

Growing Bio-Energy Crops

Many bio-energy crops are being researched at the University of Minnesota. Besides the valuable established bio-energy crops of corn and soybeans, perennial bio-energy crops that can be established in environmentally sensitive areas are also being studied. These include oil producing crops, native grasses/forbs, and willows and poplars. Current research (from seed to harvest), management, and possible uses of these perennial crops will be discussed at this workshop. Growing bio-energy crops while protecting the environment is a valued concept in Minnesota. This class is designed for landowners and other professionals who wish to learn more about cultural practices and challenges of growing bio-energy crops. We will tour the bio-energy crops planted at the UM Southern Research and Outreach Center and discuss current and future research goals. Economic, marketing, and cost share programs will be reviewed. Dress properly for the outdoor tour.

This educational workshop on "**Bio-Energy Crops**" will be held on **Thursday, June 18, 6:00-9:00pm**, in Waseca at UM-SROC. **Registration is \$20. Pre-registration is requested.** This workshop is sponsored by the University of Minnesota Extension. Presenters will include SROC Agronomist Gregg Johnson and Extension Educators Gary Wyatt and Jill Sackett. To register for this Bio-Energy workshop, visit: <http://cfc.cfans.umn.edu/wa/> or contact Kathy Eckwright, 507-389-6972 or 888-241-3214, eckwr001@umn.edu

For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/bioenergycropsposter.pdf>

2009 Third Crop Walk-n-Talks Scheduled

FAIRMONT, Minn. (06/02/2009) – Rural Advantage is proud to announce the schedule for the 2009 Third Crop Walk-n-Talks. There are 16 field days and events planned from June thru September. With the wide variety of topics, there is sure be something for everybody. Thank you to each of the sponsors and partners. Feel free to contact Rural Advantage or listed contacts with questions regarding the field days and events. There will be a separate announcement with more information for each field day and event as the date gets closer.

Thursday, June 18 **Growing Bio-Energy Crops** **6pm-9pm**
UM Southern Research and Outreach Center (SROC), Waseca, MN
Partners/Sponsors: University of Minnesota Extension; Rural Advantage; UM Southern Research and Outreach Center; Gary Wyatt – UM Extension Educator; Gregg Johnson – SROC Agronomist; Jill Sackett – UM Extension/Rural Advantage
Registration required (Kathy Eckwright, 507-389-6972). \$20 Cost.

Wednesday, July 1 **Wheat Day** **1pm-4pm**
Jim Stangler Farm, Kilkenny, MN
Partners/Sponsors: University of Minnesota Extension; Rural Advantage; Southern Minnesota Wheat Growers Group; Diane Stouffer – UM Extension Educator; Dan Kaiser – UM Extension; Doug Holen – UM Extension Educator; Dick Stangler – Producer; Jill Sackett – UM Extension/Rural Advantage
Registration required (Diane Stouffer, 507-380-6098 or Jill Sackett, 507-238-5449). NO cost. Lunch at 12:30pm.

TBD **Annual Grass Seed Plot Tour** **4pm-8pm**
Magnusson Research Farm, Roseau, MN
Partners/Sponsors: University of Minnesota
NO cost.

Wednesday, July 8 **Getting Juiced, Sustainably!** **10am-3pm**
Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP), Minneapolis, MN

Partners/Sponsors: North Central Region Sustainable Agriculture and Research Education; Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy; University of Minnesota Extension; Rural Advantage
Registration required (Amy Stratton, astratton@iatop.org). NO cost.

- Wednesday, July 15** **A Sustainable Small Farm Experience** **6pm-8pm**
Seven Story Farm, Belle Plaine, MN
Partners/Sponsors: Rural Advantage; University of Minnesota Extension; Heidi Morlock – Landowner
No cost.
- Monday, July 27** **Working Trees: Energy, Food, and More** **6pm-8pm**
Seven Mile Creek Park, St. Peter, MN
Partners/Sponsors: Rural Advantage; University of Minnesota Extension; Nicollet County – Parks; Gary Wyatt – UM Extension; Jeff Jensen – Grower/Rural Advantage; Lois Braun – Grower; Jill Sackett – UM Extension/Rural Advantage
No cost.
- Thursday, July 30** **All About Aronias** **6pm-8pm**
SHEEK, Inc. CREP land, Sherburn, MN
Partners/Sponsors: Rural Advantage; University of Minnesota Extension; SHEEK, Inc.; Rich Perrine – Martin County SWCD; Jeff Jensen – Rural Advantage
No cost.
- Tu-Thu, August 4-6** **Farmfest 2009 - Agripreneurship Pavilion** **8am-5pm**
Gilfillan Estate, Morgan, MN
Partners/Sponsors: Cygnus Farm Shows; Gilfillan Estate;
Admission cost at gate.
- Monday, August 10** **Vineyard and Winery Tour** **1pm-3pm**
Winterhaven Vineyard and Nursery, Janesville, MN
Partners/Sponsors: Winterhaven Vineyard and Nursery; Rural Advantage; University of Minnesota Extension; Ray Winter – Owner/Operator
No cost.
- Tuesday, August 11** **Minnesota Strip Till Expo** **9am-4pm**
UM Southwestern Research and Outreach Center (SWROC), Lamberton, MN
Partners/Sponsors: University of Minnesota Extension; UM Southwestern Research and Outreach Center; Jodi DeJong-Hughes – UM Extension Educator
No cost. Refreshments available for purchase.
- Friday, August 14** **Prairie Horizons Farm Tour** **9am-12pm**
Prairie Horizons Farm, Benson, MN
Partners/Sponsors: Prairie Horizons Farm; Rural Advantage; University of Minnesota Extension; Productive conservation on Working Lands; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Minnesota DNR; Pope County Working Lands Initiative; Chippewa River Watershed Project; Pope County SWCD; NRCS; Pope County FSA; USDA Agriculture Research Service; University of Minnesota; Mary Jo and Luverne Forbord – Landowners
Registration required (By August 7th – Mary Jo Forbord, 320-239-4054 or Jill Sackett, 507-238-5449). No cost.
- Friday, August 21** **Agroecology Summit** **8am-5pm**
Willow Lake Farm, Windom, MN
Partners/Sponsors: Willow Lake Farm;
No cost.

Sunday, August 30 **3rd Crop Demo Plot Tour** **5pm-7pm**
Heritage Acres, Fairmont, MN
Partners/Sponsors: Rural Advantage; Heritage Acres; Martin County Agriculture Organizations;
No cost. Tour will be after the Annual Agriculture Appreciation Picnic

Thursday, September 3 **Native Prairie Seed Production** **1pm-3pm**
Timber Lake Wildlife Management Area, Wilder, MN
Partners/Sponsors: Minnesota DNR; Rural Advantage; University of Minnesota Extension; Randy Markl – MN DNR Area Wildlife Manager; Jill Sackett – UM Extension/Rural Advantage
No cost.

Thursday, September 10 **U of M – SROC Waseca Open House** **4pm-8pm**
UM Southern Research and Outreach Center (SROC), Waseca, MN
Partners/Sponsors: UM Southern Research and Outreach Center; University of Minnesota
No cost. Dinner served from 4:30pm-7:00pm.

Saturday, September 26 **Hazelnut Field Day** **10am-4pm**
Norm Erickson property, Lake City, MN
Partners/Sponsors: Norm Erickson – Grower; Rural Advantage; University of Minnesota Extension; Jeff Jensen – Grower/Rural Advantage; Minnesota Hazelnut Foundation
No cost.

For more information or directions, please contact Jill Sackett at the Rural Advantage office. Phone: 507-238-5449. Email: sacke032@umn.edu

8th Annual Riverfest Rendezvous

Don't miss racing fun and musical celebration on the Chippewa River in Montevideo, Saturday June 20th starting at 9 a.m. and going to 2 p.m. at Lagoon Park (Link to map)
<http://maps.google.com/maps/ms?ie=UTF8&hl=en&msa=0&msid=113027923533107502038.00046b5fc4ccfda482e28&ll=44.952803,-95.729456&spn=0.005011,0.008755&z=16>

It's a great day on the river sponsored by the Twin Rivers Canoe & Kayak Club, CURE, Bill's Supermarket, Snap Fitness, Montevideo Lions, Montevideo KC, KDMA and the Chippewa River Watershed Project. For more information, visit: <http://sites.google.com/a/cureriver.org/upcoming-events/>

Another great opportunity to get out on the river! Mark it on your calendar! Jennifer Hoffman; Watershed Specialist; Chippewa River Watershed Project; 629 North 11th Street, Suite 17; Montevideo, MN 56265; 320-269-2139 ext 120;

What's Happening at the Ney Nature Center

Dig It! Day Camp - There are still openings available for the NNC's Summer Day Camp – Dig It!

Soil, rocks, fossils, ground water, burrowing animals! These are just a few things we will explore during our Dig It! Day Camp!! This year we are providing three sessions. Students can participate in all three or just one. None of the session activities repeat! More information can be found on the Ney Nature Center website www.neycenter.org or contact Becky: 507-248-3474, rebecca@neycenter.org

Volunteers Needed! - Anyone interested in help with the Dig It Day Camp please contact Becky! We would like to have a volunteer informational meeting on Tuesday June 16th at

1pm. Volunteers need not help all days of day camp! Even one day is appreciated! Tasks range from crafts to hikes to story reading to snack prep!

Saturday Morning Coffee Series - Tree Identification- Saturday, June 13th – 9 am. Local tree enthusiast Josh Reinitz will lead a Tree ID program on Saturday June 13th, 9:00 am at the Ney Nature Center Education Building. The program will begin indoors with a discussion of the common tree families, and identification features of each. We will then walk around the grounds of the Kahlow Homestead and look at examples of trees native to the Minnesota River Valley. Participants will learn how to identify multiple tree species of Elm, Oak, Ash, Maple, Cherry, and a variety of small trees and shrubs, and leave with a basic understanding of the differences between these. Time permitting; a discussion of the common and historical uses of these trees will take place.

The Second Saturday of each month the Ney Nature Center invites you to join us for an informational presentation and discussion presented by locals. Topics will vary monthly so watch our website calendar and newsletters for the list of upcoming presenters, topics, and program descriptions. (Program offered at no cost, donations appreciated.)

Mankato's First Play Day

Come out on June 12th (Friday) from 10:00am to 12:00 pm at Elk's Nature Center in Rasmussen Woods. Preschool age to early-school age children AND parents are invited to this **free** event @ Elks Nature center in Rasmussen Woods 555 Stoltzman Rd (at the bottom of the Stadium Rd hill). There will be hands-on activities designed for parents and children to play together with no cost -low cost everyday household items. The Play Day has been arranged by students in the Family and Consumer Science department at MSU-Mankato along with the Children's Museum of Southern Minnesota. We look forward to seeing you at Mankato's first Play Day, rain or shine! Please contact heather.von-bank@mnsu.edu for more information.

For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/mankatoplaydayflier.pdf>

Mississippi River Basin & Agriculture: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly

Clean Water Network is hosting a Regional Caucus on the Mississippi River Basin & Agriculture at the Aloft Hotel in Minneapolis on July 20 – 22, 2009. The caucus will feature interactive sessions on pressing agricultural issues facing the region including the devastating impacts of nitrogen and phosphorous non-point source pollution from agricultural run-off, the impact of biofuel production on water quality and problems with regulating factory farms. Caucus participants will also discuss how related federal policies are affecting the Mississippi River region, with an emphasis on water quality and quantity impacts.

Early Registration due July 4! The early registration fee is **\$55** for CWN dues paying members, and **\$90** for non-CWN members. It is due by July 4th, 2009. Registrations after July 4th will be **\$80** for CWN members and **\$110** for non-CWN members. The registration fee includes all caucus materials, two lunches, one reception, breaks and a continental breakfast.

There are travel scholarships available, funded through the McKnight Foundation. If you are interested in a travel scholarship please email Natalie Roy at natalieroy@cleanwaternetnetwork.org. CWN caucuses are designed to be smaller, interactive and outcome oriented meetings. We encourage anyone who is interested and has a financial need to apply for a travel scholarship.

Job Announcements:

Full-time Organizer

Do you have strong community organizing and facilitation skills, top-notch written and oral communications skills, and experience implementing effective communications strategies? Do you have a working knowledge of and experience with renewable energy and energy efficiency issues and projects?

If you answered yes to these questions, we'd like to hear from you. The Green Institute is seeking applications for a full-time Organizer whose primary responsibility will be to provide organizational support to communities for the Metro Clean Energy Resource Teams.

The key goals of the Organizer—to be implemented in partnership with the Metro CERTs Coordinator—include:

- Leading organizing efforts for some of the Metro CERTs events with the assistance of other Green Institute staff and partners, and the statewide CERTs events coordinator
- Supporting CERTs network communications strategies, including website content, other e-communication, media strategy, and fact sheets and other materials
- Staffing community events and tabling opportunities
- Being the lead contact for specific CERTs affiliates/CERTs projects
- Developing and maintaining strong relationships with key partner organizations, including existing CERTs staff, leading clean energy non-profits, neighborhood groups, clean energy businesses, city and county staff, and utilities.

For more information, <http://www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org/about/press/06/09/employment-opportunity-metro-certs-community-organizer>

Farm Manager

Dietzler Farms (www.dietzlerfarms.com) is looking for a Farm Manager for our 115 grass-fed, free-range beef farm in Elkhorn, Wisconsin. **One very important thing to note (especially for those concerned about relocating) is that we will provide a house and truck in addition to a salary of \$45k and health benefits.** Dietzler Farms (www.dietzlerfarms.com) is a 750-acre farm on the southern edge of scenic Kettle Moraine State Forest in Walworth County, Wisconsin. We pride ourselves in raising premium All-Natural Angus and Hereford cattle using All-Natural feed and handling processes. The Hereford and Angus breeds are known for producing meat with excellent marbling and outstanding taste. We are searching for an experienced Farm Manager with the ability to improve our processes and utilize technology to expand our operation.

Responsibilities include:

- Extensive knowledge of raising cattle, cattle reproduction and animal sciences
- Knowledge of non-GMO feeding techniques
- Delegating responsibilities to the workers, supervising hands, and potentially recruiting of legal workers.
- Creating and working within budgets
- Knowledge and experience with farm equipment and machinery
- Planning and scheduling of crop planting and harvesting

Requirements:

- Graduate of competitive university agriculture program
- Prior leadership experience
- Motivated about the industry and the future of all natural beef production
- Computer proficient and ability to utilize technology for record keeping
- Excellent organization skills
- 5+ years in the industry

Excellent salary, house, truck, and health benefits included. **Please contact Emily Christensen @ 312.201.7949 for additional information or to apply.**

Events:

June 13th (Saturday) is the **Chippewa River Paddle** starting at 9:30 a.m. sponsored by the Chippewa River Watershed Project. For more information call 320-269-2139 ext. 120 or email jennifer@chippewariver.com

June 16th (Tuesday) is the **Cottonwood River Canoe Trip** hosted by the Redwood Cottonwood Rivers Control Area (RCRCA). The trip will start at the canoe access on County Road 11 and paddled into Flandrau State Park in New Ulm. For more information, http://www.rcrca.com/canoe_trip_home.htm

June 18th (Thursday) is the **Redwood River Canoe Trip** hosted by the Redwood Cottonwood Rivers Control Area (RCRCA). The paddle will go from County Road 6 into Redwood Lake at Redwood Falls. Meet at Perk's Place to be driven out to the put-in point. For more information, http://www.rcrca.com/canoe_trip_home.htm

Check out additional upcoming events and workshops on the Minnesota River Calendar at: <http://mrbdc.mnsu.edu/calendar/index.html>

Water Quality Articles:

[Please click here to see the full job posting and apply today >>](#) Dan Thiede, Conference & Communications, Clean Energy Resource Teams
The Minnesota Project, 651.789.3326, dthiede@mnproject.org
www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org

[Tom Buis: Climate change debate needs facts](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Set aside discredited theories, and it's clear that ethanol should be a big part of the effort to address climate change.

[Funeral Home Goes Green](#) (KAAL TV). It's something you might expect to find at a nature center, but probably not at a funeral home.

[Biking, walking trail embraced](#) (Mankato Free Press). Area lawmakers are considering seeking \$400,000 in state funds to do preliminary studies of a biking and walking trail between Mankato and St. Peter along the Minnesota River.

[Minnesotans Turn To Old Technique To Fight Drought](#) (WCCO TV). Much of the metro area is feeling the lack of rain in the form of drought conditions in our yards and gardens. However, many neighborhoods and communities are turning to an old-fashioned way of conserving water during dry times with rain barrels.

[New Push to Go Green](#) (KAAL TV). Environmentalists are pushing for the nation to go green.

[County eyes carbon credits](#) (Mankato Free Press). Gas-to-energy plan would only work without state regulations.

[Agriculture: Will the yield keep growing?](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Corn yields seem to rise every year, along with demand. But the question is whether, even with genetic tinkering, the yields will continue to increase.

[Legacy deal will protect land Up North](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). About 187,000 acres of northern Minnesota forest, wetlands and shoreline will be permanently protected and open to public hunting, fishing and other recreational uses under an agreement signed Wednesday by Blandin Paper Co. and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

[George Will: Presenting the silliness of being green](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). A cartoon (today, what else?) satirizes the movement's feel-good psychology.

[Before the emerald ash borer, some exotic species were invited guests](#) (MinnPost). Fish and visitors stink after three days, Ben Franklin famously said, and we have recent evidence of his wisdom in Minnesota while hosting emerald ash borers and the Japanese rock pool mosquito.

[Neighbors Mad At Plan To Make Park A Drain Pond](#) (WCCO TV). Keller Lake in Apple Valley doesn't look polluted, but it is. In fact, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency has put this lake on a list of impaired waters.

[New report: 45% of Minnesota feeling drought](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). The new U.S. Drought Monitor released today show 45% of Minnesota is now considered "abnormally dry."

[Rain not critical for crops — yet](#) (Mankato Free Press). Area short about four inches of precip this year. In the past 94 years of record keeping, this May was the 19th driest.

[Groups sue over Big Stone II decision](#) (St. Paul Pioneer Press). The environmental groups fighting a proposed coal-fired power plant in South Dakota are challenging Minnesota regulators' approval of transmission lines for the plant.

[Incentives giving solar projects a bright boost](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Hopes are high at the State Capitol that the right mix of dollars and policies are in place to give solar energy in Minnesota a needed jolt.

[Opinion: Here comes sun power](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Imagine gliding along University Av. in a light rail car powered by solar-generated electricity, and spotting solar energy panels on nearly every rooftop you pass.

[Lessard-Sams council looks to 2010](#) (Outdoor News). With its first set of funding recommendations now in the rearview mirror, the newly named Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council has set its sights on the future.

[Unclear what's ahead for DNR and BWSR in unallotment](#) (Outdoor News). The 2009 legislative session has come and gone, but the budgets for state agencies that deal with natural resources - like other agencies - remain somewhat up in the air.

[More lake drawdowns now possible with law passage](#) (Outdoor News). In the face of record budget deficits and the first year of spending constitutionally dedicated dollars, a bill dealing with drawdowns sailed mostly below the radar.

[Going with the whole grain](#) (MinnPost). School food-service directors from around Minnesota agree that they want to get more whole-grain foods into their cafeterias. But the big question is how.

[Groups Sue Over Minn. Big Stone II Decision](#) (Minnesota Associated Press). The environmental groups fighting a proposed coal-fired power plant in South Dakota are challenging Minnesota regulators' approval of transmission lines for the plant.

[Pipestone wind turbine plant laying off up to 160](#) (Associated Press). In southwestern Minnesota, Suzlon Energy says it plans to cut its workforce in half at the company's wind energy plant in Pipestone.

[Willmar finishes construction of wind turbines](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). The city of Willmar is finishing construction of two wind turbines. This is the first step the west-central Minnesota city is taking to help meet a state mandate that 25 percent of Minnesota's energy, including fuel, comes from renewable resources by 2025.

[Minnesota energy](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Imagine gliding along University Avenue in a light-rail car powered by solar-generated electricity and spotting solar energy panels on nearly every rooftop you pass.

[Minnesota congressman says he has the votes to block climate bill](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). Minnesota Rep. Collin Peterson said he has the votes to block fast-track climate change legislation working its way through Congress.

[Urban hydroponic farm: An idea that's all wet](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). A St. Paul businessman hopes to create the farm -- with some help from the federal stimulus program. Local lettuce in January, anyone?

[Exhibit showcases artist's conservationist spirit](#) (Owatonna People's Press). Nature is on display today at the Owatonna Arts Center, depicted through the eyes of an artist, Steve Olson, who at heart was a conservationist.

[Bringing it home](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Can I turn on the sun at my house? Will it cost a fortune? I decided to find out and hired Rebecca Lundberg of Powerfully Green to do a site evaluation at my 1935 Minneapolis house.

[Kiss the utility company goodbye](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). The renewable-energy buzz is on. Here's how some local homeowners are using new solar technology to kiss the utility company goodbye - with state and federal help.

[Slow economy becalms Pipestone wind power business](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). As the White House pushes renewable energy, weak demand forces Minnesota firm Suzlon Rotor to cut 160 jobs.

[Wind power vs. sun power](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). **Wind turbines** aren't practical for city or suburban homes. Wind turbines need to be large, and wind speeds strong and steady, to generate meaningful power, a combination that can damage a home's structure.

[Midwest governors seek aggressive emissions goals](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Panel set up by six governors wants national plan to cut greenhouse gases; regional action also possible.

Leave it as it is. The ages have been at work on it and man can only mar it. – Theodore Roosevelt, 1903

The Minnesota River Watershed Alliance (Watershed Alliance) is an organized network of citizens, public agencies, and private organizations dedicated to communicating the benefits of an ecology healthy Minnesota River Watershed to others and are actively working towards its improvement and protection. We meet four times a year and encourage landowners and recreational users of the river to be part of the effort. For more information on the Watershed Alliance: <http://www.watershedalliance.blogspot.com>

Please register at the Minnesota River Watershed Alliance's bulletin board at <http://mail.mnsu.edu/mailman/listinfo/mrwa> to receive regular updates on what is happening in the Minnesota River Watershed.

Thanks,

Scott

Scott Kudelka
Minnesota River Watershed Alliance
Communications Coordinator
Water Resources Center
184 Trafton Science Center S
Mankato, MN 56001
507-389-2304

scott.kudelka@mnsu.edu

<http://watershedalliance.blogspot.com>