

**Louth County Committee of Agriculture (and Technical Instruction) Archives, 1901 - 1985**

**Repository Code:** IE LHA  
**Collection Reference Code:** LCCA/  
**Title:** Louth County Committee of Agriculture (and Technical Instruction) Archives  
**Dates:** 1901 – 1985  
**Level of Description:** Fonds  
**Extent:** 22 items  
**Name of Creator(s):** Louth County Committee of Agriculture

**Admin/Biographical History:** After the passing of the Agricultural and Technical Instruction Act of 1898 the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction was set up in 1900. One of its functions was the administration of the Board of Education grant-in-aid for technical and scientific instruction, along with responsibility for several colleges. At its fourth quarterly meeting in 1901 Louth County Council adopted the Agricultural and Technical Instruction Acts 1889-1899. Dundalk Urban District Council and Drogheda Corporation were already implementing technical instruction and levying a rate of one penny in the pound in respect of this. This was the start of the vocational education system which began as a county committee but soon Drogheda formed its own committee, leaving Dundalk and the remainder of the county to have a separate committee. It was at the March 1901 meeting that the Council established a committee under the Agricultural and Technical Instruction Acts with the objective of appointing a secretary to deal with the agricultural function. However, it wasn't until April 1902 that the Department of Agriculture approved the appointment of a secretary – Mr JW Horan – to the county committee of agriculture. The secretary also had the duty of inspector under the Fertilisers and Feedstuffs Acts. At the June 1902 council meeting all elected members of the County Council in addition to an ex-officio member, Colonel Jones, were designated as the county committee of agriculture and technical instruction.

'Local authorities were given the power to levy rates on agricultural land to finance county committees of agriculture which, in turn, were obliged to provide technical instruction to young farmers and to stimulate rural industry' (www.teagasc.ie). Agricultural education was also encouraged in the national school system. The Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction financed the training of agricultural instructors employed by the county committees and day classes were often provided to farmers during the winter months, however, over time evening classes became more popular. In addition to the county committee engaging with technical instruction in agriculture, it was also engaged in schemes relating to horticulture, soft fruit growing, butter making, poultry keeping, cottage and small farm prize schemes, food production schemes, livestock and poultry station schemes, horse breeding scheme, cattle breeding scheme, swine breeding scheme, agricultural shows and local exhibitions. The Committee's schemes in operation in 1949-50 (see LCCA/002) included instruction in agriculture; horticulture and bee-keeping; potato development; poultry development;

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poultry stations scheme; cow testing scheme; cattle breeding scheme; and a pig breeding scheme.

In 1980, a new semi-state training and advisory organisation called ACOT (An Chomhairle Oiliúna Talamhaíochta – Council for Development in Agriculture) was established for farmers. Then, 'in 1988, Teagasc, the Agriculture and Food Development Authority, was established as the national agency with overall responsibility for the provision of research, training and advisory services to the agriculture industry. It subsumed the training functions of the national advisory and training body (ACOT). The rationale for this was that considerable benefit could be derived from the co-ordination and integration of the training service with the research and advisory services' ([www.teagasc.ie](http://www.teagasc.ie)).

<b>Archival History:</b>	The series of minute books (reference LCCA/MB/) in this collection were probably originally held in the county committee of agriculture's secretary's office which was in the Courthouse, Dundalk, as this is stamped on some of the minute books. In 2001, the minute books were transferred from the Teagasc offices, Dublin Road, Dundalk to Louth County Archives Service. The series of annual reports were donated by Noel Ross in 2001 and 2006 (reference LCCA/001/) and the report on schemes in operation during 1949-50 (reference LCCA/002) was transferred from Louth County Council's archival collection in 2006.
<b>Scope and Content:</b>	The collection consists largely of a series of minute books dating from 1901 - 1985, several annual reports dating from 1969, 1979, 1980 and 1985, and one report of schemes in operation during 1949-50.
<b>Subject index:</b>	Agriculture; Education
<b>Accruals:</b>	No further accruals are currently expected.
<b>System of Arrangement:</b>	The collection is arranged by record type into two series and one item: minute books, annual reports, and a report on schemes in operation during 1949-50. Within each series, the collection is arranged chronologically.
<b>Conditions of Access:</b>	Open Access, by appointment
<b>Conditions Governing</b>	
<b>Reproduction:</b>	Bound volumes cannot be photocopied. Contact Archives staff regarding alternative means of copying. Items may be subject to copyright.
<b>Language/Script of Material:</b>	English
<b>Physical Characteristics:</b>	Bound volumes, paper. Good condition.
<b>Technical Requirements:</b>	Careful handling required
<b>Finding Aids:</b>	Descriptive list can be found on on-line catalogue available at <a href="http://www.louthcoco.ie">http://www.louthcoco.ie</a>

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**Existence & Location of Originals:** Louth County Archives Service  
**Existence & Location of Copies:** Some digitised documents may occasionally be found on  
<http://www.louthcoco.ie>

### **Related Material:**

Louth County Archives Service: IE LHA PP00293/ Louth Tillage & Fertiliser Schemes

Louth County Archives Service: IE LHA LCC/ Louth County Council

Louth County Archives Service: IE LHA DUDC/ Dundalk Urban District Council

Louth County Archives Service: IE LHA DBC/ Drogheda Borough Corporation

### **Publications:**

O'Sullivan, Harold, *A History of Local Government in the County of Louth* (IPA, Dublin 2000), pp42-43, 55

**Repository Home Page:** <http://www.louthcoco.ie>

**Source Material:** <http://www.louthcoco.ie>

**Date of Description:** 2010 by Lorraine A McCann, Louth County Archives Service

### **Level Headings:**

**Fonds:** LCCA/  
Louth County Committee of Agriculture (and Technical Instruction), 1901-1985, 22 items

**Series 1:** LCCA/001/  
Annual reports, 1969, 1979, 1980, 1985, 4 items

**Item:** LCCA/002  
Louth County Committee of Agriculture report on schemes in operation, 1949 – 1950, 1 item

**Series 2:** LCCA/MB/  
Minute Books, 1901-1985, 17 items

## Descriptive List

### Louth County Committee of Agriculture (and Technical Instruction), 1901 – 1985, 22 items

LCCA/

Louth County Committee of Agriculture (and Technical Instruction)

1901 – 1985

22 items

LCCA/001/

Annual reports

1969, 1979, 1980, 1985

4 items

LCCA/001/001

Annual Report for 1969. Provides a list of members of the committee and includes reports and information on the following: farming in Louth, education and the farmer, agricultural statistics, field experiments and demonstrations, cereal growth in County Louth, cattle and beef in County Louth, pig keeping in County Louth, sheep production, progress report on the quality milk campaign for Lough Egish Co-Operative Creamery, the potato crop in County Louth, seed potato development (subsidy) scheme, horticulture, soft fruit growing, commercial vegetables, french beans, gross margin for strawberry production, strawberry runner propagation, the use of polythene for protected cropping, the use of irrigation for protection of horticultural crops, report on pilot growing, environmental horticulture, report on horticulture tour of Scotland and England, poultry keeping, farm home management, a list of schemes operated by the committee (small farm (incentive) bonus scheme, cattle breeding scheme, pig breeding scheme, black-face mountain sheep breeding scheme, seed potato development subsidy scheme, scheme of subsidies to agricultural societies, shelter belt scheme, commercial vegetable plants, orchard plots scheme, soft fruits scheme, beekeeping grants, special fruit tree scheme, poultry stations scheme, and poultry development scheme), scholarship to boys and girls, useful information for farmers and a list of departmental leaflets.

1969

144pp

LCCA/001/002

Annual report for 1979. Provides a list of members of the committee, members of staff, a report on the work of the committee in 1979, a note on Mr Philip E McEnroe who retired and various reports and information on topics under agriculture, horticulture, farm home management, poultry, schemes and a section on useful information for farmers. Contains some photographs in black and white. Cover picture of the Market Square in Ardee showing the old Market House and Foster Monument.

1979

84pp

LCCA/001/003

Annual report for 1980 for both the County Louth Committee of Agriculture and An Chomhairle Oiliúna Talmhaíochta (Council for Development in Agriculture). Provides a list of members of the committee, members of staff, a report on the work of the committee in 1980, tribute to work of county committees of agriculture, reports on the district planning committees, county training and development programme and the functions of ACOT. Various reports and information on topics under educational activities, farming in 1980,

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cereal variety trials, recommended list of cereal varieties, various schemes, a section on useful information for farmers and a list of leaflets and brochures. Contains some photographs in black and white.

1980

48pp

LCCA/001/004

Annual report for 1985 for both the County Louth Committee of Agriculture and An Chomhairle Oiliúna Talmhaíochta (Council for Development in Agriculture). Provides a list of members of the committees and members of staff, reports on the work of ACOT and on the work of the County Committee of Agriculture in 1985, the 1985 advisory programme, summary of the 1986 advisory programme, agricultural education, dairying in Co Louth, drystock marketing, silage, breed differences for beef production, sheep survey 1985 in South Louth, sheep enterprise on the farm of Mr Anthony McShane, Carlingford, winter sheering of sheep, tillage crops combinable alternative crops, fodder beet – an alternative crop, the response of spring barley to zinc application in the Dundalk area, horticulture, socio economics: ownership transfer – what is involved, schemes operated by the Committee of Agriculture in 1985, a section on useful information for farmers and a list of leaflets and brochures. Contains some photographs in black and white.

1985

36pp

LCCA/002

Louth County Committee of Agriculture report in connection with schemes in operation in 1949 and schemes adopted for 1950, compiled by RA Mclvor, Chief Agricultural Officer.

Includes reports from the chief agricultural officer, Mr James Harney instructor in horticulture and bee-keeping, Mr T Gleeson potato inspector, and Miss R Grehan instructor in poultry keeping and butter-making. Also provides information on the feeding and management of poultry; a lecture by Professor Sheehy on some recent advances in the knowledge of poultry nutrition; a lecture by Professor W Kearney on the maintenance of healthy poultry; a list of the names and addresses of approved hen station-holders and turkey station-holders (p70-71) for 1950; information on the cow-testing scheme; a list of names and addresses of owners of premium bulls standing for service under the cattle breeding scheme along-with name of bull, breed, age, and value of premium; a list of names and addresses of owners of premium boars under the pig breeding scheme along-with name of boar, breed, and age; and a list of the department's leaflets.

1949 – 1950

81pp

LCCA/MB/

Minute Books

1901 – 1985

17 items

LCCA/MB/001

Minute book

01 Mar 1901 - 29 Jun 1903

1 item

LCCA/MB/002

Minute book

29 Jun 1903 - 09 Jul 1906

1 item

LCCA/MB/003

Minute book

06 Aug 1906 - 07 Feb 1910

1 item

LCCA/MB/004

Minute book

07 Mar 1910 - 06 Nov 1911

1 item

LCCA/MB/005

Minute book

09 Oct 1911 - 02 Jun 1919

1 item

LCCA/MB/006

Minute book

07 Jul 1919 - 02 Jun 1924

1 item

LCCA/MB/007

Minute book

07 Jul 1924 - 06 Mar 1928

1 item

LCCA/MB/008

Minute book

09 Dec 1930 - 03 Jun 1933

1 item

LCCA/MB/009

Minute book

10 Jul 1933 - 30 Aug 1937

1 item

LCCA/MB/010

Minute book

13 Jul 1937 - 17 Dec 1945

1 item

LCCA/MB/011

Minute book

21 Jan 1946 - 22 Oct 1951

1 item

LCCA/MB/012

Minute book

19 Nov 1951 - 16 Sep 1957

1 item

LCCA/MB/013  
Minute book  
21 Oct 1957 - 17 Jan 1966  
1 item

LCCA/MB/014  
Minute book  
18 Apr 1966 - 17 Nov 1969  
1 item

LCCA/MB/015  
Minute book  
03 Oct 1969 - 03 Jul 1974  
1 item

LCCA/MB/016  
Minute book  
09 Jul 1974 - 07 Nov 1978  
1 item

LCCA/MB/017  
Minute book  
08 Jan 1979 - 10 Nov 1985  
1 item