

ASAE Quad City Section Newsletter

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From the Chair What a great year we have had so far! We have learned about some of the newest and largest harvesting equipment on the market, learned about resources available to start a new business in the Quad City area, and about the interesting history of the CNH East Moline Plant which will close later this year.

I would like to take a moment to reflect on the CNH situation. Over the years, many engineers from the local plants of International Harvester, Case IH, or CNH have attended our meetings, served on the Executive Committee, helped with committees or given presentations. On behalf of the Quad City Section, I would like to express our appreciation to those who have worked at International Harvester, Case IH, or CNH and participated in the Quad City Section. The presentation we saw on the history of the East Moline Plant was only a piece of the presence this company has had in the Quad City area. With the closing of the plant, we will see some friends and colleagues possibly leaving the area to move to a new facility and area while others may be able to yet remain in the area. We wish you the best

in your future endeavors and encourage you to keep involved in ASAE.

The Executive Committee continues to work on some good events for this Spring. By now, you should have received the announcement for the Continuing Education Seminar on February 17th. The program for the Annual Spring Meeting on March 23rd should be a good one with a variety of technical session topics and an interesting after dinner speaker. April will bring our Spring Section Tour followed by the Ag Machinery Conference in May. Please take the time to enjoy at least one of these meetings. We need your involvement to be able to provide interesting and informative programs for the Section.

I look forward to seeing you at the upcoming events! – Todd Van Hal, Quad City Section Chair

January Meeting Review The Winter Meeting of the ASAE Quad City Section was held at The Lodge in Bettendorf on January 20th with approximately 100 in attendance.

In the meeting's technical session, Don Watt, Engineering Program Manager for CNH Rotary Combines, discussed the development and features of the AFX 8010 Axial Flow™ Combine. A continuously variable transmission (CVT) system is used to drive both the rotor and feeder/header. Other features include a 375 horsepower engine, a 330 bushel grain tank, a 3 bushel per second unloading rate and a self-leveling cleaning system for operation on slopes of up to 17 percent.

Don Watt was also the meeting's after-dinner speaker presenting historical reflections on the plant,

products and people of the CNH East Moline Harvesting Plant. The history of the plant began in November of 1926 when 83 acres were purchased for construction of a warehouse for the Farmall Tractor Plant in Rock Island as well as final assembly of threshers and corn pickers which was moved here from Chicago. Don marveled at the speed of this initial construction which started in July of 1927 and saw its first thresher shipments in November of that same year! The facility now includes 56 acres under roof on a land area of 156 acres.

IH's first self-propelled combine was introduced in 1942 from the East Moline Plant. Over the years, picker-shellers, tractor cabs, sugar beet harvesters, planters, forage choppers and cotton pickers have been produced in addition to pull type and self-propelled combines. 1977 saw initial production of the innovative 1400 series Axial Flow™ Combines with the 100,000th Axial Flow™ machine produced in 1998. Cotton picker production moved to the plant in 1985 from Memphis with 1998 seeing the 7,000th Cotton Express™ picker produced. The plant has produced over 530,000 combines with over 280,000 of these being self-propelled units!

After 77 years, production is slated to cease at the East Moline Plant on July 31, 2004 with cotton picker production moving to Benson, Minnesota and combine production to Grand Island, Nebraska. The engineering group is slated to relocate to New Holland, Pennsylvania.

For those interested in more details on the history of the plant and its products, Don noted a useful source is the IH archives located at the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a web site at <http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/libraryarchives/ihc>

Meeting Preregistration - I know we are all busy and our schedules are constantly changing, sometimes with little notice. This can make it hard to commit to attend a function well in advance. We ask for members to preregister for our Section meetings and events to enable the meeting planners to make sure there will be enough food, space and material for all who attend. Please make every

effort to get your preregistration information in by the deadline. Mail, phone and email notes are acceptable to allow the Treasurer to put your name on the registration list. The deadline we set on the announcement is just before when we need to provide a count for the meal preparation. The meal count we provide to the host facility does have some allowance for walk-in registrations the night of the meeting but I will not guarantee you will get to eat if you do not preregister. Please do not let me discourage your attendance to a meeting but just keep this in mind. - Todd Van Hal, Quad City Section Chair

Section Scholarships - The Quad City Section will be offering two \$750 scholarships this year. Scholarship applications are available on the Section's website at <http://www.qcesc.org/ASAE/> and are included with this issue for those receiving it by mail. High school seniors as well as college students are eligible to apply. Alumni, be sure that your alma mater is represented and send a copy of the application (or the link) to the Pre-professional branch at your school. The scholarship winners will be invited to our Quad City Section meeting on March 23rd. Remember, applications must be postmarked by March 2, 2004.

The Section has also contributed \$ 200 to the Quad City Science and Engineering Council to help fund one of the scholarships they award annually. See <http://www.qcesc.org/scholarships.htm> - Emily Dochterman, Scholarship Chair.

04-05 Section Officers Needed - The Nominating Committee is looking for smart, energetic, professional members like you. We need leaders to provide your Section members with quality programs & services next year. If you would like to serve as an officer or know of a qualified person to consider, let one of the members of the Nominating Committee know. Serving as an officer of the ASAE Quad City Section is an excellent way to develop your leadership skills while working with your peers to promote the engineering profession.

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Nominees will be announced at the March 23rd Section meeting.

Closing Notes – During the January 20th Winter Meeting, Shane Brueggen of the John Deere Seeding Group was recognized for his work on the John Deere Des Moines Works team that received the 2003 ASAE Rain Bird Engineering Concept of the Year Award for the development of a new field cultivator/chisel plow.

The Section has contributed \$ 250 to the QC Elite First Robot Team to help them fund their entry in this year's contest. This team is composed of Sherrard, Davenport West and Moline High School students aided by local engineers as advisors. See <http://www.riroe.k12.il.us/riroe/qcelite/>

Upcoming Events - Check the Section's web site at <http://www.qcesc.org/ASAE> for the most recent information on the Section:

February 8-10, 2004

ASAE Agricultural Equipment Technology Conference (AETC), Louisville, Kentucky – see <http://www.asae.org/meetings/aetc2004/index.html>

February 17, 2004

Quad City Section Continuing Education Seminar, Eastern Iowa Manufacturing Technology Center, 8500 Hillandale Road, Davenport, IA

February 27, 2004

Quad City Engineering and Science Council National Engineers Week Banquet, Holiday Inn, Davenport. See <http://www.qcesc.org/index.htm> for more details.

March 23, 2004

Quad City Section Annual Meeting, Viking Club, Moline.

April 15, 2004 (tentative)

Quad City Section Spring Tour

May 3-5, 2004

Agricultural Machinery Conference, Crowne Plaza Five Seasons Hotel, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. See <http://www.amc-online.org/>

June 4-6, 2004

ASAE Student ¼ Scale Tractor Design Contest, Quad City Downs, East Moline. See <http://www.asae.org/students/tractor/asacomp.html>

June 14, 2004 (tentative)

End of season social event.

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Social Hour Sponsors - Please recognize the following social hour sponsors who are generously providing the beverages for the social hours at our meetings this year:

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