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# ANTIQUÉ ENGINE & TRACTOR ASSOCIATION, INC.

## October 2007 NEWSLETTER

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### “Roger’s Comments”

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

What a successful Show we had this fall. Without the support of many of you, we would not have been able to host our guests and display our tractors, equipment, and engines and conduct the demonstrations we did this year. With the good weather we had for the weekend and the support of members and exhibitors, our visitors saw a good show and were very complimentary. Again I say thank you to all who helped in any way.

Thanks to the Board for their support, encouragement and work this past year. They spent many hours to improve the show and the grounds. When you see them, please tell them what you liked and things you think we can improve.

Thanks to the farm committee for the timely decisions on planting, varieties to plant, care of the crops and the VERY SUCCESSFUL demonstrations during harvest. The yields were fantastic and the field demonstrations were excellent. Where else can you go to see five 1950s and 1960s combines in the field at once harvesting beans?

Thanks to the Sponsor and Advertising committee for promoting our show this past summer and getting the businesses of the community behind us with their financial support. All the sponsors were listed in the Show Brochure given to each visitor and exhibitor at the gate. When you see any sponsor, please thank them for their support.

Thanks to all the sponsors and members who donated items for the auction on Saturday afternoon. The club received \$960 for the items. Thanks to the auctioneers for donating their services.

Thanks to the members of the Long Range Planning committee for their work this past year. You will be hearing from them about endowment and gift giving opportunities they are proposing. They have also been involved in an offer to donate land to the Club. Please come to the Annual Meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> and hear about this land offer. We have adjusted the meeting time a little to allow for you to see the land before the meeting if you want. A couple of board members will be there to help you locate the features of the site.

Thank you to all the club members who donated pies. Trappers Creek had agreed to donate all the money back to the club for pies that they sold. We made \$330.00 from the pies.

All the Food Venders had a great weekend we all supported them very well and the club made out very well with the percentage of the sales that was donated back to us.

Thanks to Ed Mayhew for coordinating the food service vendors.

On behalf of the entire board of directors and myself, I say thanks for the hours many of you have spent helping us organize, prepare and work at the 2007 Working Farm Show. Without your support and help, we would not be able to put on the show we do each year.

Roger Mixer, President

### **AETA Farm Report 2007**

We have excellent results from our farm this year. It is likely a record year for our club both in terms of yields and also price.

Corn: Our 10.3 acres of 98 day corn yielded 178.4 bu/ac. We had contracted 1000 bu earlier when prices were stronger for \$3.18. (Current cash price is \$2.92) Hillsdale Elevator at Geneseo sent a check for \$3162.42. This includes a slight discount for moisture since that load tested 15.4%. Also Dean Olson sent a check for \$61.50 for 20.5 bu of ear corn he received. We currently have 816.51 bu in storage at Geneseo.

Soybeans: Our 8.3 acres of soybeans yielded 495.34 bushel or 59.7 bu/ac. Beans were 10% moisture. This was delivered to Geneseo and sold for December at \$9.18/bu. The storage cost to December will be \$.15, so the net price will be \$9.03. We should receive a check in December for \$4472.92. (By storing and contracting for December we netted an additional \$.33/bu)

Oats: We had 2 acre of oats, which provided a good threshing demo. However the grain quality was poor, as was the yield, so it was plowed under. The club should receive a small donation for the straw bales though quality of the straw was poor also. Dry conditions during the early growing season, weed problems, and difficulties in storing the bundles on racks contributed to the quality problem.

Hay: Randy Rahn took one cutting of hay from the approximately 6 acres of hay ground. Quality of hay was poor. The farm committee recommends discontinuing the hay operation and reseeding that area to grass for use as display area. Grass seed to do this will cost approximately \$250.

**Recommendations:**

- Planting our crops north and south was a good change which improved the demonstrations during the show. We recommend continuing this practice.
- Add subsoiling to the demonstrations for the show. This provides another area of activity plus it will break up hardpan and improve root growth.
- Green stem soybeans are difficult to harvest with old combines. One possibility would be to spray with paraquat 10 days before the show to kill the plant.

Tom Hitzhusen for the Farm Committee.

Note: Tom, Kevin Bos and Scott Lewis did an excellent job of coordinating the demonstrations for the show. They put a lot of effort into it and should be commended for a job well done!

**Pictures of our show:**

The photographers from Galarium were at our show taking aerial and ground pictures. They took over 1,000 pictures during the three-day show. The shots are unbelievable; you must see to appreciate them. Check them out on the website [www.galarium.net](http://www.galarium.net) or stop in at their store located at 112 N State St in downtown Geneseo. They are offering a 20% discount off the show pictures through November 30, 2007. The telephone number is 309-945-4252.

*Editor's note: Several pictures taken by club members will be in the next newsletter.*

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING:**

The October general membership meeting will be held at Tom Hitzhusen's farm shop at 2:30 p.m. Directions: From Geneseo go north on Highway 82 for 2.5 miles to Wolf Road, west on Wolf Rd three miles to road 1130 E (Hazelwood West Road), then north 3/4 mile.

Those wishing to see the land that Bill Cole is offering to the club may do so from 1:30 to 2:15 p.m. A couple of board members will be there to show you around. Directions: from the I-88 Joslin exit go 3.5 miles east on Route 92, cross the Rock River and it is the second driveway (road) on the right. From Geneseo take Highway 82 to Rt. 92 turn left 0.75 mile to road. We will have a sign at the Rt. 92 turn off.

Meeting agenda items include:

- Discussion of land offer
- Review of the charitable gift fund that is being set up, We will vote on a change in the club's by-laws needed for this fund.
- Election of new board members.

**LAND DONATION OFFER**

**Facts**

- Bill Cole, of Hillsdale, Illinois, has offered to donate 40 acres of land to the club.
- The land is located in Henry County just off of Rt. 92 near the Rock River.
- There is another 10 acres of land available that would provide frontage for the 40 acres to Rt. 92.
- There are two silos, a corncrib and pole building on the land. The Cole family would maintain the use of two grain storage bins for up to ten years.
- 33 acres of crop land have been rented for 2008. Bill Cole will receive rent and pay all taxes for 2008. Club could start working on buildings any time.

**Discussion:**

Just before our fall show, Bill Cole approached Chuck Bos stating that he liked what the club has been doing at the show, especially the field demonstrations. He mentioned that he had some land that he would consider donating to the club. After much discussion, he put his intentions in a letter to the club signed and dated September 28, 2007. This letter includes the legal description of the land and the details, which are listed above.

Note: Bill and June are offering the land to our club with the objective to preserve and demonstrate farming practices of the past. It will be donated in memory of their only son, Kevin. He loved the farm, the country, hunting and all things outdoors. Bill feels it is very important that we preserve how farming was done, not just the machines that were used. He is afraid that in another 10 or 20 years, no one will remember *how* the machines we have saved were used.

Bill noted that our club has been working to do this very thing the last five years or so. He remembers how gas engines were used to run cream separators, milking machines and other equipment on the farm. He remembers his dad having a hit & miss gas engine doing just those things. He also remembers when they installed a Delco light plant with the batteries and related lights, appliances, etc.

As with any thing new there are pros and cons. Listed below are some of the items that the long

range planning committee and board have discussed.

- As noted above, the land is rented out for 2008. The earliest that we could have a show there would be 2009 or 2010.
- Owning grounds allows for long term planning and improvements. While the club has had a good relationship with the City of Atkinson for several years, our leases are short term. The rent on the "farm" ground needs to be renegotiated from time to time. At the time that I am writing this there is a meeting scheduled between our board of directors and the City of Atkinson to discuss possible new agreements between the city and our club.
- Owning our own land would give the club equity of at least \$100,000 and would thus allow the club to borrow for capital improvements. In the past, when the club wanted to build the headquarters or saw mill buildings, the board of directors had to personally co-sign the loans since the club did not have any equity.
- A new headquarters building would need to be built or moved from the current site.
- The pole building needs repair but is basically sound and straight. It could be used for the sawmill and storage.
- A well and septic system would need to put in. We are getting cost estimates on these.
- Owning land opens up the possibilities to obtain grants and contributions for permanent improvements such as those mentioned above. The long range planning committee has been in contact with State Senator Todd Siebens about possible grants and or low interest loans to help us move or rebuild a new headquarters building. Also by owning the land, people may be more interested in donating for capital improvements. The long range planning committee has contacted several other clubs similar to ours. They all own at least a significant portion of the their show grounds.
- Ownership of the land would open up the possibility of other clubs or individuals putting up buildings on our grounds to store and display equipment. Having enough ground to put up a storage building of our own may entice owners of steam engines or other large pieces of equipment to store their equipment at our show grounds. Mount Pleasant and Rollag are 2 clubs that store a majority of the equipment displayed at their shows.

- Land is in Henry County with a Geneseo address; we have established good working relationships with both. We have talked to the Henry county zoning department and by having over half the grounds used for farming, including the parking areas, which could be in hay, the zoning would be okay for our use. Taxes are now \$574.10 per year they would increase \$23.61 for each \$1,000 of improvements made to the land.
- The land is not as good farm land as where we are now. It is a lighter, sandier soil, which would not yield as well. Since we are farming for demonstration purposes and not profit this could be an advantage, since the crops would be more typical of those grown in the 1950s. Also, if it were to rain just before our show, the land would dry out faster and allow the field demos to start sooner than with a heavier soil.
- The land is close to the Rock River. The levy on the west side of the river is lower than that on the east side so the land west of the river would flood before this land. However with the sandy soil, when the river is high for a period of time, water will come up in a couple of low spots. (There are four acres in wet lands)
- Being close to the river opens up the possibility of mosquitoes. They were very bad earlier this fall due to the unusually wet August. We would need a plan to be able to control the mosquitoes in such times.
- People would need to learn to find the grounds. However, the grounds would be easy to find, just 3.5 miles from the Joslin exit on I-88 or less than 10 miles from Geneseo. Take Highway 82 to Rt. 92 turn left 0.75 mile.
- The land is now in second crop soybeans and will be all farmed next year. We would need to establish new "lawn" areas and plant trees to have as nice show grounds as we have now.
- The adjoining 10 acres between the grounds and Rt. 92 would be a very good addition to the grounds as it would give frontage to Rt. 92 and a second entrance to the grounds. We have talked with owner of this land and he said that he would work with us.
- The club and board still have many questions. We hope to have answers to some of these questions before the general meeting, but there will probably some unanswered questions. There is also legal work that would needs to be done, such as title searches, etc.

**\*\*\*\*BULLETIN BOARD\*\*\*\***

**FOR SALE:** 1954 JD 40U Tractor, has control for remote cylinder and M2546T front weight. Includes operators, parts and service manuals. \$1750 Ron Miller 12433 US 6, Geneseo, IL 61254-8505, phone 309-944-3156 (Sp)

**FOR SALE:** 8 ft rear blade, angle adjustable and reversible. Great for snow. \$225.  
Call Perry Bolhous 309 236 0220 (Oct)

**FREE:** Classified ads for club members. Your ad will run for two months. Send ad information to Neil West, 6205 Shadowbrook Dr, Bettendorf, Iowa 52722 Phone 563-332-5501 E-mail [nlwest@mchsi.com](mailto:nlwest@mchsi.com)

**\*\*\*\*CLUB ACTIVITIES\*\*\*\***

**October Events**

**General meeting** – Sunday, October 21, at Tom Hitzhusen’s farm shop at 2:30 p.m. Directions: From Geneseo go north on Highway 82 for 2.5 miles to Wolf Road, west on Wolf Rd three miles to road 1130 E (Hazelwood West Road), then north ¼ mile.

Those wishing to see the land that Bill Cole is offering to the club may do so from 1:30 to 2:15 p.m. A couple of board members will be there to show you around. Directions: from the I-88 Joslin exit go 3.5 miles east on Route 92, cross the Rock River and it is the second driveway (road) on the right. From Geneseo take Highway 82 to Rt. 92 turn left 0.75 mile to road. We will have a sign at the Rt. 92 turn off.

**November Events**

**Board meeting** – November 5<sup>th</sup> - 6 p.m.  
Geneseo Chamber of Commerce building

**2007 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS**

PRESIDENT: Roger Mixer.....(309)792-2416  
VICE PRESIDENT: Ed Mayhew...(309)949-2867  
SECRETARY: Larry Goodwin.....(309)944-2670  
TREASURER: Russ Bos.....(309)944-0215

EDITOR: Neil West.....(563)332-5501  
FEATURE: Roger Mixer.....(309)792-2416  
DIRECTORS: George Hayes, Rich McNeill, Lenzy Stickler,  
Dick Zobrist  
Web site: [www.atkinson-engine-tractor-assoc.com](http://www.atkinson-engine-tractor-assoc.com)

**Antique Engine & Tractor Association, Inc.**  
**P.O. Box 267**  
**Atkinson, IL 61235**