

Inventory of the

DeKalb County Farmland Foundation
DeKalb County, Illinois

Records

In the

Regional History Center

RC 283

INTRODUCTION

Alan Voelker, a member of the board of directors in the DeKalb County Farmland Foundation donated their organization's records to the Regional History Center on January 2, 2007. Additional records were donated at later dates.

Property rights in the collection belong to the Regional History Center; literary rights are dedicated to the public. There are no restrictions on access to the collection.

Linear feet of shelf space: 1.75
Number of containers: 4
Northern Illinois Regional History Center
Collection 283

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The DeKalb County Farmland Foundation records date from 1997 to 2014 and are arranged chronologically. The records include meeting minutes, agendas, newsletters, mission statements, by-laws, tax forms, and other basic components that make up the infrastructure of a not-for-profit organization. Included are correspondence with the Internal Revenue Service, other conservation organizations, and DeKalb County officials and representatives.

HISTORICAL SKETCH

The DeKalb County Farmland Foundation (DCFF) was formed in 1998 by thirteen DeKalb County residents after a DeKalb County governmental and interested groups conference called "Vision 2000" inspired them to counter encroaching urbanization in their county. The increasing housing and corporation developments in towns all over the DeKalb region threatened to replace the farmland and alter the rural atmosphere that members of the DCFF wished to maintain. These thirteen DeKalb residents sought to initiate a grassroots campaign of "voluntary conservation easement" for DeKalb County farmers, looking for ways to restrict farmland use for solely agricultural or open space purposes.

The majority of the DeKalb County Farmland Foundation's time and efforts in its first few years were geared towards gaining the tax-exempt status of a not-for-profit organization under the Internal Revenue Code of Section 501 C (3). The DCFF also formed collaboration efforts with the DeKalb County Planning/Zoning/Building Department during the update of the County Comprehensive Plan in 1998, attending and participating in the public hearings. The DCFF also became closely aligned with the efforts of the nationally-based Land Trust Alliance and the Fox Watershed Land Alliance. The DCFF even modeled their by-laws, applications, appeals, and arguments with the Internal Revenue Service after that of the Land Trust Alliance. The farmland organization also took part in discussions between local farmers and the Land Trust Alliance to have farmland restricted from urban development, participating in the first conservation easement effort in the DeKalb area. The organization reached out to the public

utilizing brochures, newsletters, fundraisers, a website, and community events. The organization still maintains nonprofit, tax-exempt status and is still an active advocate of conservation easement in DeKalb County, Illinois.

SUBJECT TRACINGS

Agriculture
DeKalb County (Ill.)
DeKalb County Farmland Foundation
Land Use
Soil Conservation
Urban development

COLLECTION INVENTORY

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
1	1	DeKalb County Farmland Foundation, 1997
	2	DCFF, 1998
	3	DCFF, 1999
	4	DCFF, January-September 2000
	5	DCFF, September-December 2000
	6	DCFF, 2001
	7	DCFF, 2002
	8	DCFF, 2003
2	1	DCFF, 2004
	2	DCFF, 2005
	3	DCFF, 2006
	4	DCFF Data Bases, IRS forms, 1999-2000
	5	DCFF tax-exempt status
	6	DCFF annual tax reports
<u>ADDENDUM</u>		
	7	Members, Past Members, and donors, 2011
	8	Annual Meeting Agendas, 2000, 2007-2011
	9	Board of Directors- Meeting Agendas and Minutes, 2007
	10	Board of Directors- Meeting Agendas and Minutes (incomplete), 2008
	11	Board of Directors- Meeting Agendas and Minutes (incomplete), 2009
	12	Board of Directors- Meeting Agendas and Minutes (incomplete), 2010
	13	Board of Directors- Meeting Agendas and Minutes, January- March, 2011
	14	DCFF Newsletters, September 2002; April, August, September 2003; Winter 2005; Fall/Winter 2005-2006; Spring 2007- Spring 2011
	15	DCFF Correspondence , including letters to land owners and county board members, July 1999-March 2011
<u>ADDENDUM</u>		
3	1	By-Laws and Ordinances, 1998
	2	DeKalb County Community Foundation Guidelines, 2006
	3	Farmland Foundation Report of Intent for DeKalb County Board

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	4
	4	Policy and Planning for Land and Easement Acquisition, 1980-2006	
	5	Department of Treasury Tax Documents, 2000-2009	
	6	Financial Records, 2006-2011	
	7	Members, 2006-2011	
	8	Board of Directors Administrative Meeting Minutes, 2006-2014	
	9	The Center for Research on Language and Culture Contact (CRLCC) Conference, 2008	
	10	Midwest Land Conservation Conference, March 2008	
	11	Openlands Conference, 2008	
	12	“Farmland: Resource or Commodity,” Presentation by Kevin Rund, August 2009	
	13	DCFF Newsletters, Fall 2004- Spring 2011	
	14	Gem of the Prairie Newsletters, Summer 2003- Fall 2006	
	15	Kane County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Records, May 2001	
	16	Boone County Government Agriculture Records, 2002-2007	
	17	A National view of Agriculture Easement Programs Report 4, 2002-2006	
	18	The Simonson Scholarship for Land-Use Planning Studies, April 2003	
	19	The Land Trust Alliance, 2003-2008	
	20	“Assessing Your Organization,” Land Trust Standards, Rev. 2004	
	21	Kendall County Farmland Protection Records, 2005	
	22	Strategic Conservation Planning by Land Trusts Report, 2006-2009	
	23	Alliance for Land, Agriculture, and Water “A-Law,” Woodstock, Illinois, November 2006	
	24	Illinois Food, Farms, and Jobs Act, 2007	
	25	Prairie Parkway Draft Environmental Impact Statement, 2007	
	26	Chicago Region Land Conservation Coalition Collaboration Process, March-April 2007	
	27	Agricultural Conservation Easement, Melvin D. Sears, October 2007	
4	1	Spence Farm Foundation, Fairbury, Illinois, 2008	
	2	Agricultural Preservation Strategy Paper, July 2008	
	3	American Farmland Trust, 2009	
	4	Facilitating Coordination in Agricultural Education (FCAE), 2011	
	5	The Conservation Foundation Annual Board Assessment, 2013	
	6	Articles, 1998-2014	
	7	Correspondence, 2003-2014	
	8	Ney Grange and DCFF at Corn Fest Photographs	