



Part 4: Five Circle Pattern in Geneseo, Illinois, Soybeans

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September 6, 2006 Geneseo, Illinois - On Thursday, August 24, 2006, Ted Robertson hired a fixed-wing airplane pilot to take him over the Jim and Chris Stahl soybean farm in Geneseo, Illinois. One of his photographs sparked a question in the minds of Roger Sugden and Jeffrey Wilson of the Independent Crop Circle Research Association (ICCRA).

Puzzling Soybean Circle Placement



Graphically superimposed blue line goes along sprayer lines; red line goes along planting rows. Aerial image © 2006 by Ted Robertson and graphic © 2006 by Roger Sugden and Jeffrey Wilson, ICCRA.

Earthfiles, news category.

Jeff applied the red and blue lines to the photograph and wrote to me by email:

"Roger Sugden looked at Ted's aerial photos of that site and it appeared at first that the formation was aligned to the planting rows and not to the tramline sprayer lines, but the actual planting rows. Those are at a different angle than the sprayer lines are. Sprayer lines seem to be parallel to the road, but for some reason – we don't know why this is the case – when they planted there, they planted sort of on an angle. So, Roger first looked at it and thought it was aligned to the planting rows, rather than the sprayer lines.

"But in a better overhead aerial, I looked at it more carefully and it does not appear to be aligned to either one, which is the photograph I sent you with the two colored lines. One colored line (blue) is aligned with the tramlines. The other colored line (red) is aligned with the planting rows. The formation is not aligned to either one, which is somewhat significant in the sense that generally when we are in a manmade formation, it's aligned to some feature on the ground like the sprayer lines or perhaps the planting rows or telephone poles on the ground or some building feature that the people use as a marker when they are laying out the construction on it.

"In this case, the Geneseo soybean circles are not aligned to any ground feature, including the tramlines, the planting lines, the poles nearby, or even the microwave tower off in the distance."

September 3, 2006 email from Chris and Jim Stahl
in answer to my question about the sprayer and planting lines:

Jim Stahl: "The field is actually one big triangle. I planted the rows parallel to the fence row on the north. I sprayed parallel to the fence row on the south."



Aerial showing 5-circle-formation not aligned to Middle Road on left. Jim Stahl planted soybeans parallel to northern fence row to the right off camera. Ted Robertson found, using GPS, that the formation was rotated 19 degrees east of magnetic north. Photograph © 2006 by Ted Robertson.

Corn Test Farm Across Road

Ted Robertson's aerial photographs also showed a large rectangle of soil with strips of plants growing in it across the road from the soybean circles. I asked Jim and Chris Stahl for more information.

September 3, 2006 email from Chris and Jim Stahl

Jim Stahl: "Wyffels seed corn company owns it (test farm). They have test plots there every year. I believe they are testing different seed corn varieties."



Photograph above and photograph below of Wyffels seed corn company's test farm across Middle Road from the Chris and Jim Stahl soybean farm in Geneseo, Illinois. Photographs © 2006 by Ted Robertson.



Only Similar Previous U. S. Pattern
Was in Allen County, Ohio -1999



Above and below: photographs Allen County, Ohio, © 1999 landowner (name withheld for privacy) and provided by ICCRA.



Jeffrey Wilson looked in his ICCRA archives of American crop formations for any pattern similar to the five circles in the Geneseo, Illinois, soybeans. He wrote to me: "Allen County, Ohio in 1999 is the only formation in the USA database which is similar – we've had very few Celtic Cross-type patterns reported in the USA." Jeff found that five circles were "discovered near the center of a field of wheat while the landowner was harvesting the field, and there were no sprayer lines/tramlines in the field."

Jeff Wilson: "In this Allen County, Ohio case, all five circles were tangent/slightly overlapping, but the circle sizes were quite similar. I checked the measurements of the formation, and it was slightly smaller overall than Geneseo, Illinois. There was also a crop

formation in Rock Island, Illinois back in the 1990s."

August 22-25, 1991: Circles in Blue Grass, Iowa Corn



About an hour by car west of Geneseo, Illinois, is Blue Grass, Iowa.



The top arrow points at corn circle measured 46 feet, 5 inches in diameter near Coon Hunter Road, Blue Grass, Iowa. On August 22, 1991, farmers Delmar and Carol Meyer found that circle of corn swirled counterclockwise. Three days later on August 25, 1991, a local pilot (deceased Blue Grass mayor) flew over and found the second circle near old Highway 61, now called 140th Avenue.

That counterclockwise circle also measured 46 feet in diameter.

Aerial image courtesy Carol and Delmar Meyer.



Delmar "Snowball" Meyer standing at the center of the counterclockwise corn circle (46 feet 5 inches in diameter) near Coon Hunter Road, Blue Grass, Iowa.

Photograph © 1991 by North Scott Press.



Coon Hunter Road corn circle nearest cattle corral. Carol Meyer said, "Those cattle would have raised a ruckus if someone had tried to come in our corn field. But no one ever heard or saw a thing."
 Photograph courtesy Carol and Delmar Meyer.



Corn circle nearest cattle corral and Coon Hunter Road, Blue Grass, Iowa, discovered by farm owners Carol and Delmar Meyer on August 22, 1991. Small circle near barns is bail feeder. Aerial photograph courtesy Carol and Delmar Meyer.

Interview:

Delmar Meyer, Farmer, Blue Grass, Iowa: "It was fifteen years ago back on August 22, 1991, probably around 6 p.m. I did custom bailing and I was going down the road (Coon Hunter's Road) with a tractor. I looked up there on the hillside and I could see a circle. I went down and finished bailing and came back and got the wife (Carol) and said, 'Let's go look at the hole in the ground.' A couple of weeks before, there was a (limestone) quarry over about three miles and they had a hole that fell in. So I thought maybe it was another one in my corn. But then, when we got out there, it was no hole. It was just a complete circle in our corn.

SO IS YOUR FARM ON A LOT OF LIMESTONE?

I'm not certain – the quarry is at least three miles away – but at the time I didn't know

what else it could be.

WHAT EXACTLY DID YOU SEE IN THE CORN?

I just went out there and it was all counterclockwise. Jim Stahl's in Geneseo was all clockwise, wasn't it?

RIGHT.

Mine was counterclockwise and it was just like something set on top of it and just went down. There were no cornstalks scuffed, no ears of corn knocked off. There wasn't a stalk outside that 46-foot-diameter circle! Everything was inside the circle. You know if you knocked corn down, it would fall into different rows. But this was neatly inside that 48-foot-diameter perfect circle. Actually, it was measured it at 46 feet, five inches.

[Editor's Note: Carol Meyer sent me an aerial photograph taken by local pilot on August 25, 1991, which showed a second corn circle near old Highway 61 that ran in front of their farm house. She said it also measured 46-feet and was put down as someone's hoaxed copy of the first circle. "We decided not to talk much about the second circle because we were afraid of being called crazy."]

IT WAS LIKE YOU PUT A COOKIE CUTTER DOWN AND EVERYTHING INSIDE WAS SWIRLED COUNTERCLOCKWISE?

Yes.

HAD YOU EVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THAT BEFORE?

No, but we had heard about a crop circle over in Illinois around that time (Milan, Illinois, 1990 - see report below.)

DID YOU HAVE THE SHERIFF COME OUT TO LOOK AT THE CIRCLE?

Yes. I called the Scott County Sheriff's office right away and they came out and said about the same thing that Jim Stahl in Geneseo, Illinois, said now. The deputy called his dispatch and said, 'I don't know how we're going to report this. There's a circle out here and there's no signs of anything - not of anybody walking to it or anything like that.' So, that was all they had and eventually they called it a hoax.

BUT HOW COULD THAT BE IF THERE WERE NO TRACKS?

I know, but they put it that way so they don't have to go further and investigate it.

THIS WAS A FIELD THAT DID NOT HAVE ANY TRAMLINES?

Right, it didn't have anything. The deputy and I looked around the outside edge of the circle for any foot marks and didn't find anything. There were no footprints in there whatsoever, and there were no corn leaves pulled on the ground or anything.

HOW WERE THE CORNSTALKS SWIRLED COUNTERCLOCKWISE?

I don't know. They just looked like they fell over.

WERE THEY STRAIGHT? OR SWIRLED SOMEHOW?

They were pretty straight, but there was not a one of them outside the edge of the circle. So there had to be some curve to it to stay inside.

ALL THE PLANTS LEFT STANDING AROUND THE CIRCLE SEEMED UNTOUCHED?

Yes, they were.

WERE ALL OF THE CIRCLE STALKS LIKE THEY HAD FALLEN TO A POINT IN THE CENTER?

Well, in the center, there were a couple of bare spots, just like the plants were turned out from there and the dirt was all there was. It was like they were all put down at one time. There weren't stalks on top of another. It's just like something sat down on the stalks and put them down neatly, but the leaves weren't torn up or ears knocked off. But something took those plants down.



Center of corn circle nearest Coon Hunter Road found by Delmar and Carol Meyer on August 22, 1991. Photograph courtesy Carol and Delmar Meyer.

THERE WERE NO PHYSICAL ABRASIONS ON THE CORN?

No.

IT SOUNDS AS IF THEY WOULD HAVE TO HAVE SOME SWIRL TO THE STALKS TO FIT IN THE CIRCLE.

Yes, it was just so neat.

DID YOU NOTICE ANY PURPLE-REDDISH DISCOLORATION ON ANY OF THE LEAVES OR CORN, LIKE JIM STAHL HAS HAD IN HIS SOYBEANS?

There was nothing that anyone ever found.

HOW CLOSE WAS THE CORN TO HARVEST ON AUGUST 22, 1991?

You don't harvest corn until around the end of September.

WAS THERE ANYTHING UNUSUAL ABOUT THE CORN LAYED DOWN INSIDE THE CIRCLE COMPARED TO CORN IN THE REST OF THE FIELD?

No. It all looked like normal corn that something had set down on it in a circle – without touching it! (laughs) Can you believe that?!

THERE HAVE BEEN OTHER CORN CIRCLE REPORTS AND EVERYONE ASKS: HOW DO YOU TAKE THOSE THICK STEMS AND SWIRL THEM?

All the corn root system in that circle was not broke off either.

WHERE THE STEMS WENT INTO THE GROUND TO THE ROOTS, WERE THEY CURVED OVER WITHOUT CRACKS OR BREAKS?

Yes.

VERY CLEANLY CURVED TO THE GROUND?

Yes. Those stalks should have broken off!

LIKE YOU WOULD FORM A PIPE TO CURVE TO THE GROUND?

Yes.

WHO MEASURED THE 46 FEET, FIVE INCHES?

We had our tape measure and measured it. And some people came down from Iowa City and they were in the field for quite awhile and they measured it over and over. [Paranet investigators - see 1991 report below.]

WHAT DID THEY SAY?

They said it was unexplainable. They took samples and all that and they could not figure anything out.

DID YOU HARVEST THE CORN IN THOSE 1991 CIRCLES?

Yes.

Unusual Lights Reported in Sky

*One witness saw an unidentified light moving over nearby fields around 9:30 p.m.
A second witness on a road adjacent to the field reported seeing a classic saucer
descending toward the field as if preparing to land between 12:30 and 1:00 a.m.
A third witness heard an unusual 'rumbling, bumping sound' between 2 and 3 a.m."*
- "1991 Paranet Information Service Field Investigation Report" (below)

DID ANYONE REPORT HEARING OR SEEING ANYTHING UNUSUAL IN THE SKY
AT THAT TIME?

Two or three people said they saw something. It's in that report (see below).

DID YOU HEAR FROM ANY OTHER FARMERS HAVING CIRCLES IN THE
SUMMER OF 1991?

No, nothing, until a couple of years ago, there was a farmer up by Tama, Iowa, who had a
circle in his soybean field. I don't know who it was.

HOW FAR IS THAT FROM BLUE GRASS?

150 miles northwest. I believed him, too, when he said he had a circle he couldn't explain.

WAS IT IN SOYBEANS?

Yes. Another soybean circle about ten years after our corn circles."

1991 Paranet Information Service Field Investigation Report, August 29, 1991

PARANET INFORMATION SERVICE Field Investigation Report [excerpts]		COPY
(c) Copyright 1991 ParaNet Information Service. All Rights Reserved.		
CASE NUMBER: PN-91-0001		
REPORT NUMBER: PN-91-0001-1 (29 Aug 91)		
INCIDENT DATE: Wed/Thu, August 21/22, 1991		
INCIDENT TIME: 9:30 pm to 3:00 am Central Time		
INCIDENT LOCATION		
Blue Grass, Iowa (90 deg 45 min W, 41 deg 30 min N)		
WEATHER AND ASTRONOMICAL CONDITIONS		
Clear skies, no precip, temp in low 70s, wind < 10 mph Sunset 7:57 pm Wednesday, sunrise 6:21 am Thursday Moonrise 5:58 pm Wednesday, moonset 3:34 am Thursday Saturn 8.5 degrees from moon. No other planets visible. Lunar illumination 91%.		
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS		
James Roger Black, Iowa City, Iowa (author of this report) Robert W. Atwood, Iowa City, Iowa (photographer and associate)		
SUMMARY		
A 46.5-foot circle appeared in a corn field east of Blue Grass, Iowa, on the night of Wednesday/Thursday, August 21-22, 1991. One witness saw an unidentified light moving over nearby fields around 9:30 pm. A second witness on a road adjacent to the field reported seeing a classic saucer descending toward the field as if preparing to land between 12:30 and 1:00 am. A third witness heard an unusual "rumbling, bumping sound" between 2:00 and 3:00 am. A second circle appeared in a different field on the night of Saturday/Sunday, August 24-25, 1991, but it appears to be a hoax perpetrated in response to the first circle.		
BACKGROUND		
Blue Grass, Iowa, is a farming community of approximately 1400 people near the Iowa/Illinois border. It sits astride U.S. Highway 61 between Davenport (4		
PN-91-0001-1[excerpts]	1	Blue Grass Crop Circle

miles east of Blue Grass in the "Quad Cities" area) and Muscatine (20 miles southwest of Blue Grass); Interstate 80 lies about 7 miles to the north and the Mississippi River about 4 miles to the south. Despite its proximity to a major metropolitan area, Blue Grass still has the feel of an isolated rural community, and the surrounding corn and soybean fields can be quite dark and forbidding in the dead of night.

As in most small towns, everyone knows everybody and their business, which leads to some interesting relationships among the witnesses in this case. For example, M.A.'s husband regularly plays cards with Snowball Meyer; and C.S., who helps care for M.A.'s husband because of his chronic medical problems, is the brother of S.S. In a larger community such inter-relationships would immediately raise questions of collusion; in a town like Blue Grass, it is merely an inevitable part of the local culture.

The Blue Grass area, like much of eastern Iowa, has been a hotbed of UFO activity for years. One sightseer we encountered during our investigation told us that she had been "chased home" in her car by a brightly lit UFO in 1956, and we were told that another Blue Grass resident's vacation campsite in southern Iowa had been buzzed by bright lights earlier in the year. Last year a similar crop circle in a corn field near Milan, Illinois, just across the Mississippi River, was examined by MUFON investigators, and several UFO-related incidents were reported in the press. Two of the witnesses in the present case reported frequent nocturnal lights and close encounters during the past two years, culminating in the events which are narrated in this report.

SNOWBALL MEYER'S CROP CIRCLE

On Friday, August 23, 1991, ParaNet investigator Robert W. Atwood of Iowa City, Iowa, learned from a co-worker that a crop circle had appeared in a field owned by the co-worker's father-in-law, Delmar "Snowball" Meyer of Blue Grass, Iowa. Mr. Atwood immediately contacted me by telephone and together we drove to Blue Grass, arriving at Mr. Meyer's farm at about 5:30 pm.

Snowball has been a farmer ever since he left the Marines in 1954; he has been at his present location for 20 years. He is 57 years old, with three children, and remarried after the death of his first wife. He has no religious affiliation and no hobbies--"just this crazy farming" and a few rounds of golf "when I've got the time". He is respected by his neighbors and described as "not one to draw attention to himself."

The farm is located approximately 1.25 miles east of Blue Grass amid gently rolling hills, on the southeast corner of the intersection of Highway 61 and Coon Hunter Road. It appears tidy and prosperous, with five major buildings and some metal storage silos in addition to a large farmhouse. There is also an older concrete silo standing by itself at the southeast corner of the homestead.

We were directed to the circle by Mr. Meyer's son and grandson; Snowball himself was already at the circle with some friends when we arrived. The circle was situated in a corn field about 150 yards south of the homestead, on a slight incline which slopes downward toward the northwest. The field is completely surrounded by an electric fence except for a large metal gate on the north side. Mr. Meyer's family assured us that the fence was electrified Wednesday night, and that due to its design (using line current instead of a battery) it would deliver a particularly nasty jolt to anyone who came in contact with it.

Local television station KWQC had already visited the farm and carried a "humorous" story about the circle on their noon news report, prompting a number of neighbors to visit the site before we got there; but Snowball had been careful to minimize damage to the circle and the surrounding fields. The corn was well over our heads and closely planted (about 3.5 feet between rows and only 6 inches between individual plants within the rows), and we had to walk carefully to keep from damaging the remaining crops. A pronounced trail leading from the gate to the circle had been formed by the steady stream of visitors and family members; two smaller trails leading toward Coon Hunter Road were attributed to sightseers who had come that way after the fence was turned off. Snowball insisted that he had carefully examined the field immediately after finding the circle and that there had been no evidence of trails or footprints at that time.

He explained that he first noticed the circle about 6 pm Thursday afternoon while driving on Coon Hunter Road. He added that the circle was only partially visible from the road, appearing from that vantage point as a semicircle rather than a complete circle, but that from the moment he saw it "something told me this is what I was going to find." He was certain the circle was not there at 6 pm Wednesday (which is corroborated by the fact that the leaves of the fallen plants were still green when he first examined them Thursday evening). He concluded that the circle must have been formed some time Wednesday night; but he could recall nothing unusual about that night, and he confessed that he was completely baffled by the whole thing. He also said that he had never had any problems in the past with vandals, pranksters, trespassers, thieves, or any other peculiar or troublesome events.

Snowball reported the incident to the Scott County Sheriff's Department almost immediately (at 7:06 pm Thursday according to the official report), but the investigating officer had dismissed the incident as an act of "vandalism" despite an inability to find any footprints or any evidence of how it was accomplished. Snowball said that the incident had left him "keyed up" and nervous, and that he had trouble sleeping Thursday night; he said it bothered him to think that things like this could happen on his land without his knowledge or consent.

Within the circle, the corn plants had been swirled counter-clockwise around the center in a manner similar to the wheat circles in England, with the individual stalks lying at right angles to the radius. With few exceptions the

stalks were not broken off but rather had been simply pushed over flat against the ground as if by a high wind, with the roots on one side pulled out of the ground and those on the other still buried. (Those stalks that were broken off--we counted only four, all clustered together near the western edge of the circle--were broken cleanly just above the roots, and there was still considerable moisture in the break.) There was no evidence of any damage to leaves or stalks (both of which are very fragile due to the low rainfall in recent weeks), and none of the ears had been detached. Four other plants which had previously been pulled over and broken by foraging raccoons (as evidenced by their gnawed and discolored ears) were still standing in various parts of the circle; they measured between 19 and 30 inches tall and showed no evidence of recent damage. In one place--again on the western edge--the leaves seemed to have been swirled around adjacent stalks somewhat like the "braiding" patterns reported in English wheat circles.

We measured the circle's diameter half a dozen times, and each time arrived at the figure of 46.5 feet with an error of at most a couple of inches. The investigating officer from the Sheriff's office had examined the center of the circle and found no evidence that a spike or post had been driven into the ground there; we conducted our own search and found nothing either. The circumference was clearly defined, again in the manner of the English circles; a plant inside the circle would be pushed over and lying perfectly flat, while another plant only six inches away but outside the circle would be standing perfectly straight and untouched. The only irregularity was on the western edge, where two or three plants outside the circle were slightly damaged; but Snowball attributed this to the carelessness of the sightseers who had come from that direction and insisted it had not been that way when he first arrived on the scene.

The ground in this particular field is mostly clay and was extremely dry (again due to the near-drought conditions), with no evidence of any moisture at all in the first three or four inches of soil. Snowball informed us that the field is neither deeply tilled nor chemically fertilized; instead he prefers to turn the cows loose in it after the harvest and "let them fertilize it for me." As a result, the soil is quite hard and compacted. Nevertheless, the surface was covered with a light, powdery layer of dust which was easily disturbed; a cooler carried into the circle earlier in the day by one of Snowball's friends had left clear marks everywhere it was set down. We found it was possible to walk through the field without leaving footprints if one wore flat-bottomed shoes and took great care, but field boots left characteristic marks everywhere.

There was no obvious difference between the ground inside the circle and the ground outside of it, and no evidence of desiccation (beyond the drying and yellowing one would normally expect of uprooted plants in the hot summer sun). Several grass plants were still green and standing amid the flattened corn, as were a number of shorter buttonweeds; but the taller buttonweeds had been broken (although not completely detached) and then knocked over in the same spiral pattern as the corn. Near the center of the circle one very tall buttonweed plant had been broken twice and left standing so that it formed a

square with the ground about two feet on a side. The top edge of this particular plant was a noticeably different color than the rest of it (grey instead of dark green), but otherwise there was no unusual discoloration of any of the plants.

As evening came on, we noticed a fair number of flies on the fallen corn, but there was no other insect activity that we could find. Snowball did inform us, however, that there had been some rootworm infestation in the field. (Since rootworm weakens the stalk near the base, it could explain the handful of plants which had been broken off instead of uprooted.) We took pictures of everything we could think of, but did not take any soil or vegetation samples both because of the lateness of our arrival and because we have not yet arranged for use of the necessary laboratory facilities.

On our way out of the field we encountered a small herd of cattle, both cows and bulls, penned up near the old silo. They seemed unusually attentive to us, drawing up together in a mass and staring at us for as long as we stood still. At the slightest movement, however, they "spooked" and ran some distance away, then turned and stared again. Snowball's family said that their cows have always been nervous and easily upset, so this is presumably "normal" behavior for them, but it seemed very strange to us. We asked Snowball whether there had been any mutilations or missing cattle in the area; he said he was not aware of any, but that with cattle often set free to forage in the fields it might be days before anyone would notice if one did turn up missing.

DISCUSSION: CROP CIRCLE FORMATION

Much of our discussion with witnesses and with other researchers about this case has centered on how this and other crop circles could have been formed.

The easiest explanation, of course, is a hoax. And, indeed, there are some elements that might be consistent with a hoax. The center of the circle fell precisely between two rows of corn, which is where one would expect a hoaxer to begin; and it was a bright moonlit night, which would have obviated the need for artificial illumination.

On the other hand, those who offer this answer will be hard-pressed to come up with any mechanism consistent with the rest of the physical evidence:

The circle was perfectly round to within a few inches--about one percent of the radius.

The individual corn stalks were precisely laid out at right angles to the radius.

There were no signs of abrasion on the sides of the stalks, no damage to the leaves, and no detached ears of corn.

Small weeds and grass in the circle were not trampled, broken, or otherwise damaged.

Stalks which had already been broken by predators were left standing; only tall-standing, intact stalks were knocked down.

There was no evidence of a central stake, footprints, or other marks of human intervention.

In general, force applied to the upper part of a mature corn stalk will cause it to snap near that point; force applied to the lower stalk will break it off between four and six inches above the ground. We found no evidence of either kind of damage in the circle. All but a handful of stalks were partially uprooted; the rest were snapped off within an inch of the ground. Both are consistent with a force applied evenly to the entire length of the stalk rather than at a particular point, which would seem to rule out any mechanism involving a rope or chain. The only hoaxing method we can envision would require applying a slowly increasing pressure at the base of each individual plant--within the first six inches or so above the ground--until the roots gave way and the plant toppled over. Such an approach would be incredibly time-consuming; there are approximately "one thousand" individual plants in a circle of this size. Several people might be able to do it in an hour or two if they never stopped to rest and never made a mistake; one person might do it in half the night. If done with bare hands it would require a lot of kneeling and crawling around, which would almost certainly have left marks in the dust; if done with machinery it should have left some kind of marks on the stalks. Further complicating the issue is the electric fence (which would have required travel through the homestead area to reach the gate) and the fact that dragging or carrying machinery through the close-standing stalks should have left tell-tale signs. While a hoax can never be absolutely ruled out (people can, after all, be extraordinarily clever when they want to be), it seems extremely unlikely in this instance.

I discussed weather as an explanation for the circle with both Snowball and J.H., but both firmly dismissed this possibility. Snowball admitted that the field where the circle appeared is "one of the worst for windstorms" and that "this hill catches it all the time." But both he and J.H. insisted that never in their many years of experience with wind damage had they ever seen corn knocked over in a single perfect circle and the plants otherwise left undamaged. Normal storm winds, they said, will uproot the stalks in a similar fashion, but in a straight line instead of a circle; furthermore, there is always a considerable amount of damage to the plants, especially torn or detached leaves, and there are generally a significant number of plants left standing in the midst of the damage. A typical whirlwind, on the other hand--far from forming a single perfect circle--will "chew up" crops in a long, jagged scar, leaving them tangled and torn but still standing. Finally, it should be noted that the weather in the Blue Grass area during the time in question was dry and clear, and the wind was less than 10 miles per hour--hardly consistent with a violent windstorm.

The "plasma vortex" explanation was initially attractive, since this little-understood phenomenon allegedly forms near-perfect spheres within which the kinds of high winds required by this case can occur. That line of thought fell apart, however, when we learned that a crop circle formed last year in Milan, Illinois was also measured at precisely 46.5 feet. It seems extremely unlikely, to say the least, that "plasma vortices" or any other natural phenomenon would create two circles of identical diameter within ten miles of each other in two successive summers. This would seem to require some kind of intelligent origin for both circles, whether human or otherwise. It should also be noted that this particular circle formed in the middle of the only open expanse in an area cluttered with trees, fences, roads, buildings, and farm equipment. One would expect a natural phenomenon to be a little less discriminating.

Of course, in the Milan case the circle was swirled clockwise instead of counterclockwise, and most of the stalks were broken off at ground level instead of uprooted. However, this is not so great a discrepancy as it might seem. Whether corn will uproot or snap off in high wind depends on how deeply it is rooted and whether or not it is infested with insects which can weaken the stalk. In the Blue Grass circle, the roots of the corn plants were only three or four inches deep (somewhat shallow for this late in the year) which may have made them easier to uproot than normal. Furthermore, the one place where we found some stalks broken off instead of uprooted was on the western (i.e., down-slope) edge, where one would expect greater moisture and deeper root systems. Finally, the roots of the plants in question were tangled together more tightly than most, and may have presented greater opposition to whatever force toppled the other plants.

One other point about the Blue Grass circle needs to be emphasized. Whatever acted to create it, it did not involve the kind of broad, crushing force that would be generated by large planks or sheets of plywood--or, for that matter, by a grounded flying saucer. Some of the plants (the grass, smaller buttonweeds, and previously broken corn stalks) remained upright and undamaged, while everything around them was being flattened; consequently, if some kind of vehicle descended toward the field as M.A. claims, it could not have come closer than about thirty inches to the ground. It would seem that the force which created the circle, whatever it was, acted on the stalks individually, not collectively--and that fact must be paramount in any theory that attempts to explain it.

AFTERMATH

According to Snowball Meyer, the mayor of Blue Grass went up in a small plane over the weekend to get a look at the circle from the air, and immediately spotted a second circle in another one of Snowball's corn fields. This circle was adjacent to Highway 61 (only about 40 feet into the field) and approximately the same size as the first; but unlike the first one, the stalks had all been broken off about four to six inches above the ground--precisely what one would expect from a hoax. Snowball was of the opinion that this

circle was created by pranksters Saturday night after news of the first circle got around, and he was not at all pleased about it. "If it's a prank and it keeps happening, somebody's going to get hurt," he warned.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact James Roger Black, 1130 Church Street, Iowa City, IA 52245
Home phone: (319) 338-5863. Office phone: (319) 335-5603.

More Information:

For further information about crop formations, please see reports below and going back to 1999 in the **Earthfiles Archives** and my book, *Mysterious Lights and Crop Circles* in the **Earthfiles Shop**:

- 08/31/2006 -- Part 3: Five Circle Pattern in Geneseo, Illinois, Soybeans
- 08/28/2006 -- Part 2: Five Circle Pattern in Geneseo, Illinois, Soybeans
- 08/27/2006 -- Part 1: Five Circles in Geneseo, Illinois, Soybeans
- 08/17/2006 -- Military Helicopter Aggression Toward Red Sphere in U. K.
- 08/16/2006 -- Etchilhampton August 15, 2006, Wheat Formation
- 07/21/2006 -- U. K. 17 Crop Patterns Reported Between July 4 - 20
- 06/11/2006 -- Updated: Two Mysterious Circles in Wheat Baffle Kansas Farmer
- 04/07/2006 -- First 2006 Grass Circles in Conondale, Queensland, Australia
- 09/02/2005 -- Part 2: Mysterious Lights At Coles County, Illinois, Corn Circles
- 09/02/2005 -- Part 1: New York and Ohio Corn Circles "Flattened 2 to 5 Feet Above Ground"
- 09/02/2005 -- First 2005 Canadian Crop Circles Reported
- 08/09/2005 -- Three Extraordinary U. K. Crop Formations Reported August 9, 2005
- 08/07/2005 -- Mysterious Light Photographed in Canadian Woods
- 08/02/2005 -- Part 1: Anomalies Confirmed in Pennsylvania and Arizona Randomly Downed Crops
- 07/23/2005 -- Mystery of Six Grass Circle Formations in North Carolina
- 07/19/2005 -- Crop Formation in Czech Republic
- 07/18/2005 -- Garsington, Oxfordshire, U.K. Wheat Formation - Astronomical Orbit?
- 07/01/2005 -- U. K. Bicyclist Reports Mysterious, Low Hovering Objects Bending Wheat
- 06/28/2005 -- Crop Circles in Poland
- 05/26/2005 -- Phoenix Barley Mystery: Apparently Irrigation and Wind
- 05/20/2005 -- May 2005 Crop Formation Update in Six Countries
- 04/12/2005 -- First 2005 Dutch Crop Circles Reported in Hoeven, Holland Grass

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