

James Altenhein - Windy Hills Farm and Garden Quincy, Illinois



This fall you can find James Altenhein, owner of the centennial Windy Hills Farm and Garden, hosting tours and field days educating the community about his newest venture, Catahoula Blue gourmet popcorn. What many may not know about the gourmet grower is that he recently received status as a verified Veteran Owned Small Business (VOSB) through the U.S. Department of Veteran's Affairs.

Mr. Altenhein was referred to the Illinois Procurement Technical Assistance Center at Western Illinois University (IL PTAC @ WIU) by the VA's Veteran Business Outreach Center. The IL PTAC @ WIU has one of the five counselors in Illinois that are trained to assist veteran owned firms with the verification process. The counselor at WIU assisted Mr. Altenhein by providing resources and troubleshooting questions about the process.

In addition to working the PTAC, Altenheim has been working with **WIU's Small Business Development Center (IL SBDC @ WIU)**. The SBDC has helped many other facets of the business. After Mr. Altenheim attended a business writing workshop presented by the IL SBDC at WIU, he continued to work with the center, preparing a marketing plan for his popcorn and his fall field day at the farm. Future demos, farm tours and classes are in the works.

The Illinois PTAC and SBDC of WIU celebrates his verification achievement and his commitment to educating the community about this beautiful, centennial family farm.

Windy Hills Farm and Garden is located in Quincy, Illinois. The popcorn can be found at Popping on Main and Edgewood Orchard and more to come. Check out their Facebook page for more info: <https://www.facebook.com/WindyHillsFarmQuincyIL/>.