

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Peter Goldsmith

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

Interview # AIS-V-L-2008-062

Peter Goldsmith, the Executive Director for the National Soybean Research Center at the University of Illinois, 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 Ann Countryman and Roseanne Flatt

Total Pages: 19 Total Time: 36 min + 32 min = 1:08 / 1.13 hrs

Session 1: Dynamics of world-wide soybean production and marketing

Session 2: Discussion of soybean market fluctuations

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

Peter Goldsmith, *Oral History of IL Agriculture*, AIS-V-L-2008-062

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Peter Goldsmith was born on August 16th, 1959 in Stanford, Connecticut, and grew up there until age seventeen, when his father moved to a small farm in New Jersey. Peter majored in Political Science at Kenyon College, in Gambier, Ohio, where he earned a B.A. degree. During two summers he participated in a guest farmer program on a dairy farm in northern Norway. In 1983 he also earned a B.S. degree from the Ohio State University in Dairy Science, then joined the Peace Corps working on agricultural projects in Ecuador. He earned an M.B.A. in 1990 from Xavier University, and an MA in Economics and a Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics from the Ohio State University in 1995. In 1999 Peter moved to Champaign, Illinois and began working at the National Soybean Research Center located on the University of Illinois campus. In 2006 he became the executive director of the center, and specializes on the marketing and international aspects of the institution.

Goldsmith discussed the dynamics of the world-wide soybean market, and the impact of the burgeoning Brazilian soybean production during a time of expanding demand for soybeans and their derivative products, especially in China, India and emerging Asian markets. He compared soybeans and corn as major commodities, and the relative merits of biodiesel as fuel versus ethanol based fuels. Goldsmith also discussed the dynamics behind the determining commodity prices for soybeans, explaining some of the fluctuations we've experienced over the last several years.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Kenyon College; dairy farming in northern Norway; the Ohio State University; Peace Corps work in Ecuador; National Soybean Research Center; University of Illinois; soybean and commodity prices; soybeans vs corn; soybean production in Brazil; international soybean markets; growth of demand for soybeans and derivative markets; biodiesel fuels; biodiesel vs ethanol as fuels;

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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