



Finding Aid for

**HENRY FORD FARMS RECORDS, 1909-1950 (BULK 1922-1948)
Accession 445**

Finding Aid Published: November 2011



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OVERVIEW

REPOSITORY: Benson Ford Research Center
The Henry Ford
20900 Oakwood Blvd
Dearborn, MI 48124-5029
www.thehenryford.org
research.center@thehenryford.org

ACCESSION NUMBER: 445

CREATOR: Ford Motor Company

TITLE: Henry Ford Farms records

INCLUSIVE DATES: 1909-1950

BULK DATES: 1922-1948

QUANTITY: 2.4 cubic ft. and 1 oversize box

LANGUAGE: The materials are in English

ABSTRACT: Henry Ford acquired many farms in southeastern Michigan. He rented out the farms to employees and donated the produce grown on the farms to needy families. These records include financial and other records pertaining to the farms and those who lived on them.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

- ACCESS RESTRICTIONS:** The collection is open for research
- COPYRIGHT:** Copyright has been transferred to The Henry Ford by the donor. Copyright for some items in the collection may still be held by their respective creator(s).
- ACQUISITION:** Ford Motor Company donation, 1964
- PREFERRED CITATION:** Item, folder, box, accession 445, Henry Ford Farms records, Benson Ford Research Center, The Henry Ford
- PROCESSING INFORMATION:** Collection processed by Ford Motor Company Archives staff, May 1964.
- DESCRIPTION INFORMATION:** Original collection inventory list prepared and published by Ford Motor Company Archives staff in May 1964.
- Finding aid prepared by Elyssa Bisoski, November 2011, and published in November 2011.
- Finding aid prepared using Describing Archives: A Content Standard (DACS) and local guidelines.

HISTORICAL NOTE

In 1909, Henry Ford bought a tract of land in Dearborn, Michigan, near his boyhood home. He eventually acquired farm land throughout southeastern Michigan including land tracts in Belleville, Cherry Hill, and Macon, Michigan, and other places throughout Lenawee, Monroe, Washtenaw, and Wayne counties. Many small, family-sized farm houses were included in these land acquisitions. Henry Ford had the houses repaired, modernized, and furnished, and then rented them out to his employees. Ford donated most of the produce grown on the farms to needy families and individuals. Raymond C. Dahlinger served as the general superintendent of Henry Ford Farms, the official corporate name of the farms as a whole. On July 1, 1944, Henry Ford Farms was transferred to Ford Motor Company and thereafter considered an operating division of the company. Henry Ford Farms was not a profitable operation, forcing Ford Motor Company to later liquidate the farm land.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The bulk of the Henry Ford Farms records contain financial records including accounts payable ledgers, accounts receivable ledgers, check stubs, cost reports on canning vegetables, and checking account reports. The checking account reports document bills paid for by Henry Ford Farms including standard farm bills for utilities, animals, animal feed, veterinarian visits, tractors and implements as well as purchases of a more personal nature including suits, overcoats, shirts and other clothing for Henry Ford, rental house furnishings, and various acts of philanthropy. The records also contain motor vehicle certificates of title for automobiles used for Ford Motor Company experiments, which include records on sports cars owned by Edsel Ford and his son William Clay Ford; personnel records; produce records including records on distribution of produce to needy families; planting and harvesting reports; hand drawn maps illustrating location and acreage of crops; property records including a blue-line drawing of the Cherry Hill barn; farm house rental information; blueprints, installation manuals, operation manuals, and maintenance manuals for a private telephone exchange system created by the Automatic Electric Company for use at Henry Ford Farms; and Ford flour bags.

SUBJECT TERMS

Names, Personal and Corporate

Dahlinger, Raymond C., 1885-1969
Ford, Edsel, 1893-1943
Ford, Henry, 1893-1947
Ford, William Clay, 1925-
GTE Automatic Electric Incorporated
Ford Motor Company
Henry Ford Farms

Subjects

Automobiles--Registration and transfer
Farm management--Michigan
Housing--Michigan
Telephone
Ford Motor Company--Employees
Ford Motor Company--Finance
Henry Ford Farms--Employees

Geographic

Belleville (Mich.)
Cherry Hill (Mich.)
Dearborn (Mich.)
Macon (Mich.)

Genre and Form

Architectural drawings
Financial records

CONTAINER LIST

Box no.	Description
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Box 1

Henry Ford Farms, July 3, 1944 (Memos concerning the transfer and operation of Henry Ford Farms as a department of Ford Motor Company)

Check stubs

#193802-194141, Dearborn State Bank, 1931-1933

#194142-194516, Manufacturers, 1933-1935

#194517-194972, Manufacturers National Bank, 1935-1939

#194973-195446, Manufacturers, 1939-1944

House rentals

Box 2

Cost book (bound volumes)

1932-1936

1936-1944

1937-1947

1944-1947

Box 3

Machinery

Certificates of title, 1924-1934

American non-Ford, 1933-1947

“Foreign-make car records used for Ford Motor Company experimental,” 1936-1941
(bound volume)

Box 4

Personnel

Employment records (2 folders)

Minors

Status cards

Box 5

Invoices, 1929-1944 (16 folders)

Box 6

Produce

Costs and profits

Planting and harvest reports

Farm rotation for produce

Philanthropic distribution (2 folders)

Box 7 (oversize)

“Ford Soy Bean Flour” (flour bag)
“Ford Flour” (2 flour bags)
Specification books (4)
Blueprints of electrical switchboard