

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Robert (Bobby) Wieneke  
Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library &  
Illinois State Museum's  
*Oral History of Illinois Agriculture* project  
Interview # AIS-V-L-2008-034

Bobby Wieneke, owner and operator of a peach orchard and vineyard in Calhoun County, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's & the Illinois State Museum *Oral History of Illinois Agriculture* project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: July 16th, 2008      Location: Wieneke farm, rural Brussels, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital video

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

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

Transcription by: Tape Transcription Center, Boston, MA

Edited by: Rozanne Flatt, ALPL Volunteer

Total Pages: 39      Total Time: 36 min + 64 min = 1 hr 40 min / 1.6 hrs

Session 1: Sit down

Session 2: Walk and talk

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

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## Abstract

Robert Wieneke, *Oral History of IL Agriculture*, AIS-V-L-2008-034

**Biographical Information Overview of Interview:** Robert (Bobby) Wieneke was born on September 14th, 1961 in Hardin Illinois, and grew up on the family's 80 acre farm, an apple orchard in rural Calhoun County, near Brussels, Illinois. Bobby is the fifth generation to farm the land, his great-great grandfather emigrating to the region from Hanover, Germany in the mid 19th century. Bobby discussed how the farm evolved as it passed from generation to generation. The interview took place at his father Leroy's home, the same farm house and barn in use by the family since the 1800s. When the local apple market began to diminish in the 1990s?? due to the availability of fruit from large operations, Leroy and Booby elected to switch from apples to peaches. In recent years, Bobby added several varieties of wine grapes as well. At the time of the interview, the family has several acres of peaches, (multiple varieties which allows for a staggered harvest), as well as four?? varieties of grapes. Bobby spoke in detail about his plans for the future. He is renovating an historic old home he recently purchased, and intends to market his own wine, including peach wine, from the renovated building.

**Subject Headings/Key Words:** Growing up on the farm; multiple generational farms; Calhoun County, Illinois; Leroy Wieneke; apple orchards; peach orchards; maintenance of grape vines; wine making; home renovation;

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