



BORDEN CONDENSING PLANT, Brook St., where The Centre of Elgin is now located



LUDWIG DAIRY, originally called Elgin Sanitary Milk Co.  
Oscar Ludwig, Proprietor, 9 N. Chapel St.

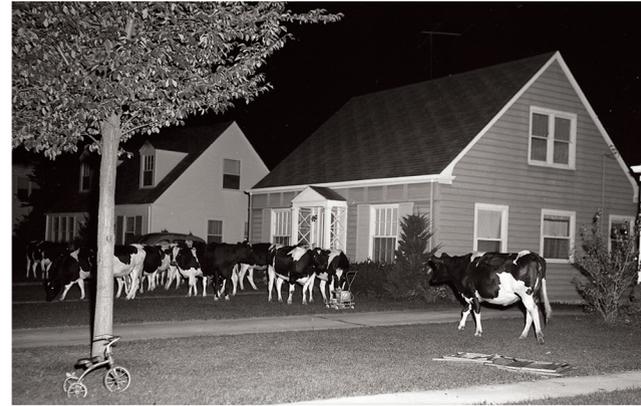
Elgin farmers began shipping milk to Chicago before the Civil War. Soon the Elgin Board of Trade was established, setting dairy prices for most of the United States for more than 40 years. Elgin was home to dozens of dairies including Gail Borden's company, famous for its Eagle Brand condensed milk.

## It's a nearly forgotten story.

**Dairies to Prairies** tells the story of Elgin's dairy heritage. The project will also explore how these former dairy farms have come under pressure from suburban development, modern day agriculture and efforts to restore natural prairies.



This story will be presented through a **feature-length documentary film** and **companion traveling exhibit**.



SUNSET PARK, ca. 1950, escaped cows from nearby dairy farm



POSTCARD, ca. 1920, Elgin dairy farm



RAY PIHL, Modern Dairy Milkman, 1956



ELGIN BOARD OF TRADE, ca. 1890



MILKWEED PRAIRIE PLANT



JELKE FOREST PRESERVE, a former dairy farm



SILPHIUM PRAIRIE PLANT, Burnidge Forest Preserve, a former dairy farm



VALERIE BLAINE, Kane Co. Forest Preserve Naturalist, Burnidge Forest Preserve

Your donations will help make this project possible. Significant contributors will be recognized in the opening and closing film credits.

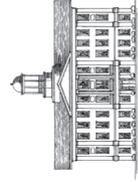


Donation for Dairies to Prairies

Your name will also be included on our traveling exhibit and on our website and social media pages.

Send a check, or use your credit card online at [www.elginhistory.org](http://www.elginhistory.org)

Gifts to the *Elgin Area Historical Society*, a 501(c)(3) non-profit educational organization, are tax deductible.



ELGIN 360 Park Street, Elgin, IL 60120  
HISTORY 847.742.4248  
MUSEUM [www.elginhistory.org](http://www.elginhistory.org)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

For more information please contact:  
Elizabeth Marston, Museum Director at 847.742.4248  
or visit [www.elginhistory.org/dairiestoprairies](http://www.elginhistory.org/dairiestoprairies)



ELGIN  
HISTORY  
MUSEUM

The **Elgin History Museum** is a regional treasure trove of historical information, exhibits, archives and photo collections. It is the home base of several accomplished local historians.



GRINDSTONE VIDEO PRODUCTIONS

**Grindstone Productions** is an Elgin based production company that produces story-driven content for businesses and non-profit associations. Grindstone has collaborated with the Elgin Historical Society on more than a dozen projects over the past 15+ years, including the recently released *Project 2-3-1: A Story of Elgin's African-American Heritage*.

Can You Help Us Tell This Story?



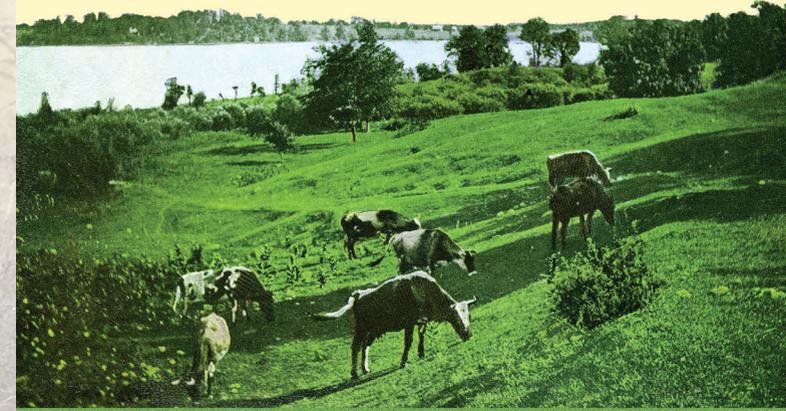
This documentary film and traveling exhibit is being created by **The Elgin History Museum** and **Grindstone Productions**.

## Project Goals

- Help residents connect with Elgin's remarkable dairy heritage.
- Capture and preserve oral histories for future generations.
- Explore the community culture and business environment that made the powerful Elgin Dairy Board of Trade possible.
- Explain the factors that led to the decline of Elgin's dairy dominance.
- Examine modern day land use issues and how suburban growth and open space initiatives can sustainably co-exist.
- Promote environmental education and appreciation of restored prairies.

For more information contact:  
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[museum@elginhistory.org](mailto:museum@elginhistory.org) • [www.elginhistory.org](http://www.elginhistory.org)

FOX RIVER VIEW, ELGIN, ILL.



created by  
The Elgin History Museum & Grindstone Productions

