

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Matthew Hughes

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

Interview # AIS-V-L-2008-072

Matthew Hughes, a grain farmer from central Illinois, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's and Illinois State Museum's *Oral History of Illinois Agriculture* project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: October 22, 2008 Location: Hughes home in rural Shirley, Illinois

Date: October 22, 2008 Location: Soybean field near family home

Interview Format: Digital video

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

Technical Support (cameraman, etc): Mark Suszko and Tony Bateman, IL Information Service Videographers

Transcription by: Tape Transcription Center, Boston, MA

Edited by: Rozanne Flatt

Total Pages: 39 pgs Total Time: 1 hr 6 min + 46 min = 1 hr 52 min / 1.87 hrs

Session 1: Early life and evolution of his family farm in central Illinois

Session 2: Interview with Matt Hughes while harvesting soybeans

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on 11/24/2008.

The interviews are archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield, Illinois.

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Abstract

Matthew Hughes, *Oral History of IL Agriculture*, AIS-V-L-2008-072

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Matthew (Matt) Hughes was born on July 19th, 1965 in Litchfield, Illinois, and grew up on the family farm nearby. He developed a strong interest in farming while growing up, but was encouraged to go to college due to his excellent grades and leadership potential. Matt began college in 1983 at the University of Illinois, majoring in Animal Sciences. Upon graduation, he continued his education, now majoring in Agricultural Economics. He still had a strong interest in returning to the farm, but was now encouraged to check out other aspects of agri-business. He worked at Doane Marketing Research, where he specialized in agricultural research and analysis, from 1989 through 1992. In 1990 he married Connie Schneider, and in 1992 moved to Bloomington, where he took a position at GrowMark, continuing in the same line of work. In 1997 he had an opportunity to return to farming, renting and farming the same land that his wife's father had rented for many years. Matt and Connie now farm approximately 2,200 acres near Shirley, Illinois, part of which is cash rented, and the remainder share rented. He discussed the trade-offs between purchasing land or purchasing and maintaining equipment. Matt is active in the Illinois Soybean Association, serving in officer positions. In a trip to China he promoted efficient soybean production practices in that country.

The second interview was conducted while Matt harvested his soybean crop. He gave a detailed discussion of his equipment, especially his combine and auger wagon, and depreciation schedules and purchasing of this equipment. He also discussed all aspects of soybean production, as well as soybean hybrids, genetic modifications, storage challenges and marketing strategies.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Future Farmers of America; Doane Marketing Research; GrowMark; land ownership vs renting; cash rent vs share renting land; Illinois Soybean Association; soybean farming in China; soybean combines; auger wagons; equipment depreciation; soybean hybrids; soybean genetics; soybean marketing strategies;

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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