

## **Agricultural Societies in Somerset 1799 onwards**

1799 Wiveliscombe (SRO DD/SAS/C/795/PR/38)

1838 Williton and Dunster formed, wound up 1973 (SRO DD/WDA/2-3)

1840 North Somerset, formed out of the North Somerset Ploughing Society by a group of farmers whose sole purpose was to further agricultural issues and provide a showpiece to the local general public.

Ploughing competitions

Annual show in May at Ashton Court from the early 1900s to 2002. Now held at Wraxall 'Bathing Pond Fields' on part of the Tyntesfield estate.

(Source: [www.nas.org.uk](http://www.nas.org.uk))

1854 Mid-Somerset, begun as ploughing match organised by the Evercreech Farmers Club and by 1870s had become a cattle show with extra classes for horses, cheese and butter-making. It had two aims:

- Agricultural improvement
- Increase in saleability of two local products – cheese and cider

It declined in the 1950s but has now revived and holds an annual show.

(Sources: [www.midsomersetshow.org.uk](http://www.midsomersetshow.org.uk)

Shepton Show, 150 Years of the Mid-Somerset Agricultural Society, a rural history, by Alan Stone. Publ. The Mid-Somerset Agricultural Society)

1861 Frome and District. Annual Cheese Show

(Source: [www.fromecheeseshow.co.uk](http://www.fromecheeseshow.co.uk))

Somerset societies flourishing in 1911 according to the Victoria County History:

North-East Somerset.

East Somerset. (Castle Cary joined Bruton in 1889. Wincanton joined in 1891. See also Diary of a West Country Farmer

Taunton Farmers Club

Blagdon, Charterhouse and West Mendip Ploughing Society

Wrington and Burrington

Other societies include:

West Monkton, Cheddon, Creech and Ruishton  
(SRO D/P/che.f/23/4)

Bridgwater and District, still holds ploughing competitions

Wells and Central Somerset Floricultural and Agricultural Society  
Wells and Somerset Central Agricultural Society  
(SRO DD/SAS/C/795/SE/20/37)

Somerset Agricultural Society 1889-1901 (SRO DD/X/CVL)

Other sources:

‘Annals of Agriculture’ – album of cuttings (Bath and NE Somerset  
Record office 0038/9/1)

[www.ploughmen.co.uk](http://www.ploughmen.co.uk)

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