Zealand*. Feilding: B.L. Evans. We also hold an earlier edition of this book.

*Agricultural machinery review* (1984-1985).

*AgTrader* (1990-1999).

*Farm equipment news* (1974-1999).

# Rural societies and institutions

## Archives

We hold the archives of some local branches of rural organisations, including the Country Women's Institute, Federated Farmers, Rural Women New Zealand (formerly the Women's Division of Federated Farmers), Young Farmers' Club and Country Girls' Club. Check Hākena for the name of the organisation, or try one of the following subject searches:

- *Farmers' institutes*
- *Rural women*
- *Rural youth*

We hold records for the Otago, Otago-Taieri, Otago Peninsula, Blueskin, South Otago, Tokomairiro and Gore Agricultural and Pastoral Societies. For these and related material, try a search on Hākena under the subjects:

- *A & P shows*
- *Agriculture – Societies, etc*
- *Agricultural exhibitions*

We also hold the archives of various other rural institutions such as schools and churches – try a 'place' search on Hākena to see if we hold anything for the district which interests you.

## Publications

Some rural clubs and societies have published histories, newsletters or other items (for example, cookbooks). Try searching Library Search|Ketu using the name of the organisation. National periodicals for rural organisations include:

*Home and country* (Country Women's Institute)

*N.Z. countrywoman* (Federated Farmers of New Zealand Women's Division)

*Point blank* (New Zealand Farmers' Union)

*Rural woman*, later *Rural Women New Zealand* (Rural Women New Zealand)

*Spur* (Young Farmers'/Country Girls' Clubs)

*Straight furrow* (Federated Farmers of New Zealand)

*Young country* (Young Farmers' Clubs)

# Government and agriculture

## Archives

We hold the archives of several Otago local authorities (the archives of Dunedin City Council and its predecessors are held by the DCC archives <https://www.dunedin.govt.nz/services/council-archives>). Some of these are for predominantly rural districts, for example, Bruce, Clutha, Tuapeka, Vincent and Waihemo County Councils. We also hold the archives of many Otago pest destruction boards. For further details, see Hākena– try a search using the name of the local authority, or a subject search for *Local government* or *Pest control*.

## Publications

Government departments have produced numerous reports and publications relating to agriculture; most of these are individually catalogued. Try a search for the specific topic which interests you on Library Search|Ketu or try an advanced search using *Ministry of Agriculture* as the author. Some of the most useful series are:

***New Zealand Department of Agriculture Bulletins.*** These were produced from 1904 to the 1970s. Each bulletin was on a different topic, and they are individually catalogued on the Library Search|Ketu. You can find the entire series using *Bulletin (New Zealand Dept. of Agriculture)* as a title on simple search.

***Statistics of New Zealand.*** From 1856 to 1920 the government published an annual set of statistics covering many different aspects of life in New Zealand, including agriculture (the first volume covered the period 1853-1856). The title was *Statistics of the Colony of New Zealand* until 1907 when it became *Statistics of the Dominion of New Zealand*. Some of the early issues are available online at <https://tinyurl.com/sj2e8khc>. From 1921, instead of one volume of statistics, the government published a series of annual subject reports, such as *Trade and shipping*, *Agricultural production* and *Population and buildings*. Their titles have changed over the years, with later subdivisions and new series added. Try a subject search for *Farm produce – New Zealand – Statistics* on the Library Search|Ketu. Our holdings of these series are not complete, and not always fully catalogued. If you are having trouble locating what you want on Library Search|Ketu please enquire with the reference staff, who can search the shelves for you. Statistics for recent decades are available on the Ministry for Primary Industries website at <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/science/open-data-and-forecasting/>.

***New Zealand Official Yearbook.*** The official yearbook has been published yearly (more recently every second year) by the Department of Statistics since 1894. These include statistics relating to agriculture. The yearbooks from 1894 onwards, along with the 1892 *New Zealand Official Handbook*, are available in the ready reference area, and some are available online at <https://tinyurl.com/sj2e8khc>.

*Appendix to the Journals of the House of Representatives* (AJHR or A to Js). This collection of reports to parliament (now published once per parliamentary session and titled *Parliamentary papers presented to the House of Representatives of New Zealand*) includes a variety of items relating to agriculture. Indexes to the AJHR from 1854 to 1963 are available on the ready reference shelves. The AJHR itself is also on the ready reference shelves for 1860 to 1945 – request years following that via Library Search | Ketu. 1858-1950 reports are available online at <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/parliamentary>. One item of particular interest in the AJHRs is the sheep returns (earlier reports are titled sheep inspectors' returns). These give the name of the sheep owner, location, and number of sheep. They were published annually from 1878 in the 'H' section (check the table of contents at the beginning of the volume containing the 'H' section). There are some earlier sheep returns (and a few cattle returns) for some of the provinces in the provincial gazettes: many of these can be searched on the gazette database, available on the public computers.

## Pictorial collections

### Photographs

There are several photographs relating to agriculture in our reader access file in the pictorial collections reading area. These are available via Hocken Snapshot at <https://hocken.recollect.co.nz/> or try a search on Hākena. Try looking for the geographical location which interests you.

We also have several albums of interest –

**Album 602** [P2009-013] contains 17 photographs of sheep farming on the Merrivale Estate and sales at Mararoa and Moa Flat taken some time between 1903 and 1911.

**Albums 596 to 598** [P2008-113/1 to P2008-113/3] contain photographs of crop growing (including sweet peas) around Ettrick between 1922 and 1931.

Please talk to desk staff if you wish to access the photographs collection.

### Artworks

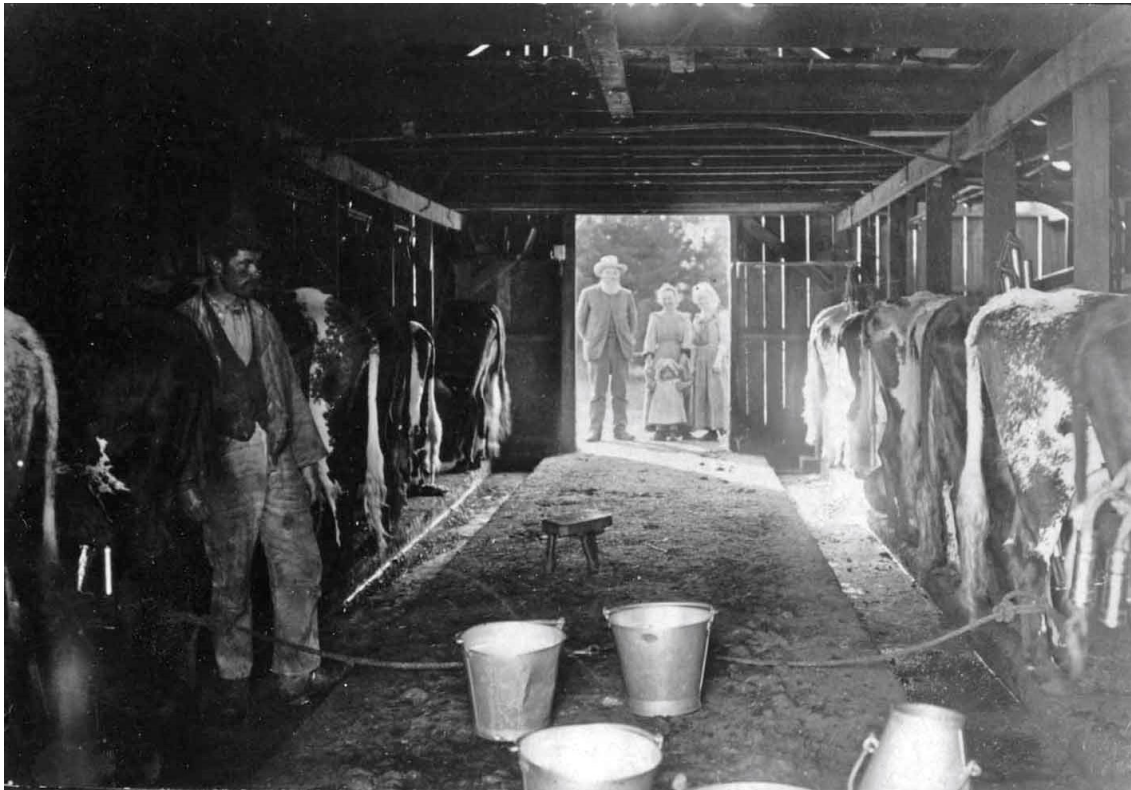
We hold a range of paintings and sketches with agricultural and farming subjects, including works by William Fox, William Mathew Hodgkins and Dorothy Kate Richmond. Some of these works have been digitised and can be viewed online at

<https://otago.ourheritage.ac.nz/> (try a search for 'farms' or 'agriculture'), or via Hākena.

Search Hākena for other works. Try a search by 'subject' in the advanced search options using the following terms –

- Agriculture
- Agriculture, Maori
- Agricultural buildings -- barn
- Agricultural implements, Maori
- Agricultural labourers
- Animals
- Dwellings -- farmhouses
- Dwellings -- farmstead
- Farms
- Farms - runs & stations
- Farming scenes
- Sheep

Please talk to desk staff if you wish to access the pictures collection.



***Labrook, Gore, Austral Vacuum. From the records of Reid & Gray Ltd, MS-1165/067, Archives Collection. S10-296a.***

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For hours, please check our website:  
<https://www.otago.ac.nz/library/hocken/>