

Tomato Clubs ^[1]

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McFarlan Club girls, Anson County, picking cotton, 1927. Image courtesy of North Carolina State University Libraries Special Collections Research

by Marilyn Wright, 2006Center.

^[2]

Tomato clubs, promoting the involvement of young girls in finding ways to increase the production of agricultural crops, were started by the [North Carolina Department of Agriculture](#) ^[3] in 1911 at the prompting of the [U.S. Department of Agriculture](#) ^[4]. Each tomato club member was challenged to grow and can as many tomatoes as she could on one-tenth of an acre of land. Girls in [Guilford County](#) ^[5] started tomato clubs through the efforts of educator [Jane S. McKimmon](#) ^[6], who held canning club "short courses" at [Elon College](#) ^[7] and [Peace Institute](#) ^[8], teaching the proper methods of sterilizing and sealing cans. By 1916 thousands of cans of tomatoes and other foods had been produced. McKimmon's efforts eventually led to a vigorous network of 4-H Clubs across the state.

Additional Resources:

Tomato Clubs, The History of Home Demonstration and 4-H Youth Development in NC, North Carolina State University: http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/specialcollections/greenngrowing/essay_tomato_clubs.html ^[9]

Finding Aid of the Jane S. McKimmon Papers, North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, Office of Archives & History

Image Credit:

McFarlan Club girls, Anson County, picking cotton, 1927. Image courtesy of North Carolina State University Libraries Special Collections Research Center. Available from <http://d.lib.ncsu.edu/collections/catalog/0001052> ^[2] (accessed August 28, 2012).

Subjects:

[N.C. Industrial Revolution \(1900-1929\)](#) ^[10]

[Great Depression \(1929-1941\)](#) ^[11]

[World War II \(1941-1945\)](#) ^[12]

[Post War 20th Century \(1946-2000\)](#) ^[13]

[21st Century \(2001-present\)](#) ^[14]

[Agriculture](#) ^[15]

[Food and drink](#) ^[16]

Authors:

[Wright, Marilyn](#) ^[17]

Origin - location:

[Guilford County](#) ^[18]

From:

[Encyclopedia of North Carolina, University of North Carolina Press.](#) ^[19]

1 January 2006 | Wright, Marilyn

Links

[1] <https://www.ncpedia.org/tomato-clubs> [2] <http://d.lib.ncsu.edu/collections/catalog/0001052> [3] <http://www.ncagr.gov/> [4] <http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome> [5] <https://www.ncpedia.org/geography/guilford> [6] <https://www.ncpedia.org/biography/mckimmon-jane> [7] <https://www.ncpedia.org/elon-university> [8] <https://www.ncpedia.org/peace-college> [9] http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/specialcollections/greenngrowing/essay_tomato_clubs.html [10] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/subjects/nc-industrial-rev> [11] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/subjects/great-depression-> [12] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/subjects/world-war-ii> [13] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/subjects/post-war-20th-cen> [14] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/subjects/21st-century-2001> [15] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/subjects/agriculture> [16] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/subjects/food> [17] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/authors/wright-marilyn> [18] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/origin-location/piedmont-4> [19] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/entry-source/encyclopedia->