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## Hofer/Loewen Family Papers

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# Hofer/Loewen Family Papers

## Collection Summary

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Identifier:	MA 101
Title:	Hofer/Loewen Family Papers
Creator:	Hofer, Ben F., 1926-2018
Dates:	1940-2018
Extent:	2.54 linear feet (1 Paige Miracle Box, 1 Newspaper Box) 1 photograph
Language:	English
Repository:	South Dakota State University Archives and Special Collections Hilton M. Briggs Library (SBL) Room 241, Box 2115 1300 North Campus Drive Brookings, SD 57007 Email: <a href="mailto:arcrefs@sdstate.edu">arcrefs@sdstate.edu</a> Phone: 605-688-5094
Access Note:	Open. This material does not circulate and may be used in-house only.
Preferred Citation:	Name of item, MA 101, box #, folder #, Hofer/Loewen Family Papers, South Dakota State University Archives and Special Collections, Hilton M. Briggs Library, Brookings, South Dakota.

## Abstract

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Records of the Ben F. Hofer family farm in Spink County, South Dakota (1949-2000). The collection consists of farm accounting records, material related to Hofer's 1996 campaign for the South Dakota State Senate, biographical material, and acreage measurements for Milford Township in Beadle County, South Dakota.

## Biographical Note

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BEN FRANK HOFER was born in Milford Township in Beadle County, South Dakota on August 16, 1926 to Josua and Anna Hofer.

He married Elsie Waldner in 1946. They farmed in Spink County, South Dakota. The Hofer's had three children, Lowell, Darla, and Rachel. Elsie died in 2000. In 2002, Ben married Agnes Glanzer Waldner.

Hofer was a grain and livestock farmer in Spink County, South Dakota. He was named Outstanding Young Farmer by the Redfield, South Dakota Jaycees in 1961.

As an agribusiness man Ben was active in the Spink County community. He served on the Spink County Pest and Weed Board, the Union Township Board, and as chairman of the Yale Board of Directors for the Farmers Elevator Cooperative. Hofer also served on the South Dakota Weed and Pest Commission.

In 1995, their daughter, Darla, and her husband, Harold Loewen, moved to the family farm. Ben and Elsie moved to Huron, South Dakota where he became a member of the Huron Area Chamber of Commerce and served on its Agriculture Committee and Consumer Awareness Committee.

In 1996, Hofer was a Republican candidate for the State Senate in District 21 for Beadle and Spink Counties in South Dakota. He lost to Democrat Charlie Flowers who had 64.78% of the votes to Hofer's 35.22%.

Ben was also active in the Bethel Mennonite Brethren Church in rural Yale, South Dakota. He served on various church committees, such as the Mennonite Aid Property Board. He also served on the Central District of Mennonite Brethren Churches Conference Board of Trustees as well as the Board of Youth and Evangelism.

Ben died on May 2, 2018.

## Contents Note

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This collection consists of farm accounting records, material related to Hofer's 1996 campaign for the South Dakota State Senate, biographical material, calendars, and acreage measurements for Milford Township in Beadle County, South Dakota.

The accounting records contain detailed information on farm operations for each year recorded on South Dakota State College Extension Farm and Ranch Record Books (1947-1949), National Farmers' Income Tax Record Books, Mitchell (South Dakota) Publishing Company (1950-1956, 1959), South Dakota State College Agricultural Extension Service Farm and Ranch Business Record Books (1957-1958, 1962-1966, 1968-1980), Doane Agricultural Digest Income and Expenditure Record Book (1960), Blackburn's farm and Ranch Bookkeeping Record Books (1961, 1967), South Dakota State University Cooperative Extension Service Account Books (1997-1999), and a Farm Credit Services Farm and Ranch Record Book (2000). Information includes an inventory of land, improvements, buildings and livestock; livestock fees and sales; machinery, equipment and automobile inventory and operating expenses; map of the farm and crop-system summary; crops raised and sold; inventory of feed, grain and supplies; cash receipts and expenses; summary of expenses including taxes and labor; capital purchases and sales; products used on the farm and a financial business analysis summary.

Other material in the collection is campaign material, consisting of advertising, newspaper clippings, posters, pamphlets, and a photograph; biographical material of Ben Hofer and his father, Josua; calendars noting daily appointments and events; and, acreage measurements for Milford Township in Beadle County, South Dakota compiled by Josua Hofer in 1940.

## Subject Headings

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- Farm management – Records and correspondence
- Political campaigns – South Dakota

## Conditions Governing Access

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## Container List

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<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date(s)</b>
1	1	Acreage Measurements for Milford Township in Beadle County, South Dakota	1940
1	2	1947 Farm and Ranch Record Book	1947
1	3	1948 Farm and Ranch Record Book	1948

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date(s)</b>
1	4	1949 Farm and Ranch Record Book	1949
1	5	1950 Farmers' Income Tax Record Book	1950
1	6	1951 Farmers' Income Tax Record Book	1951
1	7	1952 Farmers' Income Tax Record Book	1952
1	8	1953 Farmers' Income Tax Record Book	1953
1	9	1954 Farmers' Income Tax Record Book	1954
1	10	1955 Farmers' Income Tax Record Book	1955
1	11	1956 Farmers' Income Tax Record Book	1956
1	12	1957 Farm and Ranch Business Record Book	1957
1	13	1958 Farm and Ranch Business Record Book	1958
1	14	1959 Farmers' Income Tax Record Book	1959
1	15	1960 Income and Expenditure Record Book	1960
1	16	1961 Farm and Ranch Bookkeeping Record Book	1961
1	17	1962 Farm and Ranch Business Record Book	1962
1	18	1963 Farm and Ranch Business Record Book	1963
1	19	1964 Farm and Ranch Business Record Book	1964
1	20	1965 Farm and Ranch Business Record Book	1965
1	21	1966 Farm and Ranch Business Record Book	1966
1	22	1967 Farm and Ranch Bookkeeping Record Book	1967
1	23	1968 Farm and Ranch Business Record Book	1968
1	24	1969 Farm and Ranch Business Record Book	1969
1	25	1970 Farm and Ranch Business Record Book	1970
1	26	1971 Farm and Ranch Business Record Book	1971
1	27	1972 Farm and Ranch Business Record Book	1972
1	28	1973 Farm and Ranch Business Record Book	1973
1	29	1974 Farm and Ranch Business Record Book	1974
1	30	1975 Farm and Ranch Business Record Book	1975
1	31	1976 Farm and Ranch Business Record Book	1976
1	32	1977 Farm and Ranch Business Record Book	1977

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date(s)</b>
1	33	1978 Farm and Ranch Business Record Book	1978
1	34	1979 Farm and Ranch Business Record Book	1979
1	35	1980 Farm and Ranch Business Record Book	1980
1	36	1997 Farm and Ranch Account Book	1997
1	37	1998 Farm and Ranch Account Book	1998
1	38	1999 Farm and Ranch Account Book	1999
1	39	2000 Farm and Ranch Record Book	2000
1	40	Funeral Program	2018
1	41	Josua Hofer Biographical Material	1967, 2018
1	42	Natural Resources Development Corp., Redfield, South Dakota, share certificates and correspondence	1955, 1959
1	43	State Senate Campaign Advertising, Business Cards, Pamphlets, Photograph	1996
1	44	Photograph of Hofer Farm	1996
1	45	South Dakota International Harvester Dealers ad featuring Ben and Lowell Hofer	1983
1	46	History of Hofer Farm written by Elise Waldner	undated
2	1	State Senate Campaign Newspaper Clippings	1996-1997
2	2	State Senate Campaign Posters	1996
2	3	Calendars	1988-1994
2	4	Calendars	1995-1999
2	5	Calendars	2000-2005
2	6	Calendars	2006-2010
2	7	Calendars	2011-2013