

## **Tomato Clubs** <sup>[1]</sup>

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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.

<sup>[2]</sup>

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](#) <sup>[3]</sup> in 1911 at the prompting of the [U.S. Department of Agriculture](#) <sup>[4]</sup>. 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](#) <sup>[5]</sup> started tomato clubs through the efforts of educator [Jane S. McKimmon](#) <sup>[6]</sup>, who held canning club "short courses" at [Elon College](#) <sup>[7]</sup> and [Peace Institute](#) <sup>[8]</sup>, 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](http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/specialcollections/greenngrowing/essay_tomato_clubs.html) <sup>[9]</sup>

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> <sup>[2]</sup> (accessed August 28, 2012).

### **Subjects:**

[21st Century \(2001-present\)](#) <sup>[10]</sup>

[Agriculture](#) <sup>[11]</sup>

[Food and drink](#) <sup>[12]</sup>

[Great Depression \(1929-1941\)](#) <sup>[13]</sup>

[N.C. Industrial Revolution \(1900-1929\)](#) <sup>[14]</sup>

[Post War 20th Century \(1946-2000\)](#) <sup>[15]</sup>

[World War II \(1941-1945\)](#) <sup>[16]</sup>

### **Authors:**

[Wright, Marilyn](#) <sup>[17]</sup>

### **Origin - location:**

[Guilford County](#) <sup>[18]</sup>

### **From:**

[Encyclopedia of North Carolina, University of North Carolina Press.](#) <sup>[19]</sup>

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**Source URL:** <https://www.ncpedia.org/tomato-clubs>

### **Links**

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<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](http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/specialcollections/greenngrowing/essay_tomato_clubs.html) [10] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/subjects/21st-century-2001> [11] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/subjects/agriculture> [12] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/subjects/food> [13] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/subjects/great-depression-> [14] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/subjects/nc-industrial-rev> [15] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/subjects/post-war-20th-cen> [16] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/subjects/world-war-ii> [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->