



DEKALB Alumni News

January, 2017

Held on September 13 and 14, 2016

39th Annual Meeting...Was New & Exciting!

The 39th Annual DEKALB Alumni Association meeting was held on September 13 and 14 at the DeKalb County Farm Bureau in Sycamore, Illinois. This year, as usual, we had an exciting agenda. On Tuesday, we started with our formal meeting. **Keith Kauffmann** called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. The Secretary's minutes from our last meeting and Treasurer's report were accepted by those present. The next topic was the election of two members to the board of directors. With the 3-year terms of office for Keith Kauffmann, **Dave Gores** and **Harry Leffler** expired, we needed to have an election to fill

two positions. Dave Gores and Harry Leffler were unanimously reelected. With no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

Next on the agenda, we had Jamie and Jim Walter from Whiskey Acres in DeKalb, Illinois, give a presentation that included how they started their whiskey-making business and how seed dealerships have changed. They answered many questions from the audience. It was very interesting to hear all the trials and tribulations in setting up their whiskey business.

After the presentation, the silent auction opened and we all enjoyed a lunch catered by Headon's.



Presentation from Jamie Walter (above), his father Jim and their family are long time DEKALB dealers. They told what it is like being a seed dealer in 2016.

2016 - 2017 DEKALB Alumni Board Officers, Chairs and Term

NAME	POSITION	COMPLETING TERM
Harry Leffler	President	2019
Dan Rozzen	Vice President	2018
Dave Gores	Secretary	2019
Doris Riippi	Treasurer, Volunteer Chair	
Rita Anderson	Director	2017
Delmer Gross	Director	2018
Tom Plote	Director	2017
Daryl Rolland	Director	2017

...Continued from page 1

39th Annual Meeting

Many DEKALB Ag items were brought in for the auction. **Al Ratfield, Alice Ratfield and Doris Riippi** were responsible for setting up the items and later distributing them to the winners of the auction.

In the afternoon, many of us got into our cars or carpooled it to Whiskey Acres. After that, people went on their way to freshen up for our night entertainment and dinner.

At 5:00 p.m. our evening social hour began. The Silent Auction, open all afternoon, continued for another 15 minutes, giving

people time to make their final bids. At 5:30 p.m., we proceeded to the auditorium for an evening of gospel music given by “Good News,” a local men’s quartet. The entertainment was very spirited and everyone enjoyed the relaxing atmosphere. Before proceeding to dinner, the winners of the silent auction were announced. The meal was served by members of the board of directors and other volunteers. The waiters presented everyone with a colorful plate of chicken, pork, tenderloin, beef stroganoff, green beans and potato. The day was full of excitement.

On Wednesday, 35 DEKALB Ag Alumni members travelled by bus to the Drury Lane Theater in Oakbrook, Illinois, for lunch and a play. “Smokey Joe’s Cafe” play featured jukebox hits such as “Yakety Yak,” “Charlie Brown” and “Stand By Me.” After the play we reloaded the bus and headed back to DeKalb. So ended the 2016 annual meeting, with many memories to carry us through the year until our 40th Annual Meeting. See you on September 12 and 13, 2017.

Visiting Whiskey Acres...

Jamie and Jim Walter split our group up and gave us a tour of their whiskey business and their farm operation. The tour included seeing how their whiskey is made from products grown on their farm, and how it is stored. Many enjoyed having a special drink from their showroom. The final part of the tour included a tasting of the whiskey and vodka. The weather that day was just beautiful and we enjoyed just sitting under the trees, visiting.





Pictured here is Sue Breese with her plaque.

Lifetime Membership Awarded

“Lifetime Achievement” award with a very special thanks goes to

Sue Breese

for her involvement in many activities that relate to the Alumni. Just to mention a few: Sue has provided the “Kernels Of Wisdom” article to the newsletter for many years, helped in preserving the artifacts for the DAAHA museum, helped to record the artifacts and she served on the board of directors.

2016 Silent Auction Successful

WOW! Thanks to the generosity of our members, we had a successful silent auction, raising \$772. These funds help your board keep the costs down when planning future alumni outings. Since 2002 we have raised \$12,693.

Items donated were very similar to previous years, but they continue to be of much interest, including the DEKALB plates. Three plates brought a total of \$145. Lots of bidding on a DEKALB blanket, a semi-truck, a Chix Too sign and on a DEKALB winged ear. Other items included caps, jackets, pens, pencils, pillow, belt buckle, bank bag and cookie cutter.



DEKALB memorabilia assembled for Alumni's annual auction

Again, thank you to all who donated DEKALB items and thank you for bidding. Congratulations to all successful bidders.

So, if you hear your kids say “I don’t want all this stuff,” remember us next September. If you can’t make it next September to our reunion, you can always send items to Doris Riippi or Al Ratfield in advance of the meeting. We would love to make them available at the 2017 silent auction. The auction area is a place where our members congregate for visiting, reminiscing and just waiting to get that last bid in before the auction closes.

Remember, if it’s got a **DEKALB Winged Ear**, **DEKALB Chix** or a **DEKALB Pig** on it...
WE WANT IT!

Your auction committee: Al Ratfield, Alice Ratfield and Doris Riippi

Alumni Members Enjoy The Fun!





Mark Your Calendars for 2017 | The dates for next year's annual meeting have been set for September 12 and 13, 2017.





*January 2017 Article: DEKALB Brand Update by Jennifer Stettes
For publishing in the DEKALB Alumni Association newsletter*

The DEKALB® Voice

By: *Jennifer Stettes, DEKALB® Brand Manager*

With the 2016 harvest complete, farmers are pleased with the performance of DEKALB® Disease Shield™ corn products in trial plots this season. In more than 1,400 comparisons, the average national yield advantage versus competitors was 12 bushels per acre.

DEKALB Disease Shield products offer farmers a broad spectrum of protection against the most common, yield-robbing corn diseases. This breeding innovation was developed using predictive analytics and state-of-the-art technology for exclusive genetic combinations with enhanced disease protection. Six DEKALB Disease Shield products, spanning 109-120 day relative maturities, are available for planting in 2017.

We are proud to continue to focus on our most important asset – the farmer. We are grateful to the many farmers who have been featured in the heart of our testimonial campaign on TV and radio and in national and local print publications. We are also offering farmers a new digital tool, called “My Seed,” which helps them to select seed and optimize seed performance for yield and profitability. The tool can be found at DEKALB.com and features advanced analytics like no other on the market.

Currently, the DEKALB brand is preparing to spread the news about DEKALB winners in the 2016 National Corn Growers Association national yield contest through ag media and local newspapers. We plan to celebrate their hard work at the 2017 Commodity Classic in San Antonio, Texas in March. Every year, farmers face new challenges, as well as exciting opportunities. The folks at DEKALB strive to provide innovative solutions and local field expertise. We sincerely thank you for your continued loyalty, and we especially thank all of the farmers and seed dealers for their support. Here’s to a prosperous 2017 growing season.

For more information on the DEKALB brand, visit DEKALB.com.

Individual results may vary, and performance may vary from location to location and from year to year. This result may not be an indicator of results you may obtain as local growing, soil and weather conditions may vary. Growers should evaluate data from multiple locations and years whenever possible.

Always read and follow IRM, where applicable, grain marketing and all other stewardship practices and pesticide label directions. DEKALB®, DEKALB and Design® and Disease Shield™ are registered trademarks of Monsanto Technology LLC. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners.
©2016 Monsanto Company.

2016: A Few Fun Facts

Just a few facts about the attendance at the 2016 annual meeting

Morning Meeting and Lunch	69 people
Evening Entertainment and Dinner	88 people
Dinner Theater	35 people

Where people came from (families):

Ft. Myers Beach, FL(1)	Hinckley, IL..... (1)	Sandwich, IL..... (1)
Boone, IA.....(1)	Homer Glen, IL (1)	Shabbona, IL (2)
Champaign, IL(1)	Kirkland, IL (1)	Springfield, IL (1)
Cortland, IL(1)	Malta, IL (2)	Sycamore, IL (13)
DeKalb, IL(26)	Oregon, IL (1)	Evansville, IN (1)
Galesburg, IL(1)	Rochelle, IL (1)	Shokan, NY (1)
Genoa, IL.....(2)	Rockford, IL (1)	Dumas, TX (1)



DeKalb Area Agricultural Heritage Association

DAAHA Activities

www.daaha.org

DeKalb Area Agricultural Heritage Association (DAAHA) is approaching its seventh year and greatly appreciates the support of the DEKALB Ag Alumni who have helped make this possible. 2017 promises to be another exciting year. DAAHA is honored to be presenting a 4-week course with the **Lifelong Learning Institute** on the rich agricultural innovation history in DeKalb County. The course meets on Tuesdays March 14, 21, 28 and April 4 9:30 – 11:30 am.

A seventh Historical Marker recognizing **DEKALB Swine Breeders** is scheduled to be dedicated in 2017. DAAHA is honored to be the recipient of a Douglas C. and Lynn M. Roberts Family Foundation grant to create a self-guided tour booklet and virtual tour on DAAHA's website of the historical markers within DeKalb County. The tour booklet is planned to be distributed early this coming summer.

DAAHA invites you to attend our 6th Annual Meeting on January 24, 2017 at the DeKalb County Farm Bureau 11:00 – 1:00. Lunch will be provided, please RSVP via email to: daaha.inc@gmail.com or by phone (815) 756-8737. The keynote speaker is from Farmers Business Network discussing the innovative use of “big data” in agriculture. DAAHA's Annual Meeting also includes highlights of our past year and plans for the upcoming year and a Silent Auction.

Join us Saturday, August 12, 2017 for the fourth annual **DeKalb County Barn Tour**. Members of the DeKalb Area Agricultural Heritage Association or Glidden Homestead receive a discount on tour tickets. Information is available on DAAHA's website, www.daaha.org.

DEKALB Alumni Association

111 S. Second Street, Suite 204

DeKalb, IL 60115

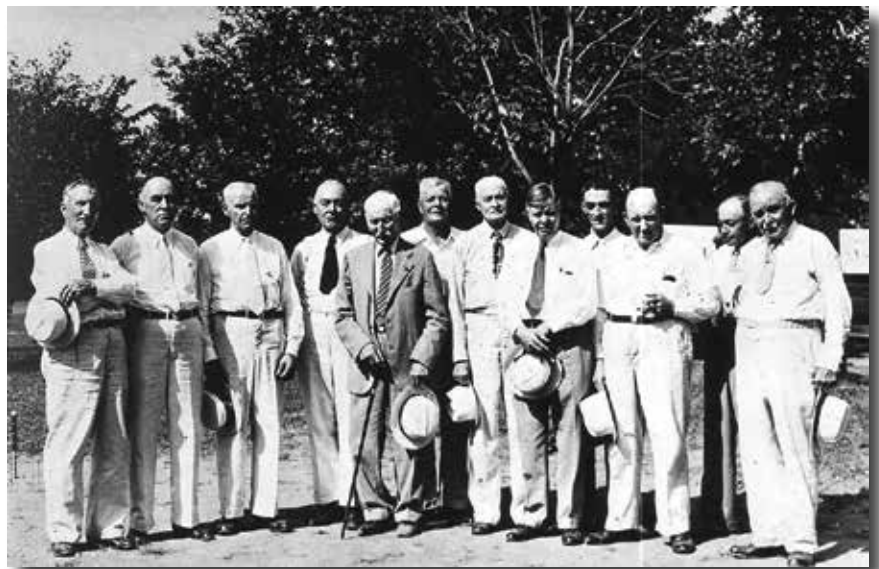
DeKalb County Soil Improvement Assoc.

Kernels of Wisdom (10 year anniversary) — Volume 20

by Sue Breese

At the 25th anniversary of the company in 1937, some of the original founders of the DeKalb County Soil Improvement Association, later to become Farm Bureau and Monsanto, pose for a picture. Their first meeting was organized by Henry Gurler and was held in the old Daily Chronicle building in DeKalb.

Twenty-five years later they were still going strong and continue to this day.



L to R: John Blair, C. D. Schoonmaker, George Hyde, William Eckhardt (first farm adviser), George Gurler, Aaron Plapp, Fred Townsend (related to the Roberts family), Henry Parke, Edger Hipple, George Fox, William Leifheit and Orton Bell.
