

Essex Sound and Video Archive

Sources on Agriculture



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Essex Sound and Video Archive Sources on Agriculture

This guide to the collection has been produced to assist searchers who are looking for sound and video recordings on the subject of agriculture. Before ordering any of the items listed below, consult the tape summaries on the Essex Record Office catalogue database SEAX to make sure that this is the right recording for your needs. Video recordings are indicated by italics.

There is a tape entitled **100 Years of Essex Farming** (ref: SA 24/1905/1) consisting of extracts from recordings in the collection illustrating the range of sources on agriculture, together with a commentary giving the context of each extract.

1) Farm Workers

	Reference
Alphamstone and Henny: memories of looking after sheep - hours and wages; lambing; market; size of workforce on farm	SA 17/786/1
Bardfield: straw plaiting; 'thrashing'; hours of work; Harvest Festival and farmers' 'Horkey'; description of harvest - piece work, all work done by hand	SA 17/785/1
Billericay: detailed account of farm work in Highwood - harvesting wheat, potatoes, peas, driving livestock to market; harvest festivals; folklore sayings for weather forecasts	SA 24/565/1
Bulmer: farm work; hours; wages	SA 17/794/1
Burnham: farm hand; gardener	SA 5/382/1
Burnham: fruit picking; farm work; cattle markets and droving; local shoot beating; steam ploughing	SA 5/383/1
Burnham: harvesting, sheaving, stacking and thatching	SA 5/387/1
Burnham: harvesting wheat; hours and wages	SA 5/377/1
Chelmsford: dairy trade and farming	SA 7/363/1
The Chignalls: farm labourer and smallholder	SA 1/14/1
Chrishall: farms and houses; helping with harvest as a boy; farmwork, disagreement with farmer	SA 24/1598/1
Clavering: agricultural workers	SA 6/288/1
Crockleford Heath: horticultural and agricultural work	SA 8/1074/1
Dedham and Brightlingsea: agricultural work, village life and the Essex landscape.	SA 42/2/1
Elmstead: work in agriculture – clover seed; horse ploughing; steam ploughing	SA 8/997/1
East Bergholt: farming - working conditions on farm, stone picking, gleaning, rook scaring when a child	SA 12/533/1
Great Bentley: horsemen on farm	SA 12/509/1
Great Burstead: agricultural labourer	SA 3/406/1
Great Tey: work as farm labourer from 1925; brief description of method of working steam ploughs	SA 12/574/1
Kelvedon: farms in Kelvedon area; agricultural work	SA 44/1/4/1

Navestock: farm worker and market gardener; doing jobs appropriate to the weather; memories of old local farmer; rhyme about weather and farmers names; scatological story about scything; machinery in farming; names of different grasses and wild flowers and herbs in his meadow; chemicals in farming; yields of wheat and potatoes before chemicals	SA 24/822/1
Rettendon: farming since 1930's; ploughing; harvesting; threshing; supervision of agricultural work by German Prisoners-of-War from Rawreth Camp	SA 24/488/1
Salcott: farming, village life and changes to the landscape.	SA 42/1/1
Steeple Bumpstead: working on thrashing machine	SA 17/798/1
Thorpe-le-Soken: agricultural labourer	SA 12/512/1
West Bergholt: work as a farm worker and village life	SA 42/3/1
Wickham St. Paul: farm work; harvest	SA 17/793/1

2) Farmers

	Reference
Basildon: farming before the New Town	SA 3/415/1
<i>Belchamp Walter: farming; management of farms</i>	<i>VA 5/2/1</i>
Bowers Gifford and Wickford: Saddlers Farm, Bowers Gifford; Wickford Hall Farm; location of other farms in area; names of farmers and landowners; 19th century farming slump and development of plotlands; Darby Engineering of Wickford - agricultural machinery; droving cattle and sheep to Wickford market; chicken markets; farming at Bowers Gifford in young days - work, wages, farmhands	SA 3/523/1
Brigadier Vaizey: Tilbury Hall; agriculture; agricultural workers strike at Ridgewell 1914	SA 24/1002/1
Bures: experiences as a farmer in Bures, about village life and the Essex landscape.	SA 42/4/1
The Chignalls: changes in family farming since 1866; record of farm produce since 1866; changes in crops grown and their purpose	SA 1/15/1
East Bergholt; farming and scrap metal dealing	SA 12/533/1
<i>Gestingthorpe: agriculture during WWII; mechanisation</i>	<i>VA 5/3/1</i>
Great Chesterford: poor state of farm buildings; derelict land; crops; chickens; pigs; dairy cows; slaughterhouse in village; thatching stacks; size of farm; heavy land; rabbits and myxomatosis; Saffron Walden farmers' market; topology of farm; combine harvester; women gleaning for chickens; names of farms and farmers	SA 18/923/1
Ingatestone and Hutton: farming; half-yearly payment of rents; crops; number of farm workers; first tractor; farming depression; WWII - local War Agricultural Committee	SA 8/1754/1
Intensive egg production	SA 1/1089/1
Kelvedon: father came from Scotland in 1896 to rent Allshots farm; first farmer in area; family financial crisis in 1908; variety of crops grown, escalation of barley prices during WWI; rabbiting and local game-keepers	SA 12/564/1

Lee Chapel and Langdon Hills: farms	SA 3/416/1
Little Chesterford: Springwell Farm; livestock; local buyers; market in Saffron Walden; growing feedstuffs; farming methods; problems with rabbits	SA 18/912/1
<i>Long Melford [Suffolk]: pedigree livestock; changes in livestock farming; 'Essex pig' breed; showing livestock at agricultural shows</i>	VA 5/2/1
Navestock: memories of old local farmer; rhyme about weather and farmers names	SA 24/822/1
Orsett: BBC Radio 4 recordings featuring Hew Watt, farmer.	SA 32
Saffron Walden: threshing machines; farm work in WWI	SA 24/1599/1
Shire horse breeding	SA 1/903/1
Sir John Ruggles-Brise: farm in Canada; family farming and seed merchants business - agricultural depression and financial crisis in late 1920's leading to move to Spains Hall	SA 13/4/5/1
Southend: horse transport	SA 20/1568/1
Stock: influx of Scottish farmers into area	SA 13/598/1
Tolleshunt Major: father was miller and farmer at Parsonage Farm; description of mill and farm	SA 12/539/1
Vange: farms worked by grandfather and father	SA 3/419/1
Wickford: Glebe Farm; work on the farm; names of farms and farmers in locality	SA 3/528/1
Lodge Farm, Nazeing: interview with owner: family's farming background; different uses of land; changes in farming practices; reflections on future of farming in Britain	SA 61/1/1/1/1

3) Housing and Tied Cottages

	Reference
The Chignalls: decline in population and number of farm cottages	SA 1/15/1
Elmstead Market: description of tied cottage (part 1)	SA 8/994/1
Elmstead Market: description of tied cottage (part 2)	SA 8/995/1
Great Bentley: parents' tied house	SA 12/509/1
Great Chesterford: poor state of cottages and farm buildings	SA 18/923/1
Little Chesterford: King's Farm - description of farmhouse, which is a 17th century listed building	SA 18/911/1
Thorpe-le-Soken: description of house	SA 12/512/1

4) Women and Children

	Reference
Bradwell juxta Coggeshall: attitudes and ideas of a farmer's wife	SA 1/174/1
Chishall: helping father on the farm	SA 24/1603/1
Colchester: working in the fields - hours, wages	SA 8/1453/1
Crockleford Heath: horticultural and agricultural work	SA 8/1074/1
Crop Spraying: experiences as a farm worker, particularly re.chemical crop spraying.	SA 42/5/1
Dedham: Women working on rhubarb and potatoes; Landgirls; women workers - piece work; women worked	SA 42/2/1

harder on piece rate	
Finchingfield: gleaning for chickens	SA 17/779/1
Great Chesterford: work on farm: women gleaning for chickens	SA 18/923/1
Mountnessing: pea picking	SA 13/586/1

5) Harvest and Horkey

	Reference
Account, in Essex dialect, of harvest time as it was a century ago	SA 6/304/1
Bardfield: Harvest Festival and farmers' 'Horkey'	SA 17/785/1
Billericay: harvesting wheat, potatoes, peas	SA 24/565/1
Bishops Stortford [Herts.]: helping with the harvest	SA 24/1600/1
Burnham: harvesting wheat - hours and wages	SA 5/377/1
Chrishall: helping with harvest as a boy	SA 24/1598/1
Elmstead Market: harvesting and haymaking	SA 8/995/1
Finchingfield: 'Horkey' - harvest feast	SA 17/779/1
Great Chesterford: harvest supper at Old Maltings	SA 18/915/1
Itinerant tool grinding	SA 5/378/1
Rettendon: harvesting; threshing	SA 24/488/1
Southend: haymaking and harvest; food and beer for harvest workers	SA 20/1568/1
Wickham St. Paul: description of harvest	SA 17/793/1

6) Livestock

	Reference
Brightlingsea live animal exports protests (1) 1995	SA 1/1711/1
Brightlingsea live animal exports protests (2) 1995	SA 1/1712/1
Brightlingsea live animal exports protests (4) 1995	SA 1/1714/1
Brightlingsea live animal exports protests (7) 1995	SA 1/1717/1
<i>Cattle farming (pedigree Holstein Friesians) at Buntings Farm, Pentlow</i>	VA 5/3/1
Cattle markets and droving	SA 5/383/1
Driving livestock to market	SA 24/565/1
Droving cattle and sheep to Wickford market; chicken markets	SA 3/523/1
Farming in Great Chesterford: chickens; pigs; dairy cows; slaughterhouse in village; Saffron Walden farmers' market; kept goats for own use	SA 18/923/1
Frogs, pigs and deer	SA 1/1697/1
Intensive egg production	SA 1/1089/1
Lady Dorothy Ashton: breeding of 'Essex Pig'	SA 2/2/1/1
Livestock farming in Little Chesterford: local buyers; market in Saffron Walden; growing feedstuffs; farming methods	SA 18/912/1
<i>Pedigree livestock; changes in livestock farming; 'Essex pig' breed; showing livestock at agricultural shows</i>	VA 5/2/1
Reopening of Chelmsford Cattle Market c.1950	SA 24/1280/1
Sheep farming: hours and wages; lambing; market; size of	SA 17/786/1

workforce on farm	
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7) Crops

	Reference
The Chignalls: record of farm produce since 1866; changes in crops grown and their purpose	SA 1/15/1
Gestingthorpe: attempt to grow Roman wheat variety	VA 5/3/1
Home grown Essex produce	SA 1/459/1
Kelvedon: seed growing industry and 'Kelvedon Wonder' pea	SA 1/134/1
Kelvedon: variety of crops grown, escalation of barley prices during WWI	SA 12/564/1
Navestock: yields of wheat and potatoes before chemicals	SA 24/822/1

8) Farm Equipment and Mechanisation

	Reference
Burnham: steam ploughing	SA 5/383/1
Crop Spraying: experiences as a farm worker, particularly re.chemical crop spraying.	SA 42/5/1
Elmstead and Colchester: steam ploughing	SA 8/997/1
Great Tey: steam ploughing	SA 12/574/1
Lindsell: changes to mechanised farming	SA 1/135/1
Mechanisation	SA 25/3/2/1
<i>Mechanisation during WWII; Roman farming tools</i>	<i>VA 5/3/1</i>
<i>Ploughing match; vintage tractors; threshing machine; stationary engines; ploughing with horses; modern tractors</i>	<i>VA 5/5/1</i>
Steeple Bumpstead: thrashing machine	SA 17/798/1
Threshing machines and engines	SA 24/1599/1
Tillingham: farm implements in museum	SA 1/147/1
Tractor collection	SA 1/1224/1
Interview with son of saddler: including details about harvest and paying harvest workers largesse	SA 59/1/102/1

9) Market Gardening, Smallholding and Fruit Farming

	Reference
<i>Bures: produce show 1995</i>	<i>VA 5/5/1</i>
Burnham: fruit picking	SA 5/383/1
<i>English Wine – featuring vineyard at Felsted</i>	<i>VA 3/8/2/1</i>
Fruit and supermarkets	SA 1/1090/1
<i>Hawkwell: commercial tomato growing</i>	<i>VA 3/8/11/1</i>
Home grown Essex produce	SA 1/459/1
Kelvedon: pea picking, fruit picking	SA 44/1/1/1
Kelvedon: pea and bean picking	SA 44/1/3/1
Laindon: dairy and family milk delivery business	SA 3/268/1
Lindsell: orchards	SA 1/135/1
Little Bromley: market gardening	SA 8/1752/1
Navestock: market gardening	SA 24/822/1
Nazeing: decline in market gardening	SA 1/136/1

White Colne: local fruit production	SA 1/152/1
White Colne: description of one year in the apple-growing industry	SA 1/153/1

10) Gamekeepers and Poaching

	Reference
Foulness: poaching and policing	SA 20/1560/1
Paul Channon, MP for Southend West	SA 20/1564/1
White Colne	SA 1/152/1

11) Strikes and Unions

	Reference
Agricultural strike of 1913	SA 12/567/1
Agricultural workers strike at Ridgewell, 1914	SA 24/1002/1
Agricultural Workers Union activities	SA 6/288/1
Ashdon: pre-1914 agricultural strike	SA 1/11/1

12) Natural History and Conservation

	Reference
Aphids	SA 1/1520/1
Bradwell juxta Coggeshall: changes in farming in the 20th century including conservation	SA 1/174/1
Chesterford Park	SA 18/912/1
Farmland birds	SA 1/1523/1
Great Chesterford: wild herbs and flowers	SA 18/923/1
Meadows	SA 1/1525/1
Navestock: Grasses, wild flowers and herbs in his meadow	SA 24/822/1
"Set-Aside"	SA 1/1165/1

13) Agriculture before 1939

	Reference
Agricultural strike of 1913	SA 12/567/1
"All Manner of What"	SA 6/304/1
Alphamstone and Henny	SA 17/786/1
Arcadia for All: a study of Essex plotlands	SA 3/307/1
Ashdon: pre-1914 agricultural strike	SA 1/11/1
Bardfield	SA 17/785/1
Billericay and Great Burstead from 1914	SA 3/406/1
Billericay: farming in Highwood 1916-1936	SA 24/565/1
Bowers Gifford and Wickford: farming	SA 3/523/1
Bulmer	SA 17/794/1
Burnham: farm work	SA 5/377/1
Burnham from 1912	SA 5/383/1
Burnham industry from 1922	SA 5/387/1
Chelmsford 1916-1922	SA 7/363/1
The Chignalls: farm labourer and smallholder since 1922	SA 1/14/1
The Chignalls: History and changes in family farming since	SA 1/15/1

1866; record of farm produce since 1866; changes in crops grown and their purpose	
Chrishall	SA 24/1598/1
Chrishall before 1920	SA 24/1603/1
Clavering: agricultural workers	SA 6/288/1
Colchester	SA 8/1453/1
Creeksea and Burnham from 1898	SA 5/382/1
Cressing Temple Farm	SA 24/1015/1
Crockleford Heath	SA 8/1074/1
Early life of Sir John Ruggles-Brise	SA 13/4/5/1
East Bergholt: farming and scrap metal dealing	SA 12/533/1
Elmstead Market (part 1)	SA 8/994/1
Elmstead Market (part 2)	SA 8/995/1
Elmstead Market (part 4)	SA 8/997/1
Finchingfield in the 1920s and 1930s	SA 17/779/1
Foulness: poaching and policing	SA 20/1560/1
Great Bentley from 1890	SA 12/509/1
Great Chesterford	SA 18/915/1
Great Chesterford: farming	SA 18/923/1
Great Chesterford: Memories of a village G.P.	SA 18/916/1
Great Tey: family life, work and wartime	SA 12/574/1
Hutton	SA 19/1052/1
Kelvedon farm from 1900	SA 12/564/1
Kelvedon: seed growing industry and 'Kelvedon Wonder' pea	SA 1/134/1
Laindon from 1919	SA 3/268/1
Lee Chapel and Langdon Hills, 1881-1940	SA 3/416/1
Leigh	SA 20/1556/1
Little Chesterford: farming	SA 18/912/1
Memories of Jack Bush	SA 24/1315/1
Mount Bures	SA 24/1617/1
Mountnessing from 1902	SA 13/586/1
Navestock	SA 24/822/1
Pitsea from the 1850s	SA 3/517/1
Recollections of Brigadier Vaizey	SA 24/1002/1
Rickling Rat and Sparrow Club	SA 13/718/1
Saffron Walden	SA 24/1599/1
Saffron Walden and Bishops Stortford [Herts.]	SA 24/1600/1
Southend: Horse transport	SA 20/1568/1
Steeple Bumpstead	SA 17/783/1
Steeple Bumpstead	SA 17/798/1
Steeple Bumpstead: Rural businesses	SA 17/780/1
Thorpe-le-Soken and Colchester from 1886	SA 12/512/1
Tillingham: marshes as childrens' playground before crops grown; account of farm implements now housed in a museum	SA 1/147/1
Tolleshunt Major from 1880	SA 12/539/1
Vange: middle-class life from 1910	SA 3/419/1
West Bergholt: Fiddlers Farm	SA 25/2/6/1
Wickford: farming life from 1900	SA 3/528/1

Wickham St. Paul	SA 17/793/1
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14) Agriculture during World War II

	Reference
Agricultural work by German prisoners-of-war	SA 24/488/1
<i>Agriculture during WWII</i>	<i>VA 5/3/1</i>
Conscientious objector: work on land; variety of agricultural work	SA 9/494/1
Dedham: farming; prisoners-of-war - comparison of Germans and Italians; Landgirls.	SA 42/2/1
Farming in Basildon before the New Town	SA 3/415/1
Ingatestone and Hutton: farming in wartime	SA 8/1754/1
Land Army work during World War II	SA 24/763/1
Little Bromley in wartime	SA 8/1752/1
Little Chesterford during WWII	SA 18/911/1

15) Agriculture since 1945

	Reference
Abess Roding; farming; 20th century changes	SA 1/173/1
Aphids	SA 1/1520/1
Ashdon: development post-1945	SA 1/111/1
<i>Belchamp Walter: farming; management of farms</i>	<i>VA 5/2/1</i>
Bradwell juxta Coggeshall: changes in farming in the 20th century including conservation	SA 1/174/1
Brightlingsea live animal exports protests (1) 1995	SA 1/1711/1
Brightlingsea live animal exports protests (2) 1995	SA 1/1712/1
Brightlingsea live animal exports protests (4) 1995	SA 1/1714/1
Brightlingsea live animal exports protests (7) 1995	SA 1/1717/1
Castle Hedingham: changes in farming practices	SA 1/197/1
Chelmsford Cattle Market Reopening c.1950	SA 24/1280/1
Cressing Temple Farm	SA 13/4/16/1
Cressing Temple Farm	SA 24/1014/1
Essex: the changing face of Essex	SA 1/300/1
Essex: home grown Essex produce	SA 1/459/1
Farmland birds	SA 1/1523/1
Frinton: veterinary surgeon	SA 1/29/1
Frogs, pigs and deer	SA 1/1697/1
Fruit and supermarkets	SA 1/1090/1
A German immigrant in Burnham	SA 5/371/1
Ingatestone: farming at Trueloves; breeding of 'Essex Pig'	SA 2/2/1/1
Intensive egg production	SA 1/1089/1
Lindsell: changes to mechanised farming	SA 1/135/1
<i>Long Melford [Suffolk]: pedigree livestock</i>	<i>VA 5/2/1</i>
Meadows	SA 1/1525/1
Nazeing: current decline in market gardening industry; planning pressure on open spaces and threats to rural independence	SA 1/136/1
Orsett: BBC radio programme 'On Your Farm' recorded on	SA 32/2/1

Hew Watt's farm, 1975.	
Orsett: BBC radio programme 'On Your Farm' featuring reminiscences and discussion of farming and public life by Hew Watt, Essex farmer, 1988.	SA 32/5/1
Osea Island: farming	SA 1/138/1
Paglesham: first job looking after animals on farm; hours; wages	SA 20/1124/1
<i>Pentlow: Cattle farming (pedigree Holstein Friesians)</i>	<i>VA 5/3/1</i>
"Set-Aside"	SA 1/1165/1
Shire horse breeder	SA 1/903/1
South Woodham Ferrers: Marsh Farm	SA 1/4/1
South Woodham Ferrers: Marsh Farm Country Park	SA 1/1109/1
Waltham Abbey Farm	SA 1/279/1
White Colne: local fruit production; changes in appearance of countryside	SA 1/152/1
Writtle Agricultural College Centenary Lecture, 1993: Hew Watt - 60 years of farming at home and abroad	SA 13/3/5/1

16) Miscellaneous

	Reference
Arcadia for All: a study of Essex plotlands	SA 3/307/1
<i>Bures and District Agricultural Club jubilee ploughing match and produce show 1995</i>	<i>VA 5/5/1</i>
Castle Hedingham: changes in farming practices	SA 1/197/1
The Chignalls: bomb in meadow at Chignal St James in WWII	SA 1/13/1
The Chignalls: bomb in meadow at Chignal St James in WWII	SA 1/14/1
China: BBC radio programme 'On Your Farm' including a report by Hew Watt on his recent visit to China, 1975	SA 32/3/1
A conscientious objector's farm work during World War II	SA 9/494/1
Cressing Temple Farm	SA 13/1419/1
Cressing Temple Farm (part 1)	SA 24/1014/1
Cressing Temple Farm (part 2)	SA 24/1015/1
Frinton veterinary surgeon	SA 1/29/1
Great Chesterford: farming	SA 18/923/1
Intensive egg production	SA 1/1089/1
Kelvedon – Tollesbury Light Railway: built to carry produce to London	SA 24/1012/1
Memories of a village G.P.	SA 18/916/1
Mount Bures: changes in farming methods	SA 24/1617/1
Osea Island: farming	SA 1/138/1
Pitsea: survey of agricultural depression in 19th century which led to selling of land into plots; names of farms	SA 3/517/1
Rickling Rat and Sparrow Club	SA 13/718/1
Rural businesses in Steeple Bumpstead	SA 17/780/1
South Woodham Ferrers: Marsh Farm	SA 1/4/1
South Woodham Ferrers: Marsh Farm Country Park	SA 1/1109/1
Uzbekistan: radio report on farming in Samarkand, 1971.	SA 32/1/1
Waltham Abbey Farm	SA 1/279/1

West Bergholt: Fiddlers Farm	SA 25/2/6/1
Work on farms in Scotland	SA 25/2/4/1
Yorkshire: ploughing with horses, broadcast sowing, stacking	SA 44/2/3/1

The Essex Sound and Video Archive is being added to all the time and there may be recordings on this subject that have been recently added to the collection. Please consult the Essex Record Office catalogue database SEAX for further references.

Cover photo:

Farm workers at Grey's Farm, Chignal Smealey, n.d.

(Ref: I/Mb 79/1/2)