

Call for Papers

Quality versus Quantity: Competing Visions of Food, Farming and Rural Life

The Agricultural History Society Annual Conference
Springfield, Illinois, June 15-18, 2011

Deadline for Submissions, October 1, 2010



Contemporary debates about food, agriculture, and rural life are often framed in opposition with little attention to historical context. Proponents of the local, slow, and organic often emphasize quality while advocates of the global, fast, and industrial stress quantity to satisfy world demand for food. The Agricultural History Society invites proposals for papers that engage or transcend these debates by examining questions about quality and quantity as they relate to food, farming, and/or rural life from a historical perspective. We especially welcome submissions that counter or reframe the accepted narratives of the field. Topics from any time period and location are welcome.

The AHS encourages proposals of all types and formats, including traditional sessions with successive papers and commentary, thematic panel discussions or debates, roundtables on recent books/films, and poster presentations. The program committee prefers complete session proposals, but individual paper proposals are welcome. The AHS extends a special welcome to graduate students and provides up to \$250 in travel reimbursement to each graduate student whose paper is accepted for the conference.

Paper proposals should consist of a 200-word abstract and one-page CV. Session proposals should include a 200-word session summary accompanied by a 200-word paper abstract and one-page CV for each participant.

Submit all proposals to: Joe Anderson, Mount Royal University - jlanderson@mtroyal.ca

Questions may be directed to any member of the program committee:

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Springfield, Illinois is a major destination for those seeking more information about Lincoln, his political career at the state and national level and his family and their lives, particularly during 2011, the 150th anniversary of the start of the Civil War. Sites part of the AHS itinerary include the Old State Capitol which played an important role in the political struggle between Stephen A. Douglas (1813-1861) and Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865). Lincoln served his last term in the Illinois House of Representatives and delivered the 1858 “House Divided” speech there, and he used rooms in the building as his headquarters during the 1860 presidential campaign. The assassinated President’s laying-in-state tour ended at the Old State Capitol on May 3-4, 1865. More than 140 years later, Barack Obama declared his intention to run for the U.S. presidency at The Old State Capitol.

The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum (ALPLM), a state of the art facility with innovative interpretative approaches, and the Lincoln Home National Historic Site (a National Park Service property) sit within walking distance of the hotel. The Illinois State Museum, also within walking distance, have been collecting oral histories of Illinois farmers and making them electronically available via Audio Barn: <http://avbarn.museum.state.il.us/> Other state historic sites equally accessible include an early residence built by Frank Lloyd Wright, the Dana-Thomas House (1902) and the home of Vachel Lindsay, a contemporary of Carl Sandberg.

Lincoln’s New Salem, 25 miles northwest of Springfield, includes agricultural related reconstructions including a grist mill with a large horsepower and a replica canal boat used on the Sangamon River. Decatur, Illinois, within a 50-mile one-way drive, is a Corn Belt processing hub, home to the world headquarters of ADM [founded as Archer-Daniels Linseed Company (1902) which became Archer-Daniel-Midland (1923), and A. E. Staley Manufacturing Company (1909; currently owned by Tate & Lyle)]. In 1978, ADM began work on an ethanol plant just east of Decatur, and this site remains in operation. One of few wooden grain elevators has been restored at Atlanta, Illinois (J. H. Hawes Grain Elevator Museum), and this is near the Funk Home in Shirley, Illinois, which includes Funk family memorabilia.

The University of Illinois, the 1862 land-grant institution and site of the Morrow Plots, listed on the National Registry of Historic Places, is 80 miles east of Springfield. Visits to the archives, experiment farms, round barns and Morrow Plots can easily be arranged as can a tour of new biological research facility (Genome Project). Additionally, the radio station at the University of Illinois, WILL-580 AM is one of the first stations developed to inform farmers of markets and weather.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

- ?? Wednesday, June 15, Arrival; AHS Exec Com Meeting
- ?? Thursday, June 16, Sessions: morning & afternoon; Presidential Banquet (Melissa Walker presenting); Tour: Old State Capitol and Lincoln Home; Opening reception: Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum
- ?? Friday, June 17, Sessions: morning, Box lunch & tours in the afternoon; Awards Banquet
- ?? Saturday, June 18, Sessions: morning & afternoon, Luncheon Talk

Lodging: The President Abraham Lincoln Hotel. \$88 for single and double occupancy, \$100 for triple and \$112 for quad. Parking: \$7 per day.