United Farmers Historical Society

REPORT TO COMMUNITY

January – December 2024



UFHS Board Members and Archivist

The United Farmers Historical Society (UFHS) acquires, preserves and makes available the historical records and artifacts of the United Farmers of Alberta, showcasing the Co-operative's contributions to agriculture and life in and around Alberta.

UFHS is a charitable organization formed in 2002 dedicated to preserving and celebrating the rich history of UFA.

Year In Review

1 Archives

UFHS holdings include over 35m of textual records, more than 7,000 photographs, numerous audio and video recordings, as well as UFA published magazines, newspapers, and newsletters.

Description of archival records is ongoing, with a significant focus in 2024 on the inventory of the largest fonds - United Farmers of Alberta Co-operative Fonds (1949 - Present). Records digitization is completed on an ongoing basis and new records are always being added to the online database at archives.ufa.com. Select UFHS collections were added to Alberta on Record, a communal database for archival institutions in Alberta operated by the Archives Society of Alberta.

60 reference requests were supported in 2024, including inquiries for information and images from various UFA departments, agencies and farm stores, individual researchers, provincial government departments, and commercial publishers. Requests for reference services continue to increase each year.

2 Outreach

UFHS hosts an active blog, YouTube account, and continues to build its social media presence on Facebook and LinkedIn. Unique shared content in 2024 included stories/videos on UFA community halls, UFA Farm Supply stores, the 115th anniversary of UFA, and participation in various community social media initiatives such as International Archives Week, Audiovisual Heritage Day, and Ask an Archivist Day.

Through pop-up community displays, UFHS showcased UFA history at Airdrie Ag Society's "Art of the Harvest," Pioneer Acres Annual Show, and the Airdrie Farm Store for Farmer's Day, among others. On Farmer's Day, provincial monuments were lit-up in green and orange including: The Calgary Tower and Reconciliation Bridge, Edmonton High Level Bridge, and Lethbridge City Hall. During Historic Calgary Week, UFHS presented on "115 Years of UFA Community Builders," and gave a Union Cemetery tour featuring UFA Premier Herbert Greenfield.

Ongoing work continued with the Alix Wagon Wheel Museum and Claresholm Museum on joint exhibitions: UFA and Women in Agriculture featuring the United Farm Women of Alberta and the "Famous Five."



Farmer's Day
at Airdrie Farm Store

3 Support

In 2024, UFHS received several unique donations to the archives including a Maple Leaf motor oil pump, a 1969 UFA calendar, and records from long-time retiring UFA employees.

UFHS initiated a member drive to build a membership base which will help with casino qualification. Being eligible for a casino will support raising operating funds, helping UFHS to continue preserving UFA's history. More details at unitedfarmershistoricalsociety.com/membership.

Focus for 2025 and Beyond

- Continue digitization projects and addition of records to the online database for public access.
- Launch a display on UFA history at Pioneer Acres in Irricana.
- Participate in Historic Calgary Week for the third year.
- Continue to facilitate student experiences through volunteer opportunities and student practicums.
- Provide virtual and in-person programming for UFA employees and community members.
- Collect relevant corporate and community records to help grow the UFHS holdings.
- Build society membership to UFHS and identify additional funding streams to support our mandate.
- And so much more!