

The Willow Lake Farm Agroecology Summit, 2009

We will follow a raindrop from the very top of the Minnesota River watershed to the Gulf of Mexico, looking into the past, the present and anticipating the future. Carrie Jennings from the Minnesota Geological Survey, Shawn Schottler from the Saint Croix Watershed Research Station will describe the past and ongoing geologic forces that shape our landscape and drainage systems. Agricultural drainage history and current research and technology will be described by Jeff Strock, PhD. and Gary Sands, PhD., from the University of MN. Controlled drainage, a woodchip bioreactor, RTK guidance of ridge-till equipment and other agricultural “best management practices” can be seen working on the Willow Lake Farm.



Willow Lake Farm
Windom, Minnesota
Friday, August 21, 2009
8:00 am – 5:00 pm

Registration begins at 8:00 am

Join us at the Willow Lake Farm near Windom, Minnesota for the 10th Annual Agroecology Summit! Enjoy a day in the field with friends, colleagues and compelling researchers describing their work. See the program agenda below for more details.

Bring your hiking shoes, your best ideas, your most constructive criticism, and your greatest optimism to the Willow Lake Farm for a day of brainstorming and conversation in a pleasant agricultural setting!





Pre-registration is required. For more information or to pre-register please contact the farm:

**Tony Thompson at salix@rconnect.com
Phone: 507-831-3483, cell: 507-830-0767**

**This FREE EVENT is sponsored by the Willow Lake Farm but space is limited.
To guarantee a place and meal please
PRE-REGISTER by Wednesday, August 19th!!**

Exhibit space is available to hang posters and set up displays. If you plan to exhibit, please let us know.

Agroecology Summit Program

7:00 – Early bird walk of CRP filter strips

8:00 –Registration, coffee and pastries

8:30 – Introductions: the farm and today’s participants – Tony Thompson, Willow Lake Farm

9:00 – Carrie Jennings, Senior Scientist, Minnesota Geological Survey

10:00 – Fingerprinting Sediment Sources in the Minnesota River - Shawn Schottler, Senior Scientist, Saint Croix Watershed Research Station

11:00 – Agricultural drainage history, present conditions and views of the future - Jeff Strock

12:00 – Lunch in the barn

1:00 – Tour the controlled drainage site and woodchip bioreactor

2:30 – Tour the watershed looking at the geology and drainage systems

4:00 – Concluding discussion

5:00 – Adjourn to a leisurely evening on the farm with an optional prairie tour, dinner and bonfire

Directions to the Willow Lake Farm: (Mapquest: 93532 520th Avenue, Windom, MN 56101)

For travelers going southwest from Saint James:

Travel south from Saint James on State route 4, eight miles, to Ormsby. Turn west (right) onto main street (this road is the common border of Watonwan, Martin, Jackson and Cottonwood Counties creating a naming problem) and travel straight west 15 miles to an intersection with Jackson county highway 21 (if you overshoot your corner you will be forced into a turn to the north). Turn south (left) onto Jackson County road 21 (540th Avenue) and travel one mile to the intersection of Jackson County 84. Turn west (right) onto 84 (930th Street) and travel west two miles to 520th Avenue (McKinney Drive). Turn north (right) onto McKinney drive and travel north for 4/5ths of a mile and enter the Willow Lake Farm to your right.

For travelers from Windom:

Travel south out of Windom for .5 miles to MN Hwy 71 south to Jackson (I-90). Turn left onto Hwy 71 and travel under the railroad tracks and 2 miles further to County roads 79 and 36. Turn left (east) onto County road 36 (930th Street) and travel east for 2 miles to 520th Avenue/McKinney Drive. You then turn left (north) at 520th Avenue and travel .7 miles to find the Willow Lake Farm on your right (east).

For travelers from Jackson and Interstate 90:

From Jackson, travel north nine miles on State Highway 71, at which point the highway bears northwest. Continue two more miles on Hwy 71. After passing two small lakes, take the first right-hand turn (north) onto a gravel township road (520th Avenue). Drive straight north for two and two-thirds miles on 520th avenue. Turn right into the Willow Lake Farm. If you go too far you will dead end in Fish Lake. Turn around, backtrack 200 yards and turn left.