

# ASABE Quad City Section Newsletter

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

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**From the Chair** – Hello fellow ASABE Quad City Section Members! I hope you all had a relaxing summer and a great start to fall. I'm excited to begin my term as Section Chair for 2024-2025. I want to thank the Executive Committee, especially Past Chair Travis Ohms, for ensuring a smooth transition. I also want to express my gratitude to everyone who contributed to the success of our Fall Section Meeting.

As your new Section Chair, I'd like to introduce myself. I'm a design engineer for Case IH Midrange Combines at the Mount Joy office in Davenport. I joined CNH after graduating from Iowa State University with a B.S. in Agricultural Engineering in May 2023. During my time at Iowa State, I interned as a design engineer at Vermeer Corporation in Pella, Iowa. I was also actively involved in the ASABE ¼ scale tractor club, Cyclone Power Pullers, holding various leadership roles. In my free time, I'm increasingly involved in our family farm in North Central Illinois as my grandfather transitions towards retirement.

The beginning of my tenure has been exciting and active. We had a successful Fall Section Meeting on October 29th at the CNH Mount Joy Facility, with a strong turnout and a special guest, ASABE

President Doug Otto. Our young professionals and community outreach lead, Landon Fricker, organized a social event at Armored Gardens in downtown Davenport on October 23rd. Additionally, our tour leader, Eric Allen, led a tour of Agrisolutions in Rock Island on November 12th. I want to thank everyone who helped organize these events and those who attended.

Moving forward in the 2024-2025 term, we still have a vacancy for the role of Chair-Elect. I encourage anyone interested or who knows a good candidate to reach out to the Nominating Committee to fill this position as soon as possible. To foster growth within our Section, I also encourage all members to be on the lookout for potential new members. This year, we're excited to host Section meetings at various locations to offer a change of scenery. However, we'll continue to use the hybrid format to engage with members from other Sections and university students.

So once again, thank you for the opportunity to lead the ASABE Quad City Section. I look forward to a productive year and the opportunities ahead. I hope to see many of you at the Winter Section Meeting, tentatively scheduled for January 21, 2025. –  
Matthew Haas, 2024-2025 Quad City Section Chair.

**Fall Meeting Review** - The Fall Meeting was held on October 29<sup>th</sup> at the CNH Mt. Joy engineering facility with approximately 30 in actual and 10 in virtual attendance. This change in location was made due to the meal and room charges at St. Ambrose becoming higher than the meeting income from the Section's \$ 30 per person meeting charge leading to the Section losing money on its three yearly meetings. So the Section's Executive

Committee made the decision to try lower cost locations for the Section meetings. Our thanks to CNH for making their facility available.

The first tech session presentation, [Hydrogen Fuel Cell Tractor Powered by Biogenic Hydrogen](#), was authored by Christian Mayer and given remotely by [Stefano Fiorati](#) of CNH. Stefano outlined the many alterations made to a conventional diesel engine powered tractor to accommodate the fuel cell power source. A major challenge in incorporating alternate fuels is the additional fuel storage space required to provide equivalent field operating times to a diesel engine powered tractor.

In the second tech session also given remotely, [Corey Spaetti](#), Chief Operating Officer for Sabanto described the [Sabanto Steward Autonomous Tractor Upgrade](#) which provides a hardware and software kit to enable autonomous operation on existing tractors. Besides providing for autonomous in-field operation, the Sabanto Steward system has capability for autonomously moving between fields.

After dinner, the Section welcomed ASABE President [Doug Otto](#) who described several recent Society initiatives. He suggested long time members reconnect with a technical committee they previously belonged to, engage with a new group and become an advocate for ASABE by telling others what the Society has done for you..

The after dinner presentation was given by [Paul Yeager](#), host of the Iowa PBS produced [Market to Market](#) program shown locally on Friday evenings.

**AETC 2025** The 2025 Agricultural Equipment Technology Conference will be held in Louisville preceding the National Farm Machinery Show. See [AETC-2025](#) for more details.

**2024-2025 Section Officers** The following Section officers for 2024-2025 were approved by the members present at the Spring Meeting:

Matthew Haas – Chair  
open position – Chair-Elect  
Travis Ohms – Past Chair  
Ashley Kruse – Secretary  
Terry Warner – Treasurer

Jeff Bennett – Nominating Committee  
Carol Plouffe – Nominating Committee  
Niels Dybro – Nominating Committee

The open Chair-Elect position is a three year progression: in year one, serve as Chair-Elect in mainly a learning role to learn the position of Chair with responsibility for the Section’s participation in the QCESC trebuchet competition. In year two, serve as the Section’s Chair working with the other members of the Executive Committee to support Section activities with an emphasis on securing meeting speakers. In year three, transition to Past Chair serving as the Section’s liaison to the Quad City Engineering and Science Council while also acting as a mentor to the Chair.

Note the Section By-Laws were recently changed to permit a Past Chair to again serve as Chair-Elect. Members willing to serve as Chair-Elect for the coming year should contact Jeff Bennett at [jeffrey.bennett@cnhind.com](mailto:jeffrey.bennett@cnhind.com). The Executive Committee acts as a team so support is always available for the Chair-Elect and other positions on the Committee.

The Meeting Arrangements and Young Professionals positions have recently been filled by Landon Fricker and Megan Mueller. Our thanks to Landon and Megan for taking over these responsibilities.

**Section Scholarship** The Section will again be offering a \$ 1,500 scholarship in 2025 through the [scholarship program](#) of the Quad City Engineering and Science Council ([QCESC](#)). In 2024, the QCESC awarded 17 scholarships totaling \$31,500. Applicants must be a Quad City area resident in the Illinois counties of Carroll, Henry, Knox, Lee, Mercer, Rock Island, or Whiteside, or in the Iowa counties of Clinton, Scott, Muscatine, or Louisa. Past Quad City Section scholarship recipients are listed at [Quad City Section Scholarship Recipients](#).

If you know of a local high school senior interested in pursuing a degree in [agricultural and biological engineering](#) or [agricultural technology and systems management](#), pass on this information to them. The scholarship application is available at <http://qcesc.org/for-students/#Scholarships> and

must be submitted by January 28, 2025. The Section's scholarship recipient will be recognized at the QCESC's 2025 STEM Celebration on February 20<sup>th</sup> and invited to our Quad City Section Awards Meeting on March 18<sup>th</sup>.

One reason the Section is able to offer the scholarship is from donations from our members giving the voluntary Section dues of \$ 10 per year in addition to their regular ASABE dues. So, when you complete your 2025 ASABE dues invoice, please consider including the Section dues as well as a way of supporting the education of future agricultural and biological engineers.

Section members who are Deere employees also have the opportunity to make donations to the Section through the Power of Good program which provides monetary contributions to charitable organizations in proportion to the volunteer hours contributed to that group by the employee.

In the past, several Quad City Section members have participated in selecting the recipients of the Section scholarships. If you'd like to be involved in the selection this year through the QCESC, contact me at [FreehillJustinC@JohnDeere.com](mailto:FreehillJustinC@JohnDeere.com) Thanks! – Cody Freehill, Scholarship Chair

**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 18<sup>th</sup>. Nominations are due by March 1, 2025. Past recipients are listed at [Quad City Section Award Recipients](#) . – Dave Smith, Awards Chair

## **Closing Notes**



Scott Clark

Quad City Section Member [Scott Clark](#) was the recipient of the 2024 ASABE Sunkist Young Designer Award for exceptional leadership and technical contributions in the development and advancement of crop harvesting equipment.

Scott serves as the engineering manager of the advanced research and development team for grain harvesting at John Deere in Silvis, Illinois. Early in his career, Scott gained valuable industry experience at CNH working territory sales and marketing, and field testing for combine new product development. Upon joining John Deere, he spent a decade in engine integration designing and testing new harvesting products. He has driven innovation throughout his career, and currently has more than 40 patent filings granted or pending in a variety of areas. A 17-year ASABE member, Scott has been a member and leader of several national committees and received numerous awards including the Gale Holloway Professional Development Award, the Quad City Section Young Member of the Year and the Yoerger Preprofessional Engineer of the Year Awards. Scott served as the Quad City Section Chair in 2015-16 and has done an outstanding job as the Section's Continuing Education Chair since 2019. Scott's involvement in his community exemplifies his genuine passion and commitment, as seen through his engagement with organizations such as the Quad Cities Engineering and Science Council, Habitat for Humanity, Living Lands and Waters, River Bend Food Bank, the John Deere FFA Alumni Affiliate, the Society of Women Engineers, and local "Adopt a School" initiatives. The award was presented at the 2024 ASABE

Annual International Meeting held in Anaheim in July. Congratulations to Scott!



Chris Schneider

Section Member [Chris Schneider](#) is the recipient of the 2024 SMV Technologies Ergonomics, Safety, and Health award for promoting product safety and compliance for global crop harvesting products specializing in fire engineering for non-road mobile equipment and development and application of industry standards. Chris is the equipment fires and product safety and compliance process manager at John Deere. He is responsible for leading development efforts for product safety and compliance for Deere's agricultural, construction, and forestry divisions. During Chris's 23-year career working for Deere, he has held roles in experimental product development and marketing and has spent 10 years working in development and application of industry standards. A 19-year member of ASABE, he has served in a committee leadership or membership role on several machinery systems and ergonomics, safety, and health technical committees. Chris has played a significant role with the development of several ASABE and ISO safety related standards. He was the chair of the awards oversight committee and lead a task-force seeking to improve and update the ASABE awards portfolio to ensure the awards program appropriately reflects the Society. Chris also received his award at the Anaheim meeting. Congratulations Chris!



Chad Yagow

Former Section Member Chad Yagow was installed as an ASABE Fellow at the Anaheim meeting. Chad served as the Section Chair in 2006-07 and received the Young Member of the Year Award in 2007. Nationally Chad was the first Chair of the Young Professionals Community and received the Gale Holloway Professional Development Award in 2008. Chad was most recently the agronomy lead for John Deere's See & Spray technology.



Art Clever

Former Section Member [Art Clever](#) passed away on October 3. After receiving his B.S. degree in agricultural engineering from The Ohio State University in 1967, Art joined the Deere Plow-Planter Works as a design engineer. He moved to the Deere & Company Standards Department in 1974 where he became a national authority on mechanical fasteners before retiring in 2009.

As of October 29, the Section had \$ 4,887.55 in its checking account. An additional \$ 10,000 has been invested in an 11 month CD at 4.62 % interest.

**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:

**January 12-14, 2025**

Quad City Farm Equipment Show, QCCA Expo Center, Rock Island. See <https://www.qccaexpoctr.com/events>

**January 21, 2025** (tentative)

Quad City Section Winter Meeting

**January 28, 2025**

Deadline for applying for [QCESC Scholarships](#)

**February 20, 2025**

QCESC STEM Celebration

**Spring 2025** (tentative)

Quad City Section Continuing Education Seminar

**March 18, 2025** (tentative)

Quad City Section Spring Meeting

**ASABE Quad City Section Executive Committee 2024-2025**

**Elected Officers**

**Chair:**

Matthew Haas  
CNH Industrial  
Ph. 815-780-7070  
[matthew.haas@cnhind.com](mailto:matthew.haas@cnhind.com)

**Chair-Elect:**

Open position

**Past Chair:**

Travis Ohms  
CNH Industrial  
Ph. 563-468-1750  
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**Secretary:**

Ashley Kruse  
John Deere Global Crop Harvesting  
Ph. 309-748-2212  
[KruseAshleyD@JohnDeere.com](mailto:KruseAshleyD@JohnDeere.com)

**Treasurer:**

Terry Warner  
CNH Industrial  
Ph. 563-343-0597  
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**Nominating Committee:**

Jeff Bennett  
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**Member Service Representatives**

**Awards:**

David Smith  
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[dave.smith8633@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dave.smith8633@sbcglobal.net)

**Community Outreach:**

Open position (Chair-Elect)

**Communications:**

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**Continuing Education:**

Scott Clark  
John Deere Global Crop Harvesting  
Ph. 309-765-2093  
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**Meeting Arrangements:**

Megan Mueller  
John Deere Seeding Group  
Ph. 309-850-0129  
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**Membership:**

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**Scholarship:**

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**Tours:**

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**Young Professionals:**

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