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.

Hocken Collections/Te Uare Taoka o Hākena,
University of Otago Library
Welcome to the Hocken Collections

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://goo.gl/HVNTqH 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
  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 Snapshop at https://hocken.recollect.co.nz/. Some other photographs and artworks can be viewed at http://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 a number of 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, 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.

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:


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 - http://archives.govt.nz/sites/default/files/maps_and_plans.pdf and many are gradually becoming available online via Archway https://www.archway.archives.govt.nz/.

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 not listed on our public catalogues but are generally arranged by subject - 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 a number of 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. The electoral rolls are available on microfiche in the ready reference area. You will need to have some idea of the region to narrow down your search – check the New Zealand electoral atlas (also in the ready reference area) for the names and boundaries of electorates, which varied over time. 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](https://www.otago.ac.nz/library/hocken/oni). Electoral rolls for the period 1853-1981 are also available to browse (some have been indexed and are searchable) on the Ancestry database (available on any of the public computers in the library).

_Rates and valuation records._ We hold the archives of a number of 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 (available on the public computers).

**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://goo.gl/rgD1Am or on the Ancestry database.


**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:


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


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. 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 a number of 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

Publications


AgTrader (1990-1999).


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.
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 a number of Otago local authorities (the archives of Dunedin City Council and its predecessors are held by the DCC 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://goo.gl/H8JJyw. 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/news-and-resources/open-data-and-forecasting/.

New Zealand Official Year-Book. 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://goo.gl/NuswBj.
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. The Parliamentary Library is currently digitising the historic AJHRs, starting with the earliest decades. They are available 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 a number of photographs relating to agriculture in our reader access file in the pictorial collections reading area. These are available via Hocken Snapshop at https://hocken.recollect.co.nz/ or try a search on Hākena. Try looking for the geographical location which interests you.

We also have a number of albums of interest –

Album 602 contains 17 photographs of sheep farming on the Merrivale Estate and sales at Mararoa and Moa Flat taken sometime between 1903 and 1911.

Albums 596 to 598 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 http://otago.ourheritage.ac.nz/ (try a search for ‘farms’ or ‘agriculture’), or via Hākena.

Search Hākena for other works. Please talk to desk staff if you wish to access the pictures collection. Topics covered include –

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

Ali Clarke, Hocken Collections, rev. January 2019
Labrook, Gore, Austral Vacuum. From the records of Reid & Gray Ltd, MS-1165/067, Archives Collection. S10-296a.