

Gary Lemme Papers

Collection Summary

Identifier: UA 53.88

Title: Gary Lemme Papers

Dates: 1951-2021

Extent: 16.74 linear feet (4 record boxes, 2 card file boxes, 1 oversize box, 6 framed art pieces)

Creator: Lemme, Gary Dean

Language: English

Repository: South Dakota State University Archives & Special Collections, University Station, Box 2115, 1300 North Campus Drive, Brookings, South Dakota, 57007

Access Note: Open. Materials must be used in-house and do not circulate.

Preferred Citation: Title or description of item, date, UA 53.88, box number, folder number, Gary Lemme Papers, South Dakota State University Archives and Special Collections, Brookings, South Dakota.

Abstract

The Gary Lemme Papers document his career in agricultural education, research, and extension leadership from the 1970s to 2021. Lemme held key academic and administrative positions at South Dakota State University, Michigan State University, the University of Minnesota, and Auburn University, culminating in his tenure as Director of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System. The collection highlights his contributions to soil science, agronomy, and sustainable agriculture through publications, research initiatives, and extension programs. It includes awards, professional correspondence, international collaboration materials, and institutional records reflecting his leadership in agricultural policy,

conservation, and education. This collection provides insight into the development of extension services, land-grant university administration, and global agricultural outreach.

Biography

Gary Lemme, Ph.D. is a distinguished leader in agricultural education, research, and extension services with over 45 years of experience in academia and administration. A native of Kiester, Minnesota, he earned a B.S. in Agricultural Education (1974) and an M.S. in Agronomy (1975) from South Dakota State University (SDSU), followed by a Ph.D. in Agronomy from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (1979), where he focused on soil moisture and stratigraphy in loessial landscapes.

Lemme began his academic career as a faculty member at SDSU (1981–1990), where he taught and conducted research in soil science. During this time, he was recognized as the College of Agriculture and Biological Sciences' Teacher of the Year in 1986. He also held faculty and administrative roles at Michigan State University, where he served as Associate Director of the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station (1999–2005), and at the University of Minnesota, where he was Head of the West Central Research and Outreach Center (1992–1999). Additionally, he served as Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs at the University of Hawaii's College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (1990–1992).

In 2005, Lemme was appointed Dean of the College of Agriculture and Biological Sciences at SDSU. During his tenure, he oversaw a budget of over \$74 million, expanded research funding, and supported academic growth across 14 departments. He played a key role in forming interdisciplinary research collaborations and strengthening sustainable agriculture programs. He stepped down in 2008 but remained at SDSU as a professor and coordinator of special programs.

Lemme's leadership continued as Director of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System (ACES) from 2011 to 2021. He led the only joint 1862 and 1890 Land-Grant University Extension system in the U.S., overseeing more than 800 employees across Alabama A&M and Auburn University. Under his direction, ACES expanded outreach efforts, enhanced research-driven agricultural solutions, and secured funding to support rural development initiatives.

Throughout his career, Lemme has contributed significantly to agricultural research and education, publishing numerous peer-reviewed articles, and securing over \$2 million in grants and contracts. He has completed international assignments in 16 countries, focusing on agricultural sustainability and education. His contributions have been recognized with multiple

awards, including the USDA Group Honor Award for Excellence and the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture National Fellow Award.

Now serving as Extension Director Emeritus at Auburn University, Lemme remains committed to advancing agricultural education, research, and outreach programs that support the economic and environmental sustainability of rural communities.

Scope and Content

The **Gary Lemme Papers** document his extensive career in agricultural education, research, and extension services spanning over four decades. The materials reflect his academic contributions, leadership roles, and professional achievements at institutions such as South Dakota State University, Michigan State University, the University of Minnesota, and Auburn University.

The collection includes a diverse range of materials, including certificates, plaques, awards, and recognition from various organizations such as the Alabama Cooperative Extension System, USDA, and professional agricultural associations. His work in soil science and agronomy is represented through publications, research reports, and conference proceedings. Correspondence and thank-you letters provide insight into his professional relationships and collaborations.

Significant items in the collection include memorabilia from international agricultural programs, gifts from study exchanges, and materials related to his tenure as Dean of Agriculture at SDSU and Director of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System. Additional materials highlight his involvement in professional societies, student mentorship, and leadership in agricultural policy and conservation.

The collection also features personal items such as commemorative plaques, awards from organizations including Future Farmers of America and the Soil and Water Conservation Society, and academic records, including diplomas and commencement programs. Visual materials such as photographs, slides, and ledger art from Indigenous artists further enrich the collection, offering a comprehensive view of Lemme's contributions to agricultural education and global outreach.

Access Points

Subjects

- Agricultural education
- Soil science
- Sustainable agriculture
- Agricultural extension work
- Agriculture--Research

Names

- Lemme, Gary Dean

Genre

- Audio-visual materials
 - Photographs
 - Plaques, plaquettes
-

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open to all researchers, with materials accessible on-site only and not available for circulation.

For extensive research, scheduling an appointment in advance via phone or email is encouraged, including details about the research topic and intended use.

To access materials, researchers must complete and sign the Registration Form and provide proof of identity (e.g., University ID or driver's license). By signing, researchers agree to adhere to the Reading Room Rules. The registration document also includes guidelines on making copies of materials, correct referencing, and copyright obligations.

Conditions Governing Reproduction

South Dakota State University supports access to its collections, both published and unpublished. However, access to certain items may be restricted due to their fragile condition, donor agreements, or copyright.

Reproduction of materials is allowed for research purposes only, and written permission is required for publication or distribution.

Due to the delicate nature of some items, reproduction may be limited.

Copyright and Use Statement

In Copyright: This Item is protected by copyright and/or related rights. You are free to use this Item in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. For other uses, you need to obtain permission from the rights-holder(s).

Materials in this collection may be subject to Title 17, Section 108 of the United States Copyright Act. Users are responsible for ensuring compliance with copyright, privacy, publicity, trademark, and other applicable rights for their intended use. Obtaining all necessary permissions is the user's responsibility. Written authorization from the copyright and/or other rights holders is required for publication, distribution, or any use of protected materials beyond what is permitted under fair use.

Container List

Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)
1	1	Agronomy Club Teachers of the Year	1985 March 29, 1987 April 10
1	2	Alabama Cattlemen's Association Belt Buckle	undated
1	3	Alabama Conservation and Natural Resources	2011 October 1 to 2021 February 28
1	4	Alabama Soil and Water Conservation Committee	2011
1	5	Albania - USDA-Aid Study Group gifts	2015
1	6	Alltech Midwest - Thank you	2005
1	7	Animal Songs - The Law by Which We Live	2008
1	8	Association of Southern Region Extension Directors plaque	2017-2018
1	9	Atlas Des Parcs Nationaux Algerians	2006
1	10	Auburn University College of Agriculture Academy of Fellows certificate	2013 May 15
1	11	Bass Anglers Sportsman Society - Ray Scott Outdoors Commemorative Coin	undated
1	12	Belt Buckles - SDSU Steer for State and Celebrating 125 Years 1881-2005	2005

Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)
1	13	Commencement Programs - SDSU - Bachelor of Science and Masters Degrees	1974-1975
1	14	Commencement Programs - SDSU	1983-1984, 1986, 1988
1	15	Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service - USDA Recognition certificate	2000 June 5
1	16	Correspondence	1985-2003
1	17	Correspondence - Thank you letters	1991-1997
1	18	Dean of College of Agricultural and Biological Sciences	2005-2001
1	19	Diplomas - Bachelor of Science and Master's from SDSU	1974-1975
1	20	Dissertation: Moisture Content Related to the Stratigraphy of Loessal Landscapes of Southeastern Nebraska	1979
1	21	Drink coasters: Beef Bowl, SDSU Mascot	undated
1	22	Future Farmers of America (FFA) Agricultural Education - HAFFA Recognition plaque	1991
1	23	Future Farmers of America (FFA) - Hawaii Association Honorary State Farmer Honorary degree	1992 April 11
1	24	George Petrie Society of Auburn University certificate	2020 December
1	25	Gift from Guangzhou Ag College (South China Agricultural University)	1991
1	26	Guidelines for Running Surfer and Dig Programs	undated
1	27	Hobo Day - The Deans art Cooking! - mailer for Hobo Day activities	2007
1	28	Honorary 4-H Alumni from Stevens County 4-H plaque	1999
1	29	Horizons - South Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station Centennial 1887-1987	1987
1	30	Hurricane Michael Loss Summary Assessment Report	2018
1	31	International Arid Lands Consortium - Pen set	undated
1	32	MAES Associate Director Appointed Dean at SDSU news release	2005
1	33	Mass Exodus is indicated at Brookings	1951 April 11
1	34	Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station plaque	1999-2005
1	9	Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station farewell recognition guest book	2005 April 13
2	1	Michigan Crop Improvement Association plaque	1999-2002
2	2	Michigan State University Ag Club Advisor - Paper weight	1981
2	3	Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee - Resolution of Recognition	2005 March 9
2	4	Minnesota Wheat Producers - Plaque	1996-1999

Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)
2	5	Monumental testimony in Vuk Kanlekaj	2016
2	6	NASS Partner - Census of Agricultural medal	2007
2	7	National Association of Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture certificate	1984 June 19
2	8	National Holstein Convention pen set	2006
2	9	New SDSU Ag Dean Outlines Goal's for State's future	2005 June 16
2	10	Pocket Knife - Keltgen - Dr. Gary Lemme	1993
2	11	Photographs - Commencement at SDSU	2013
2	12	Photographs - Custer County, South Dakota	undated
2	13	Photographs and slides	1984, 2011, undated
2	14	Professional Soil Scientist Association of SD plaque	1990
2	15	Publications: Aggregate Stability of an Eroded and Desurfaced Typic Argiustoll	1991
2	16	Publications: Aquifer Contamination Vulnerability Maps - Lake Poinsett Quad. Pilot Program	1989 October
2	17	Publications: Bioterrorism Risk Management at Agricultural Experiment Stations	2002 February 5
2	18	Publications: Contamination vulnerability indexes: A water quality planning tool	1990 March-April
2	19	Publications: Corn production and soil erosion after sod on an eroded landscape as affected by tillage	undated
2	20	Publications: A Decision Case - Shifting Gears to Meet the Future	1994 July 8
2	21	Publications: Eastern South Dakota Soil and Water Research Farm - Soil Resources	1988 November
2	22	Publications: Effects of tillage systems and landscape on soil	1992
2	23	Publications: Erosion-Productivity Influence on Three Northwestern Corn Belt Mollisols	1987 December 15-18
2	24	Publications: Estimating Particle-size distribution function for glaciated soils of Minnesota, Ohio, and South Dakota	1979
2	25	Publications: Factors Affecting Soil Productivity on Eroded Soil	1992
2	26	Publications: Foreword in SDSU Journal of Undergraduate Research	2006
2	27	Publications: Herbage production on limestone soils in the Black Hills of South Dakota - Abstract	1989
2	28	Publications: Missouri River Front Soil Mosaic - map	1970s
2	29	Publications: Morphological and Soil Measurements for Determining Ecotypic Variation in Trifolium tembense Germplasm in the Ethiopian Highlands	1991 June

Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)
2	30	Publications: Northeast Research Farm: Soil Resources	undated
2	31	Publications: Organic Carbon in Soils of North Central United States	1985 May-June
2	32	Publications: Photography for Order 2 Soil Survey	1986 Fall
2	33	Publications: Past CRP Corn Production and Soil Erosion	1993
2	34	Publications: prescription Planning: An Approach to Nonpoint Pollution Problems	1990 March-April
2	35	Publications: Proceedings – Stress Symposia, Mechanisms, Responses, Management	1993
2	36	Publications: Realities of Management - Instruction	undated
2	37	Publications: Regionalization Workshop - New Strategies in Research, Teaching, and Extension	undated
2	38	Publications: Relationships Between Soil Series and Soil Nitrate Accumulation Within a Cultivated Landscape - Abstract	undated
2	39	Publications: Root Zone Limitations in a Desurfaced Typic Argiustoll - Abstract	undated
2	40	Publications: Soil Characteristics of a Mollisol and Corn (Zea Mays L.) Growth 20 Years After Topsoil Removal	1985
2	41	Publication: Soil Management Effects on Post-CRP Soil Loss and Productivity	1994
2	42	Publications: Soil Moisture Regimes and Pedologic Development in Late Wisconsin Glacial Till	1983
2	43	Publications: Soil Resources of Jesson's Farm Research Area - SE 1/4, Sec. 4, T.116N, R.63W, Spink County, South Dakota	1988 May
2	44	Publications: Till Thickness and Argillic Horizon Development in Some Michigan Hapludalfs	1973
2	45	Publications: Tillage and Landscape Position Effects on Crop Growth and New Return	1992-1993
2	46	Publications: Tillage Systems and Landscape Position Effects on Soil Properties	1992
2	47	Publications: Topsoil Depth and Desurfacing Effects on Properties and Productivity of a Typic Argiustoll	1992
2	48	Publications: Toward a Public Science - Building a New Social Contract Between Science and Society	1999
2	49	Publications: Understory Herbage Production of Major Soils Within the Black Hills of South Dakota	1987 March
2	50	Publications: Understory Herbage Production of Major Soils Within the Black Hills of South Dakota	1983

Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)
2	51	Publications: Vegetation and Water Identification of One Township of Land in Bennett County, SD Using Digital Tape Data from the Earth Resources Technology Satellite (ERTS-1)	1974 February 4
2	52	Publications: Water Resource Vulnerability	undated
2	53	Recognition: International Scientific Seminar on New Technologies Applied on Field Crops certificate	2019
2	54	Recognition of Outstanding Service on the Advisory Committee ESCOP/ACOP Development Program certificate	undated
2	55	Regents of the University of Minnesota in Recognition and Appreciation certificate	1996 September
2	56	Remnant Trust	2005
2	57	Research Issues in Soil Erosion/Productivity - Executive summary	1990
2	58	Rotary International Banner - Hitachi Japan	undated
2	59	Rotary Foundation of Rotary International - Paul Harris Fellow Certificate	undated
3	1	Slides - Used in presentations and lectures	undated
3	2	Soil and Water Conservation Society Conference	1996-1997
3	3	Soil and Water Conservation Society South Dakota Chapter, President plaque	1988-1989
3	4	Soil and Water Conservation Society South Dakota Chapter, President plaque	1990
3	5	South Dakota Rural Enterprise, Inc. Recognition as Chair	2009
3	6	South Dakota Soil Conservation plaque	1990 March
3	7	South Dakota Soil Survey plaque	1991
3	8	South Dakota State University Ag-Bio Teacher of the Year certificate	1987 April 22
3	9	South Dakota State University Agronomy and Conservation Club plaque	undated
3	10	South Dakota State University Students' Association Teacher of the Year certificate	undated
3	11	Spotlight on Agriculture - Alabama Public Television	2018
3	12	Stamps: Personal greetings stamp from China	undated
3	13	Stamps: South Dakota Statehood and Soil & Water Conservation	1989
3	14	Sunbelt Expo - Commemorative medals	2011-2019
3	15	Thesis: The Influence of Soils and Vegetation of Landsat Spectral Signatures	1975
3	16	Travel: Carthage, Tunisia Brochure	undated
3	17	Tuskegee University commemorative coin	2014
3	18	USDA Agricultural Research Service Appreciation of Collaboration with NCARL plaque	2006 April 20

Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)
3	19	USDA Certificate of Appreciation	1985-1986
3	20	USDA Group Honor Award for Excellence certificate	2000 June 5
3	21	University of Alexandria, Egypt gift	2008
3	22	University of Minnesota West Central Experiment Station certificate	undated
3	23	T-shirt: Fete Nationale Rurale 2eme Dimanche de Fevrier Yenne	1999
3	24	Magnet: Georgia Old Tbilisi	undated
3	25	Beaded bracelet - gift from East African study group	2018
3	26	Curriculum Vitae	2021
4	1	Association for Communication Excellence in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Life and Human Services plaque	2017
4	2	FarmHouse Fraternity - SDSU Chapter plaque	1987 January 18
4	3	University of Minnesota Southwest Experiment Station Plaque	1997 September
4	4	Ag Horizons Conference plaque	2008 December 2
4	5	Association for Communication Excellence Fold Award for Crisis Communication plaque	2017
4	6	FarmHouse Fraternity - SDSU Chapter plaque - Darl E. Snyder Alumni Award	1989 April
4	7	Michigan Turfgrass Foundation - Photo album	2005 April 13
4	8	Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industry certificate	2021 February 9
4	9	State of Alabama Resolution of Outstanding Achievement certificate	2012 February 7
4	10	South Dakota Chapter of Gamma Sigma Delta plaque	1985-1986
4	11	SDSU FarmHouse Fraternity Advisor clock	1988-1990, 2008-2011
5	1	Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station Farewell letters scrapbook	2005 April
5	2	Weaving from Nepal graduate students	1980-1990
5	3	Weaving of a panda	undated
5	4	SDSU Bridle	2008
5	4	Dairy Plant Renovation Groundbreaking cow bell	2010 May 7
5	5	Camel figurines - from Tunisia	2019
5	6	Needle felted hat	undated
5	7	Alabama Governor's One-shot Turkey Hunt Turkey Call	2020 March
5	8	Sigma Xi President Gavels	1988-1989
6	1	South Dakota State University Celebrating 125 Years 1991-2006 wine glasses	2006
6	2	South Dakota State University paper weights	1981, undated

Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)
6	3	State of Alabama great seal paperweight	undated
7	1	Celebration of the first decade of the National Institute of field crops award	2019 April 23-24
7	2	Food Systems Leadership Institute award	2001
7	3	LeTourneau Outstanding FarmHouse Advisor Award encased clock	1987
7	4	Roman Water Pipe Pieces - Bulla Regia, Tunisia	2011
AR 10	1	Afraid of Hawk into Greasy Grass ledger art by Merle Locke	2014
AR 10	2	Courting Night ledger art by Mike Marshall	2012
AR 10	3	And They Followed the Leaders ledger art by Merle Locke	undated
AR 10	4	Crow on a Mule Shoots Sioux Pony ledger art by White Shield	undated
AR 10	5	Kills 3 Crows ledger art by White Shield	undated
AR 10	6	Chasing a Crow on Horseback, Shoot him in the head ledger art by Red Hawk	undated