

Ag Research, Production and Technology the Focus of Luncheon/Tour

Northern Illinois, particularly the DeKalb area, has been an incubator of transformational agricultural innovation for over 175 years, according to the DeKalb Area Agricultural Heritage Association (DAAHA).

Examples of innovations from this region are numerous: John Deere's steel plow; the Marsh harvester; Gurler's pure milk; barbed wire; one of the nation's first farm bureaus; hybrid corn, poultry and swine; and, more recently, the yield monitor found on modern combines.

The region's highly productive soils and exceptional infrastructure have attracted and sustained its top-notch farmers, as well as many agriculture and food-related businesses. So much so that it is no stretch to say that "Agriculture *IS* DeKalb County" and that this region is a "Silicon Valley" of agricultural innovation, according to DAAHA Advisory Board member Larry Mix.

DeKalb County Economic Development Corporation (DCEDC) is a proud supporter of the Agriculture Industry. The next DCEDC Business Roundtable Luncheon and Tour will be hosted by Monsanto at their Research Facility located at 8350 Minnegan Road in Waterman. It will be held on Wednesday, August 16th, from 10:30 am to 1:00 pm.

Troy Dukes, Monsanto Production Manager, will discuss production methods and quality assurance technologies that are used in agriculture today. Renee Nowak, from the Monsanto Seed Technology Center, will enlighten attendees on the over 300,000 quality tests, conducted each year at the seed lab to ensure that products meet farmers' expectations. John Hardin from the Monsanto Research Center, will provide an overview of the research operations that enable modern hybrid corn development. The event will conclude with guided tours through the Entomology, Pathology and Breeding Departments at the Research Facility.

From the development of elite plant genetics, to the design and manufacture of agricultural equipment, to producing high quality food products and efficiently distributing them across the nation, the DeKalb County region excels! Through its local seed research, production, and seed technology operations, Monsanto is an integral part of this region's agricultural economy.

The DAAHA is a local organization dedicated to collecting, preserving and sharing with people of all ages the storied history of agriculture and its innovators in northern Illinois. The organization seeks to elevate and expand awareness of this region's vital role in the agricultural economy.

Currently, DAAHA is working to bring together local and regional stakeholders, including those in the business, civic, and educational sectors under the umbrella of an agricultural and food systems corridor. By leveraging the area's rich historical and ongoing role as an incubator of cutting-edge agricultural and food systems innovation, DAAHA believes further and faster growth of this vital economic development engine can be achieved.

Reservations for DCEDC's Ag Research, Production and Technology luncheon and tour can be made on DCEDC's website (www.dcedc.org), or by contacting Karen Hoyle at hoyle@dcedc.org or by calling 815-895-2711. A picnic style luncheon will be served. Safety glasses will be issued and closed toe shoes will be required in order to take the tour.