

ASABE Quad City Section Newsletter

ASABE - The Society for Engineering in Agricultural, Food, and Biological Systems

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Winter 2024

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From the Chair – Hello fellow Quad City ASABE members! I hope the holidays and the beginning of the New Year have found you well! I want to start off my thanking the Section members and presenters for making the Winter Meeting so successful. Although mother nature did not cooperate with us for our original date, we were able to bounce back two weeks later with an even stronger attendance than originally planned for. So, thank you to those who attended and for remaining flexible with your schedules. I hope you all enjoyed the presentations from Vermeer, CNH, & Lee Klancher as much as I did!

As we are quickly approaching our Spring Meeting, I want to remind you that we still have vacancies to fill in our Executive Committee. Currently we are seeking someone to fill the Chair-Elect, Young Professionals, and Meetings Arrangements positions. I would encourage anyone who may be interested or know of someone who would be a good fit for any of these positions to reach out to myself or any of the members of our Nominating Committee (Jeff Bennett, Carol Plouffe, and Niels

Dybro). The executive team has done a great job supporting me during my time as Chair and would be happy to guide any new members who are willing to support these open positions.

I would like to give a special thanks to the Deere team, Eric Allen in particular, for arranging and hosting the Section tour at the John Deere Seeding Group in November. The Deere team was able to provide an outstanding tour of their office and factory which gave us a great insight to their entire manufacturing process from start to finish. The hospitality shown by the staff and tour guides was excellent. It was also nice to sit down with fellow Section members for a meal at the River House after our tour!

A reminder, registration information has been distributed for the upcoming Continuing Education Seminar on March 5th. I would like to thank Scott Clark for putting together a great lineup for this meeting. I would highly encourage you all to consider participating!

As mentioned earlier, we had a strong attendance for the Winter Section Meeting (both in person and virtually!) and we would like to continue to build on this heading into our Spring Awards Meeting. Please be on the lookout for registration information in the upcoming weeks and encourage your fellow ASABE members and coworkers to register! – Travis Ohms, 2023-2024 Quad City Section Chair



Quad City Section Members at the tour of John Deere Seeding on November 7

Fall Tour Review The ASABE Quad City Section had a great time at the John Deere Seeding Group Tour held on Tuesday November 7th. Members were able to get an exclusive look at factory operations and the newly remodeled office space. Two John Deere UAW workers led the group through Seeding's fabrication area, main assembly lines, and row unit line and provided insights on daily operations. Overall, 22 members attended the tour and joined us for dinner at The Riverhouse in Moline.

John Deere Seeding is actively looking for tour guides from the factory's retirees. If you'd be interested, contact Mackenzie Kane at kanemackenziet@johndeere.com or +1 (309) 748-9929. – Eric Allen, Quad City Section Tour Coordinator

Winter Meeting Review: This year's Winter Meeting, originally scheduled for January 23rd, was moved to February 6th when St. Ambrose closed their campus on the original date due to weather concerns after a near record snow fall and cold weather earlier in the month. A total of 56 attended with 35 in person and 21 remotely including three students.

The first tech session speaker, Mark Dilts, CNH lead engineer for electric battery tractors, discussed the recently introduced New Holland T4 and Farmall 75C electric battery powered tractors. The tractors have an estimated field work time of

approximately four hours before needing recharging. Besides noise and emissions benefits, they can provide ac power for operating hand tools from the tractor.

The speakers for the second tech session presentation were Peter Horne and Ben Peterson, engineers from Vermeer, discussing the ZR5-1200 self-propelled large round baler. An interesting technology feature on this machine are temperature sensors for the most heavily loaded bearings providing an operator warning of potential overheating situations.

Author and photographer Lee Klancher gave the after-dinner presentation based on his recently released history of the Farmall tractor, the Farmall Century.

Section Awards – Nomination forms for the three Quad City Section awards (Young Member, Member and Outstanding Engineering Achievement) are available at <http://www.asabe.qcesc.org/awards-2/>. Please consider nominating one of your colleagues for one of these recognitions. These awards will be presented at the annual Awards Meeting on March 26th. Nominations are due by March 1, 2024. Past recipients are listed at Quad City Section Award Recipients. – Dave Smith, Awards Chair

2024-25 Section Officers Needed - The Nominating Committee is looking for smart, energetic, professional members like you. We need leaders to provide your Section members with quality programs and services next year. Elective offices open are Chair-Elect, Treasurer, Secretary and three Nominating Committee positions. If you would like to serve as an officer or know of a qualified person to consider, let one of the members of the Nominating Committee know. The Chair-Elect position is in special need of a candidate.

Other opportunities for service are also available – particularly for the Young Professionals and Meeting Arrangements member services areas. Serving as an officer of the ASABE Quad City Section is an excellent way to develop your leadership skills while working with your peers to promote the engineering profession.

Send your suggestions to:

Jeff Bennett
CNH Industrial
Ph. 563-214-6927
Jeffrey.Bennett@cnhind.com

Niels Dybro
Ph. 309-277-1257
ndybro@hotmail.com

Carol Plouffe
Deere & Company
Ph. 309-748-8651
PlouffeCarol@JohnDeere.com

Nominees will be announced at the March 26th Awards Meeting.

Support for Trebuchet Contest - The QCESC will be hosting its 15th Annual [Trebuchet Egg Throw Contest](#) on April 19th at the Bettendorf High School football practice field. This competition is the second portion of the QC Tech Challenge where local high school teams (nearly 40 groups) compete in several design challenges (bridge building, egg throw, and cardboard boat race) for a team award and an individual scholarship.

We would like ten ASABE Quad City Section members to assist in scoring the performance of the trebuchets as well as judge the student presentations. Please contact Travis Ohms by [e-mail](#) to register as a volunteer for our Section!

AE50 Recipient – The AE50 recognition program of ASABE’s Resource magazine annually honors up to 50 of the most innovative products in the industries served by ASABE. The [2024 AE50 recipients](#) include one product related to the Quad City Section. Congratulations to all those involved with the introduction of the ExactShot™ which was the recipient of the Quad City Section’s 2023 Outstanding Engineering Achievement Award!

[ExactShot Liquid Fertilizer Dosing System](#)

Closing Notes



Page Bellinger

60+ year past member and ASABE Fellow Page Bellinger passed away on January 3. Page was an agricultural engineering graduate of Michigan State. He worked at ASABE Headquarters and Successful Farming magazine before joining John Deere as a product safety specialist.



Alvin Klouda

Past member Al Klouda passed away on January 15. Al was a U.S. Air Force veteran having served during the Korean War. He obtained his agricultural engineering degree from Iowa State University in 1958. Al started work at the John Deere Spreader Works, later worked at the Welland Works and retired from John Deere Plow and Planter. He later worked for the U.S. Dept. of Army at the Rock Island Arsenal and Mel Foster.



Grace Bjustrom

As some careers end, other are just beginning. Grace Bjustrom was recently named the Outstanding Senior in the Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering Department at Iowa State. Grace, a North Scott High School graduate from Eldridge, Iowa, received the Quad City Section’s scholarship in 2020. See [Outstanding Senior](#) for more details.

As of February 6th, the Section had \$ 4,027.16 in its checking account in addition to \$ 10,000 in a certificate of deposit.

Upcoming Events - Check the Section’s [web site](#) and [public](#) Facebook page and [private](#) Facebook group for the most recent information on the Section and the following events:

March 1, 2024

Deadline for Section award nominations and for voting in [ASABE national election](#).

March 5, 2024

Quad City Section Continuing Education Seminar: Trends in Agriculture, Risk Management, and Grain Sensing Tech

March 26, 2024

Quad City Section Spring Meeting

April 19, 2024

[QCESC Trebuchet Egg Throwing Contest](#)

ASABE Quad City Section Executive Committee 2023-2024

Elected Officers

Chair:

Travis Ohms
CNH Industrial
Ph. 563-468-1750
travis.ohms@cnhind.com

Chair-Elect:

Open position

Past Chair:

Craig Murray
CNH Industrial
Ph. 563-508-4982
craig.murray@cnhind.com

Secretary:

Ashley Kruse
John Deere Global Crop Harvesting
Ph. 309-748-2212
KruseAshleyD@JohnDeere.com

Treasurer:

Terry Warner
 CNH Industrial
 Ph. 563-343-0597
terry.warner@cnhind.com

Membership:

Craig Murray
 CNH Industrial
 Ph. 563-508-4982
craig.murray@cnhind.com

Nominating Committee:

Jeff Bennett
 CNH Industrial
 Ph. 563-214-6927
jeffrey.bennett@cnhind.com

Newsletter:

David Smith
 Ph. 309-230-5322
dave.smith8633@sbcglobal.net

Niels Dybro
 Ph. 309-277-1257
ndybro@hotmail.com

Program:

Travis Ohms
 CNH Industrial
 Ph. 563-468-1750
travis.ohms@cnhind.com

Carol Plouffe
 Deere & Company
 Ph. 309-748-8651
PlouffeCarol@JohnDeere.com

QCESC Liaison:

Craig Murray
 CNH Industrial
 Ph. 563-508-4982
craig.murray@cnhind.com

Member Service Representatives**Awards:**

David Smith
 Ph. 309-230-5322
dave.smith8633@sbcglobal.net

Scholarship:

Cody Freehill
 John Deere Global Crop Harvesting
 Ph. 309-765-2282
FreehillJustinC@JohnDeere.com

Community Outreach:

Open position (Chair-Elect)

Social Media:

Ashley Kruse
 John Deere Global Crop Harvesting
 Ph. 309-748-2212
KruseAshleyD@JohnDeere.com

Communications:

Ashley Kruse
 John Deere Global Crop Harvesting
 Ph. 309-748-2212
KruseAshleyD@JohnDeere.com

Tour:

Eric Allen
 John Deere Seeding Group
 Ph. 309-765-0366
AllenEricC@JohnDeere.com

Continuing Education:

Scott Clark
 John Deere Global Crop Harvesting
 Ph. 309-765-2093
ClarkScottN@JohnDeere.com

Young Professionals:

Open position

Meeting Arrangements:

Open position