

A Guide to the Virginia Committee on Opportunities in Virginia Agriculture, Records, 1964-1969

Records, 1964-1969

1964-1969

A Collection in the Library of Virginia 40567

Library of Virginia

2003

History

Processed by: Paige Neal

Title Statement

A Guide to the Virginia Committee on Opportunities in Virginia Agriculture, Records, 1964-1969

Subtitle: Committee on Opportunities in Virginia Agriculture, Records,

Collection: 40567

Publication Statement

File size: 40 KB

Date: © 2003 By the Library of Virginia.

Publisher: Library of Virginia

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Profile Description

Creation: Machine-readable finding aid derived from Word. Created by Paige Neal 13 June 2003

Language Usage: Description is in English

Revision Description

Feb 14, 2004 PUBLIC "-//Library of Virginia//TEXT (US::Vi::vi00608::A Guide to the Virginia Committee on Opportunities in Virginia Agriculture, Records, 1964-1969)//EN" "vi00608.xml" converted from EAD 1.0 to 2002 by v1to02.xsl (sy2003-10-15).

Feb 27, 2004 converted to conform to eadVIVA.dtd by vivastrict.xsl

2014-01-08 Converted to schema conforming EAD by dtd2schema.vh.xsl.

Descriptive Summary

Accession number

40567

Language

English

Creator

Virginia Committee on Opportunities in Virginia Agriculture

Physical Characteristics

1 cubic foot

Physical Location

State Records Collections, Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services (Record Group 16)

Repository

Library of Virginia

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Use Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Acquisition Information

No acquisition information available.

Preferred Citation

Virginia Committee on Opportunities in Virginia Agriculture, Records, 1964-1969. Accession 40567, State Records Collection, The Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia.

Historical Information

The General Assembly of Virginia created the Commission of the Industry of Agriculture in 1962 to advise the Governor on the state of agriculture in Virginia and on a course of action to promote its development, to encourage and counsel persons, agencies, organizations and industries in implementing a development program. The Commission was also to work closely with agencies concerned with industrial development, coordinating efforts toward maximum farm and off-farm employment; to examine marketing procedures and new techniques for selling Virginia's farm products; and to devise plans for developing new markets for such products.

In 1966 Governor Mills E. Godwin, Jr., requested the Commission of the Industry of Agriculture to conduct a comprehensive study to determine "what the future holds for Virginia agriculture." The Commission subsequently created the Committee on Opportunities in Virginia Agriculture with the objectives of (1) evaluating the present position and future potential of agriculture in Virginia; (2) defining agriculture in relation to other facets of the economy; (3) identifying adjustment opportunities in agriculture; and (4) pointing out means for more efficient resource use (land, labor, water, and capital).

Eight task force groups were established to achieve these objectives: Dairy, Livestock, Poultry, Horses, Agronomic Crops, Horticulture Crops, Forest Products, and General Resources. The membership consisted of key leaders representing all facets of the industry of agriculture and the task forces conducted two years of intensive research, which concluded in a final report to the Governor in 1969.

Scope and Content Information

The records in this collection were assembled by T. Edward Temple, who served as the chairman of the General Resources Task Force, which was one of the task forces of the Committee on Opportunities in Virginia Agriculture. Mr. Temple was also the Director of the Division of Planning and Community Affairs. The General Resources Task Force was sub-divided into six study groups: Capital and Credit Study Committee; Education Study Committee; Land Assessment Study Committee; Public Services Study Committee; Soil Resources Study Committee; and Water in Agriculture Study Committee. The majority of the records relate to the study committees of the General Resources Task Force, but the collection also includes general records from several of the other task forces. Records include correspondence, minutes, reports, statistical compilations and publications.

Contents List

General Resources Task Force - Correspondence, 1968 Feb-Sep

Box 1

Folder 1

General Resources Task Force - Correspondence, 1968 Oct-Nov

Box 1

Folder 2

General Resources Task Force - Correspondence, 1969

Box 1

Folder 3

General Resources Task Force - Capital and Credit Study Committee, 1967

Box 1

Folder 4

General Resources Task Force - Capital and Credit Study Committee, 1968-1969

Box 1

Folder 5

General Resources Task Force - Education Study Committee, 1967

Box 1

Folder 6

General Resources Task Force - Education Study Committee, 1968

Box 1

Folder 7

General Resources Task Force - Land Assessment Study Committee, 1968

Box 1

Folder 8

General Resources Task Force - Public Services, 1968-1969

Box 1

Folder 9

General Resources Task Force - Water in Agriculture Study Committee, 1967

Box 1

Folder 10

General Resources Task Force - Water in Agriculture Study Committee, 1968

Box 1

Folder 11

General Resources Task Force - Miscellaneous publications, 1964-1969

Box 1

Folder 12

Argonomic Task Force - Report, 1967

Box 1

Folder 13

Forest Products Task Force - Report, 1968

Box 1

Folder 14

Horse Industry Task Force - Study, 1968

Box 1

Folder 15

Consolidated State Report (preliminary draft), 1969

Box 1

Folder 16