WATRLOO TECHNICAL SOCIETY
Meeting Minutes – 10 March 2004

The 10 March 2004 of the Waterloo Technical Society was held at the Greenstreets Restaurant located at the Cedar Falls Holiday Inn, with 18 members, and no guests attending. Vice President Cal Meyer called the meeting to order at 7:18 PM. The honorary members and past presidents were recognized. Cal Meyer read the minutes from the 11 Feb 2004 meeting.
A treasures report was presented the 20 Feb Balance is $857.72

Old Business: none

New Business: none

Program: **Chairman Floyd Danielson**
Topic: **Agricultural Biotechnology and DNA**

Speaker: Chuck Kolbet

Chuck was born in New Hampton and is an Iowa State graduate. Chuck is currently employed as Agronomist with Monsanto, as the Tech Development Manager.

Biotech was started in 1906 and has progressed to the point its today.

Mr. Kolbet basically let the questions from the audience direct his presentation.
The fear of bio-Tec is the result of "lack of education" the modifications are digested as the product is digested. There for it is safe for both animal and human consumption. The European countries are beginning to loosen the rule affecting the use of bio-tech technology, most will now allow the farmers to purchase and plant bio-tech products but they are not allowed to import yet. The European countries are not as well advanced in are have not developed the bio-tech technology to the level used in the Stated.

The use of DNA technology has made possible the insect resistant plant for both cotton and corn, by inserting the gene in the seed that gives the plants the properties to kill the bugs. Examples of the application are: recently released root worm resistant corn, and bug resistant cotton seed which as reduce the spraying for bugs from 7 times a season to 2.
The number of round up ready plants is increasing, 90% of the beans planted is round up ready. It expected that round up ready alfalfa will be available with in the next ten years.

More Round Up is used than the next chemicals used farming and at this time Monsanto has more income from seeds traits than from chemicals.

The latest push is for organic foods, at this time there is a question of what constitutes an organic food, no genetic modified plants, weed spray or fertilizer. If it does mean farming like we did 80 years ago, the world would starve. There is no evidence that organic products are safer or better than the BT modified products. Bio tech products are feeding the world.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Next months meeting will be Wyle Laboratory tour. The laboratory works with emphasis on environmental quality.

Respectfully submitted,
Calvin Meyer Vice President