

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Leonard Beetstra

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Agriculture in Illinois Oral History project

Interview # AI-A-L-2007-034

Leonard Beetstra, a livestock buyer and seller in northern Illinois, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Agriculture in Illinois* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: December 4, 2007 Location: Beetstra residence in rural Harvard, IL

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library volunteer

Transcription by: Tape Transcription Center, Boston, MA

Edited by: Ann Countryman and Rozanne Flatt, ALPL Volunteer

Total Pages: 20

Total Time: 1 hr.

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on Dec 27, 2007

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

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Abstract

Leonard Beetstra, *Agriculture in Illinois*, AI-A-L-2007-034

Biographical Information & Synopsis: Leonard Beetstra was born in 1925 in Harvard, Illinois of Dutch parents, and grew up on his father's dairy farm in rural Harvard, in northern Illinois. After serving in World War II, he returned to Harvard, working for a short while as a carpenter before returning to agriculture. He went into buying and selling cattle, and later went back to farming, operating a dairy and grain operation. He and his children continued to farm in the Harvard area. Among other subjects, he discussed his philosophy of farming, the changes he saw in farming over the last sixty years, and consolidation of the Harvard School District in late 1940s. He was also active in the community, serving on the Board of Directors at the Harvard State Bank, and helping with "Milk Days" in Harvard. Leonard passed away on September 29, 2015.

Topics Covered: Dairy farming in Illinois; buying and selling livestock; rural school consolidation; changes in farming; Harvard, Illinois State Bank; Harvard Milk Days

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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