

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Dr. Richard D. Hull

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

Interview # AI-A-L-2008-043

Dr. Richard Hull, a retired veterinarian and the State Veterinarian, 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: August 20, 2008 Location: 2704 Tartan Way, Springfield, IL

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Newlyn Hosea, ALPL Volunteer

Transcription by: McHugh, Michele

Edited by: Rozanne Flatt, ALPL Volunteer

Total Pages: 16 Total Time: 1 hr 18 min / 1.3 hrs

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on 9/15/2008.

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

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Abstract

Dr. Richard Hull, *Agriculture in Illinois*, AI-A-L-2008-043

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Dr. Richard Dean Hull was born on January 8, 1934 in Hannibal, Missouri. After growing up on a farm and graduating from High School in Hannibal, Dr. Hull received his BS degree in Animal Science and Agriculture Chemistry from the University of Missouri College of Agriculture in 1955. He received his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine in 1959 from the Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine in Columbia, Missouri in 1959. Dr. Hull established a practice in Griggsville, Illinois and continued in that practice for thirty-four years. During those years the practice grew into one with three veterinarians and two clinics. Dr. Hull was involved with local, state, and national efforts to control animal disease breakouts including Brucellosis and Pseudorabies. In July 1992 he was appointed State Veterinarian and Bureau Chief of Animal Health for the Illinois Department of Agriculture. In this position he assisted in the states response to Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE), Johnes disease, Chronic Wasting Disease, West Nile Disease, and agricultural homeland security issues after 9/11/2001. He has served on many Board and Committees and has received numerous awards.

This interview reviewed his career as a practicing Veterinarian for 34 years and includes his impression of farm life in Pike County Illinois during those years. The interview details the daily life of a veterinarian and the response to many disease outbreaks. Also included is an overview of the changes occurring both in veterinary medicine and in the large animal agricultural industry. There is an extensive discussion of his career as state veterinarian and state efforts to deal with various disease challenges. The issue of homeland security as it relates to agriculture is discussed at some length.

Topics Covered: Veterinarian practice 1959-1992; Cattle and hog farming 1959-1992, Disease eradication and containment 1959-2004; Development of small animal practice; PBS program "All Creatures Great and Small"; Agricultural homeland security; Mad Cow Disease; Pseudo-rabies; West Nile Disease; Johnes Disease; Risk Management; Chronic Wasting Disease; Cattle and Swine Brucellosis; changes in farm and veterinary life 1959-1992; relationships with other state agencies and local interests as state veterinarian.

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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