

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Linda Kull

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
and Illinois State Museum's
Oral History of Illinois Agriculture project

Interview # AIS-V-L-2008-063

Linda Kull, a Research Specialist at the National Soybean Research Center at the University of Illinois, concentrating on soybean production, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Illinois State Museum's *Oral History of Illinois Agriculture* project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: September 17, 2008 Location: National Soybean Research Center on
University of Illinois Campus

Interview Format: Digital video

Interviewer: Mark R. DePue, Director of Oral History, ALPL

Technical Support (cameraman, etc): Mark Suszko, IL Information Service

Transcription by: Tape Transcription Center, Boston, MA

Edited by: Rozanne Flatt, ALPL Volunteer

Total Pages: 18 Total Time: 44 min + 12 min = 55 min / 0.93 hrs

Session 1: Early life and career as plant pathologist at Soybean Research Center

Session 2: Walking tour of the Cloth Lab at the NSRC

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on 08/04/2009.

The interview is archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield,
Illinois.

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Abstract

Linda Kull, *Oral History of Illinois Agriculture*, AIS-V-L-2008-063

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Linda (Gatewood) Kull was born on May 3rd, 1954 in Charleston, Illinois, the daughter of an architect and an accountant. Upon completing high school, she married a local farmer, and soon was raising a family on the farm. She began attending college classes at nearby Eastern Illinois University once her children were in school, majoring in botany and microbiology. She earned a degree in 1994, and later continued her education at the University of Illinois, where she received a Ph.D. in plant pathology in 2002. While a Ph.D. candidate, Linda began working at the National Soybean Research Center at the University of Illinois in Urbana, and continued her association with the center thereafter. At the time of the interview, she worked as a research specialist, coordinating soybean production research.

Linda briefly discussed the history of soybean production in the United States, and the role and mission of the National Soybean Research Center. She described the soybean check-off program which helps raise funds for research and other activities at the NSRC and elsewhere. She discussed the various pathologies that affect soybean yields, especially soybean cyst nematodes, and soybean rust. Linda also discussed soybean germplasm and the limited diversity of soybean seeds, functional genomics, and genetic modification of soybeans. She demonstrated some of the groundbreaking work that Dr. Steve Clough, Plant Research Geneticist at the National Soybean Research Lab, was conducting on developing hybrid strains of soybeans as they searched for strains that are resistant to certain pathogens, or are drought resistant, etc.

Subject Headings/Key Words: raising a family on an Illinois farm; Eastern Illinois University; University of Illinois; soybean pathology; soybean checkoff; soybean germplasm; soybean cyst nematodes; soybean rust; soybean genomics; genetic modification of soybeans; weed management; Dr. Steve Clough

Note to the Reader: Readers of the oral history memoir should bear in mind that this is a transcript of the spoken word, and that the interviewer, interviewee and editor sought to preserve the informal, conversational style that is inherent in such historical sources. The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library is not responsible for the factual accuracy of the memoir, nor for the views expressed therein. We leave these for the reader to judge.

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