

# **Bear Hybrid Collection**

**Collection #2.001**

**Finding Aid prepared by Tina Horve, Graduate Intern**



## **DECATUR PUBLIC LIBRARY**

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217-421-9766

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## COLLECTION SUMMARY

**Collection Number:** 2.001

**Collection Title:** Bear Hybrid Collection

**Dates:** 1917-1992

**Size:** 4 boxes (2 linear feet)

**Creator/Collector:** Bear Hybrid/Jan Bear Mandernach

**Acquisition Information:** Janice Mandernach, donated on March 20, 2017

**Accruals:** Accruals are not expected

**Custodial History:** Donated by Janice Mandernach, March 20, 2017

**Languages:** Collection materials are in English.

**Repository:** Local History Room, Archives and Special Collections Department, Decatur Public Library, Decatur, Illinois.

**Processed by:** Tina Horve, Graduate Intern, 2022

**Conservation Notes:** Not applicable

## RIGHTS AND ACCESS

### Physical Access Restrictions

None

### Technical Access Restrictions

None

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## INFORMATION FOR RESEARCHERS

### Preferred Citation

[item identification], [collection title], [collection number], Decatur Public Library, Department of Archives and Special Collections, Decatur, Illinois.

### Related Collections

None

## Bear Hybrid Collection

### **Separated Material**

Yield charts removed and stored in Map Files, drawer 8.

### **Published Descriptions**

None

### **Location of Originals**

Not applicable

### **Location of Copies**

Not applicable

### **Publication Note**

Not applicable

### **Subject Headings**

Bear Hybrid, A. Linn Bear, Decatur IL

## **HISTORICAL INFORMATION**

Bear Hybrid Company was founded by A. Linn Bear in 1925 to produce hybrid seed corn. The first hybrid seed sale to farmers was in 1936 and totaled only 10 acres. The company operated as a sole proprietorship until 1941, when Linn and his son, Robert P. Bear, formed a partnership. This partnership continued until 1952, when Bear Hybrid was incorporated. Three major specialty products were developed by the company between 1942 and 1966: waxy-maize, amylomaize, and foundation single crosses. Between 1953 and 1966 Bear Hybrid was the only major source for waxy-seed maize in the world, which was trademarked as Tapicorn. The first amylmaize seed was sold in 1959.

In 1982, Robert Bear sold the company to a group of investors. In 1985, Bear Hybrid Corn Company merged with Noble Brothers Inc. of Gibson City in order to enhance the breeding and marketing programs of both companies. The new firm, Noble Bear, Inc., functioned as a holding company for both seed companies.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

This collection contains documents, records, photographs, research, and publication materials from the Bear Hybrid Company. The collection is 2 linear feet and includes historical information on the formation and business practices of Bear Hybrid Company.

The collection was donated by Janice Mandernach on March 20, 2017. Two envelopes containing an assortment of materials originally marked "Records and Promotionals" were sorted into the Printed Material Series and Conferences Series. A folder originally labeled "Historical"

## Bear Hybrid Collection

was sorted and materials placed into the appropriate series. Financial: 1953-1959 Amylose Contract Development and Research: Data on BN Lines, 1985 were removed from their original binders. Research: Waxy Maize 1943-1958 Part I and II were originally together in one binder. Research: Waxy Maize 1959-1980/Amicorn 1958-1992 Part I and II were originally in one binder. Research: Starch Chart Analysis, 1970 remains in the order as donated. The remainder of the collection was organized with the researcher in mind.

### COLLECTION INVENTORY

#### I. History

This series contains the history of the Bear Hybrid company and the Bear family.

Folder Name	Box #	Folder #
Bear Hybrid, 1925-1968	Box 1	FF 1
Bear Facts, 1969		FF 2
Bear Family History as recorded by Jan Bear Mandernach, 1996	1	FF 3
Robert Bear-4-H Livestock Record Books and Crop Record Books, 1929-1936		FF 4
Robert Bear-Decatur Park District Board		FF 5

#### II. Financial

This series contains financial records of Bear Hybrid Company.

Folder Name	Box #	Folder #
1924 Financial Statement-Millikin National Bank, Decatur, Illinois		FF 6
1937 Account Notes-Mrs. J. S. C. Cussins		FF 7
1939 Budget Letter to Millikin National Bank		FF 8
1941 Financial Statement-Millikin National Bank, Decatur, Illinois		FF 9

#### III. Legal

This series contains legal records of Bear Hybrid Company.

Folder Name	Box #	Folder #
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## Bear Hybrid Collection

1946 Partnership Agreement between A. Linn Bear and Robert P. Bear		FF 10
1953 Draft Agreement between American Maize-Products Company and National Starch Company		FF 11
1953-1959 Amylose Contract Development		FF 12

### IV. Business

This series contains business records of Bear Hybrid Company.

Folder Name	Box #	Folder #
1938 Members of Illini Corn Hybrids		FF 13
1979 Nursery Breeding Plan		FF 14
1980 Nursery Breeding Plan		FF 15
1981 Nursery Breeding Plans & Observations		FF 16
1982 Nursery Breeding Plans & Observations		FF 17
1991 Noble Bear Source Numbering System		FF 18
1992 Foundation Isolations		FF 19
Customer 3 x 5" Index Cards		FF 20
Numbers of Possible Difference Single Cross, Three-Way Cross and Double Cross Corn Hybrids from Various Numbers of Inbred Lines		FF 21
Amylose Film Sample		FF 22
Iowa Corn Yield Test, 1931		FF 23
Pedigrees of Illinois Hybrids of which All Four Patent Inbred Lines are Being Distributed, 1937		FF 24
Published Paper: "A Note on Starch of High Amylose Content from Corn with High Starch Content"		FF 25
Published Paper: "Development of 'Amylose'—Corn Hybrids with High Amylose Starch"		FF 26
Published Paper: "Mutations for Waxy and Sugary Endosperm in Inbred Lines of Waxy Dent Corn"		FF 27

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Starch Chart Analysis, 1970		FF 28
Summary Data on BN Lines, 1985		FF 29
Waxy Maize Tapicorn, 1943-1958, Part I	Box 2	FF1
Waxy Maize Tapicorn, 1943-1958, Part II		FF 2
Waxy Maize Tapicorn, 1959-1980/Amicorn, 1958-1992, Part I		FF 3
Waxy Maize Tapicorn, 1959-1980/Amicorn, 1958-1992 Part II		FF 4

### V. Correspondence

This series contains correspondence of Bear Hybrid Company.

Folder Name	Box #	Folder #
Carter's Cross Corn		FF 5
Funk Bros. Seed Co. Invoices and Printed Material		FF 6
Newlin, J. J.—Hi-Bred Corn		FF 7
Other		FF 8
Pfister Hybrid Corn Company		FF 9

### VI. Associations

This series contains professional association records of Bear Hybrid Company.

Folder Name	Box #	Folder #
1936 Illinois Crop Improvement Association, Hybrid Corn Commodity Group Listing		FF 10
1937 Illinois Cooperative Corn Improvement Program, Policy for Distribution of Available Supplies of Foundation Single Crosses and Inbred Lines of Corn		FF 11

### VII. Conferences

This series contains information on industry conferences.

Folder Name	Box #	Folder #
1938 December 1—Midwest Independent Hybrid Corn Producers		FF 12

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1939 December 7—Midwest Independent Hybrid Seed Corn Producers		FF 13
1941 December 4—Independent Hybrid Producers of Illinois		FF 14
1958 March 11—Bear Research Conference-Foundation Seeds Product Meeting		FF 15
1958 April 23—Chemurgic Conference of the Council for Agricultural and Chemurgic Research-Development of Amylomaize Hybrid Presentation		FF 16
1962 April 13—Chemurgic Conference Speech		FF 17
1972 Corn Conference		FF 18

### VIII. Printed Material

This series contains printed material of Bear Hybrid and material printed by other entities.

Folder Name	Box #	Folder #
Bear: Business Cards-Robert P. Bear, English	Box 3	FF 1
Bear: Business Cards-Robert P. Bear, Japanese		FF 2
Bear: Business Cards-Roberto P. Oso, Spanish		FF 3
Bear: Christmas Card		FF 4
Bear: Crop Management Decisions, 1981		FF 5
Bear: Hybrid Catalog, 1984		FF 6
Bear: Instructions for Detasslers		FF 7
Bear: Maize Specialties Booklet, 1969		FF 8
Bear: Pricing Booklet, 1943-44		FF 9
Bear: The Story of Our Seed Corn		FF 10
Bear: This is Bear Hybrid Company		FF 11
Bear: The Three Bears		FF 12
Bear: Yearly Corn Data Memo Notebook, 1943-44		FF 13
Bear: Yearly Corn Data Memo Notebook, 1960		FF 14

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Bear: Yearly Corn Data Memo Notebook, 1971		FF 15
Bear: Yearly Corn Data Memo Notebook, 1972		FF 16
Bear: Yearly Corn Data Memo Notebook, 1973		FF 17
Bear: Yearly Corn Data Memo Notebook, 1974		FF 18
Bear: Yearly Corn Data Memo Notebook, 1975		FF 19
Bear: Yearly Corn Data Memo Notebook, 1976		FF 20
Bear: Yearly Corn Data Memo Notebook, 1978		FF 21
Bear: Yearly Corn Data Memo Notebook, 1982		FF 22
Bear: Yearly Corn Data Memo Notebook, 1983		FF 23
Bear: Yearly Corn Data Memo Notebook, 1984		FF 24
Bear: Yearly Corn Data Memo Notebook, 1985		FF 25
Bear: Yearly Corn Data Memo Notebook, 1986		FF 26
Bear: Yearly Sales Flyers, 1949-1968		FF 27
Other: Brief Description of Ear and Kernel Characters of Various Single Crosses, by C. M. Woodworth and Oren Bolin, January 1939		FF 28
Other: Brief Description of Inbred Lines of Corn, by C. M. Woodworth and Oren Bolin, January 1939		FF 29
Other: Corn Breeding, by Frederick D. Richey, 1927		FF 30
Other: Detasseling-An Important Step in Hybrid Corn Production, by C. M. Woodworth, July 1936		FF 31
Other: Grading Hybrid Seed Corn, by A. H. Wright, 1939		FF 32
Other: History of Decatur Park District, Decatur, Illinois, 1924-1979		FF 33



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Other: How to be the “Hybrid Corn King” in Your Territory, by William H. Jacques, 1940		FF 34
Other: Industrial Corn Team to the United States of America, August 18-September 8, 1973		FF 35
Other: Information About Corn Hybrids, Howat Farms, Inc.		FF 36
Other: La Hacienda Magazine, Septiembre 1961		FF 37
Other: Methods of Selfing and Crossing Corn, by C. M. Woodworth, November 1934	Box 4	FF 1
Other: Seed Corn, Farmer’s Bulletin No. 1822, 1939		FF 2
Other: The Story of Hybrid Corn, Iowa State College		FF 3
Other: What is Hybrid Corn? Corn Planter Bulletin No. 1		FF 4

### **IX. Clippings**

This series contains newspaper, magazine, and trade publication clippings related to Bear Hybrid or the corn industry.

Folder Name	Box #	Folder #
Newspaper		FF 5
Magazine and Trade Publications		FF 6

### **X. Photographs**

This series contains Bear Hybrid Company photographs

Folder Name	Box #	Folder #
Photographs		FF 7

### **XI. Ephemera**

This series contains Bear Hybrid Company ephemera.

Folder Name	Box #	Folder #
Ephemera		FF 8

### **XII. Oversized Materials**

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This series contains oversized collection materials stored in Map Drawers, drawer 8.

Folder Name	Box #	Folder #
1928 Yield of Dry Corn per Acre chart		Map Files, Drawer 8
1916 Graph of Yields in Breeding Plot, Sunnyside Farm		Map Files, Drawer 8
Field Chart		Map Files, Drawer 8