United Farmers Historical Society

REPORT TO COMMUNITY

January – December 2025



UFHS practicum students, Mei and Joey

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 2025 on the inventory of our largest fonds - United Farmers of Alberta Co-operative Fonds (1949 - Present). An inventory of the Audiovisual Collection has been completed, as have several other Fonds including the Wetaskiwin Co-op Refineries and Unifarm collections. Digitization of records are 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.

61 reference requests were supported in 2025, including inquiries for information and images from various UFA departments, agencies and farm stores, individual researchers, provincial government departments, and commercial publishers.

Six volunteers and post-secondary practicum students assisted the archives in 2025 from various institutions including SAIT, Athabasca University and Mount Royal University. Students assist with various activities including digitization, collection inventories, engagement, and research.

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 2025 included stories/videos on Maple Leaf and UFA Petroleum, the Junior UFA, and participation in various community social media initiatives such as International Archives Week, Audiovisual Heritage Day, and Ask an Archivist Day.

Through community displays, UFHS showcased UFA history at Pioneer Acres and a pop-up display at the Strathmore Farm Store for Farmer's Day. On Farmer's Day, provincial monuments were lit-up in green and orange including: The Calgary Tower and Reconciliation Bridge, Lethbridge City Hall and the Alberta Legislature. During Historic Calgary Week, UFHS gave a tour and talk on "Farmers in the Oil Business."

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."

Several archives tours were given for new UFA employees, Petroleum Agents, summer students, and more.



Display at Pioneer Acres

3 Support

In 2025, UFHS received several unique donations to the archives including a 1971 Unifarm cookbook, 75th anniversary UFA clock, portraits of past UFA Presidents, and more. Please contact archives@ufa.com if you have an interesting donation you would like to discuss.

UFHS is building 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/supportus.

Focus for 2026 and Beyond



Legislature light up

- Continue digitization projects and addition of records to the online database for public access.
- Foster existing relationships we have formed; identify and develop new partnerships with similar institutions.
- Participate in Historic Calgary Week for the fourth 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!