

Rural Advantage
1243 Lake Avenue, Suite 222
Fairmont MN, 56031



2008 3rd Crop Walk & Talks



2008 Dates

July 1
July 9
August 2
August 5, 6, 7
August 9
August 15
August 22
September 4
September 7
September 11
September 13

Phone: 507-238-5449

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
EXTENSION

3rd Crop Walk & Talks

3rd Crops are a variety of alternative crops that provide economic return and when placed strategically on the landscape, can build soil health, sequester carbon, retain water and nutrients, and improve the overall sustainability of agricultural production. They can also improve rural vitality and supply food, fiber, and fuel in a diversified agroecosystem.

For more information about the Walk & Talks or 3rd crops in general, please contact our office at 507-238-5449 or find us online at www.ruraladvantage.org.



2008 3rd Crop Walk & Talks

Annual Grass Seed Plot Tour—07/01

Wheat Day - 07/09

Vineyard Establishment - 08/02

Agripreneurship Pavilion - 08/05, 08/06, & 08/07

Fruits, Nuts, and Wetland Restoration - 08/09

Bioenergy Crops and Water Quality - 08/15

A Systems Approach to Bioenergy - 08/22

Miscanthus Day - 09/04

Heritage Acres 3rd Crop Demo Plot - 09/07

U of M Open House - 09/11

Hazelnuts for Food and Fuel - 09/13



We would like to thank our 3rd Crop Initiative funders: Legislative Citizens Commission on Minnesota Resources, The McKnight Foundation, Bush Foundation, Xcel Energy, Steven Leuthold Foundation, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, North Central Regional Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education

Annual Grass Seed Plot Tour

Magnusson Research Site

Featured Speakers:

Donn Vellekson, Nancy Jo Ehlke & Don Wyse; U of M Research on Grass Seed Production

Betsy Kurcinka; Nitrogen Mgmt in Kentucky Bluegrass/Perennial Ryegrass

Maggie Mangan; Native Plant Polyculture Biomass Production

Peter Gillitzer; Dedicated Herbaceous and Woody Biomass Crop Production

Please join us for one or both tours!

EARLY TOUR: Tour South of Malung starts at 4:00 p.m.

To reach the plot go 1.5 miles south of Co Rd 4 ("Malung road"). Then travel 2.0 miles east. Plot is on north side of gravel road.

REGULAR TOUR: Tour North of Roseau starts at 5:00 p.m.

To reach the plot, go 1 mile north at the junction of Hwy 11 and 310 in the city of Roseau. Then travel 1.5 miles west

(Dinner will be provided by Cenex West Plant, Roseau)

For more information call
218-463-0291

Tuesday, July 1, 2008 4:00 pm–8:00 pm	Malung & Roseau
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Wheat Day

Southern Research and Outreach Center

University of Minnesota Professionals **Dan Kaiser** and **Doug Holen** will be available to discuss their various wheat research. **Doug Holen** will present his variety trials and **Dan Kaiser** will review his fertility work. After a brief in-class discussion, participants will have the opportunity to view the variety trials and fertility sites at the University of Minnesota Southern Research and Outreach Center. There will be a \$15 registration fee due at the door for this event.

Wednesday, July 9, 2008 1:00 pm–4:00 pm	35838 120th Street Waseca, MN 56093-4521
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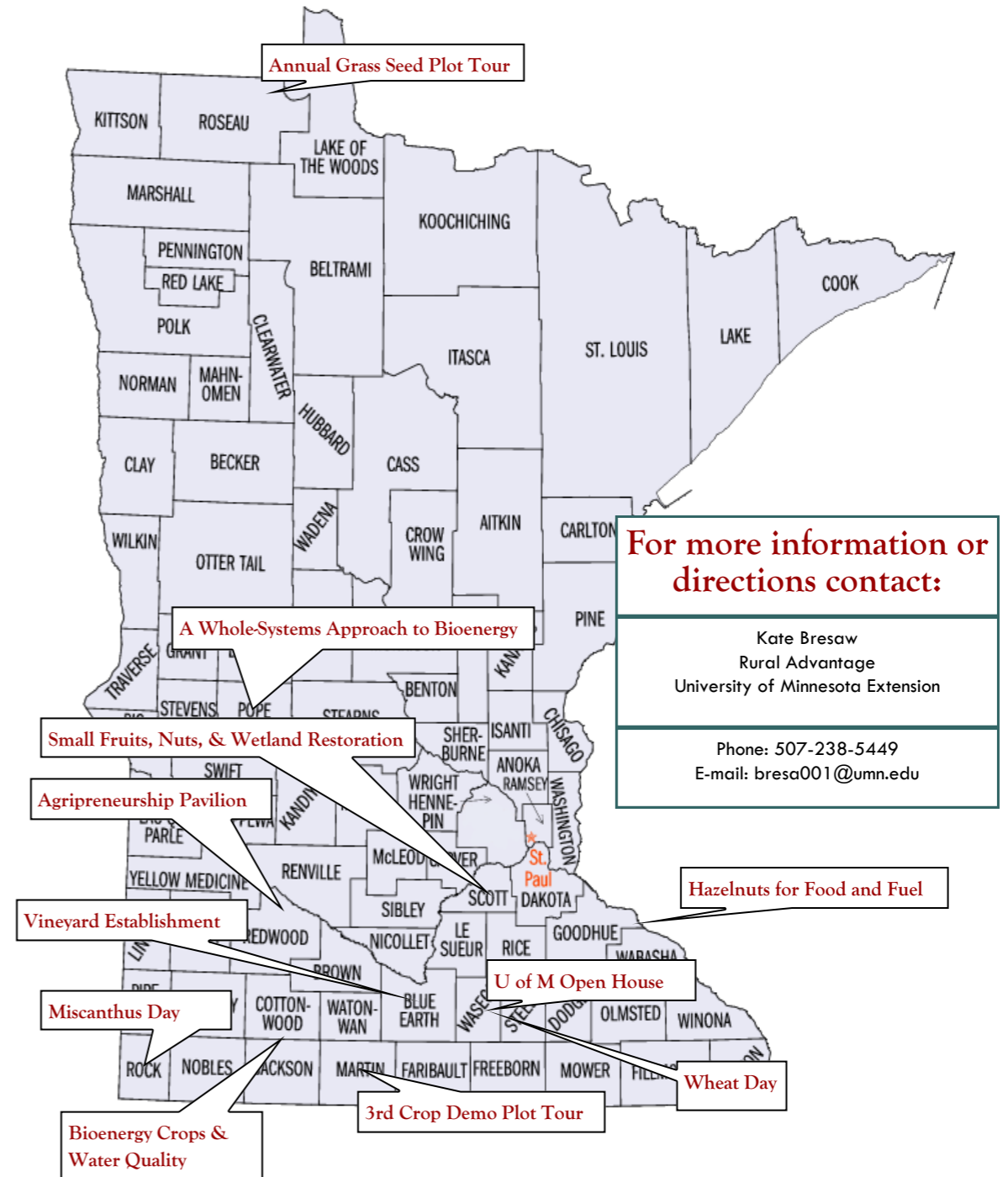
Vineyard Establishment

Bob Lau

Bob Lau's vineyard is well situated to demonstrate the first three years of vineyard establishment in Southern Minnesota. Bob has planted all University of Minnesota, cold-hardy varieties and will market to the growing Minnesota wine industry beginning this year.

As we walk from 1st year vines to 3rd year vines, U of M Vineyard Manager, **John Thull**, will discuss the various aspects of establishment including variety selection and management strategies. **Bob Lau** will share his unique perspective as a grape grower in Blue Earth County. Join us for this exciting afternoon!

Saturday, August 2, 2008 1:00 pm– 4:00 pm	17178 627th Lane Pemberton, MN 56078
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For more information or directions contact:

Kate Bresaw
Rural Advantage
University of Minnesota Extension

Phone: 507-238-5449
E-mail: bresa001@umn.edu

**U of MN—Waseca SROC
Open House
Ag for the 21st Century: Striking
a Balance**

As part of this evening of fun at University of Minnesota's Southern Research and Outreach Center (SROC) in Waseca, MN, Rural Advantage will host a booth and interactive display. As you experience the excitement, be sure to stop by and learn about the many 3rd crops grown in Southern Minnesota!

The folks at SROC have a great evening planned including:

- Exhibits & Displays
- Trolley & Wagon Rides
- Country Store * Farmers' Market *
- Corn Maze
- Kids' Sanctioned Power Pedal Pull
- Door Prizes * MN Food & Wines *
- Goldy Gopher
- And MUCH MORE!

Dinner is FREE and will be served from 4:30 pm to 7:00 pm.



Thursday, September 11, 2008 4:00 pm— 8:00 pm	35838 120th Street Waseca, MN 56093
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**Hazelnuts for Food and Fuel
Norm Erickson**

Norm Erickson is an innovative hazelnut producer in Lake City, Minnesota. We are excited to have him share his expertise during this full-day event!

Norm is concerned about the impending petroleum shortage, and sees the great energy potential of hazelnuts. He is working toward on-farm energy production using his hazelnuts as feedstock.



During the field day, participants will have the opportunity to see on-farm demonstrations including:

- Processing— Nut Cracker and/or Oil Seed Press
- Cover Cropping
- Intercropping AND

On-Farm Research: Hazelnut Cloning

Additionally, **Jeff Jensen** will discuss the newly formed growers group, Minnesota Hazelnut Producers, and **Lois Braun** will share her recent fertility research. Fresh garden snacks will be provided.

Saturday, September 13, 2008 9:00 am—4:00 pm	1186 W. Lakewood Ave. Lake City, MN 55041
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**Agripreneurship Pavilion
FarmFest**



FarmFest is an agricultural show that is held annually near Redwood Falls, Minnesota, during the first week of August. It has typically focused on large scale, conventional, agricultural production, and has drawn about 30,000 people annually over the course of the 3-day event. For the first time this year a pavilion will be dedicated to the interests of the alternative agriculture and rural land opportunities community. Rural Advantage is proud to be part of such an exciting project. We will host a booth and interactive display, so be sure to stop by and the learn about many 3rd crops grown in Minnesota.

Stop by the Agripreneurship Pavilion for exhibits, displays, and presentations from:

- Alternative Energy Groups
- Conservation Development Groups
- Orchards
- Sustainable Agriculture Groups
- Vineyards
- And MUCH MORE!

Tue, Wed, & Thu August 5, 6, & 7, 2008 8:00 pm— 5:00 pm	Junction 67 & 13 Gilfillan Estates 28366 Co Hwy 13 Morgan, MN 56266
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**Small Fruits, Nuts, &
Wetland Restoration
Seven Story Farm**



Seven Story Farm is a small-scale, diversified enterprise specializing in woody florals, small fruits, and nuts. The property also provides an excellent example of an on-site, restored wetland.

Grower, Heidi Morlock is very concerned about biodiversity on her farm and works to integrate native plants into her marketing and farm plans.

During this informative afternoon, **Heidi** will share her experiences establishing, managing, and marketing the many diverse features of the farm.

University of Minnesota Extension Educator **Gary Wyatt** will discuss pruning, propagation, and coppicing of woody perennials.

If you're interested in small-scale, diversified agriculture, please join us!

Saturday, August 9, 2008 1:00 pm— 4:00 pm	22285 Delaware Ave Belle Plaine, MN 56011
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**Bioenergy Crops & Water Quality
Agroecology Summit**
Willow Lake Farm

In conjunction with IATP and with sponsorship from NCR SARE, we are excited to present this field day for agriculture and conservation educators. With its native grasses, wetlands, ponds, and waterways, Willow Lake Farm is well-situated to demonstrate the water quality benefits of bioenergy crops.

Topics include:

Water and nutrient holding capacity of perennial bioenergy crops

Cover cropping and bioenergy crops

Climate change and the future of bioenergy crops



Speakers include:

Tony Thompson & Mark Seeley

Additionally, **Paul Porter** will demonstrate his oil seed press and U of M drainage and water quality expert, **Craig Schrader**, will display the conservation drainage system on Willow Lake Farm.

Additional resources for this project provided by:



Friday, August 15, 2008 8:30 am–5:00 pm	93532 520th Ave. Windom, MN 56101
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**A Whole-Systems
Approach to Bioenergy**
Prairie Horizons Farm

In partnership with IATP, **Productive Conservation on Working Lands, Sustainable Farming Association** and NCR SARE, we will offer a three-pronged approach to answering three of today's hottest questions: 1) Can biomass cropping systems be productive and profitable



while benefiting soil, water, wildlife, and rural communities? 2) How feasible and productive are native grasses compared to other sources of biomass? 3) What is and will be the bioenergy market for native grasses? Speakers, **Mark Lindquist**, **Mary Jo** and **Luverne Forbord**, & **Joel Tallaksen**, will approach these questions from on-farm, on-the-landscape, and in-the-market perspectives. Prairie Horizons Farm is located near the U of M Morris, Chippewa Valley Ethanol Company, and FibroMinn renewable energy facilities. Mark will discuss state-of-the-art bioenergy production and explore future directions of sustainable biomass production in this region and beyond. Mary Jo and Luverne will lead a tour of their Productive Conservation on Working Lands native grass field study and discuss their whole-farm risk management strategy. Their risk management strategy features many grass species, legumes, and native prairie in rotational grazing, multi-species grazing, and bioenergy production. Joel will discuss the goals, status, successes, and challenges of the U of M Morris Gasifier Project.

Additional resources for this project provided by:



Friday, August 22, 2008 10:00 am–3:00 pm	31008 State Hwy 29 Benson, MN 56381
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Miscanthus Day
Loren Forrest

Miscanthus is a grass native to Asia also known as elephant grass. It can reach 15 feet tall and produce up to 20 tons per acre biomass. For this reason, it is a promising bioenergy crop.



For over three years, **Loren Forrest** has been researching the feasibility of producing Miscanthus in Southern Minnesota. On his farm in Luverne, he has examined Miscanthus propagation, establishment, and agronomics.

Rural Advantage is excited to offer a tour of his on-farm research in early September. Join us for an exciting evening of fun, information, and discussion!



Thursday, September 4, 2008 6:00 pm–8:00 pm	1253 121st Street Luverne, MN 56156
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3rd Crop Demo Plot Tour
Heritage Acres

Martin County Agriculture Organizations host the Annual Agriculture Appreciation Picnic at Heritage Acres in Fairmont. The Group offers a FREE dinner, numerous displays, entertainment and a lively discussion of agriculture in Martin County.

In conjunction with the Agriculture Appreciation Picnic, Rural Advantage is proud to offer a tour of our 3rd Crop Demo Plot.



Please join us after dinner to discuss the multiple economic and environmental benefits associated with 3rd Crops.

See numerous 3rd crop plantings at various growth stages and discuss the management strategies associated with each planting. **Jeff Jensen** will also discuss gopher management in perennial systems.

Sunday, September 7, 2008 5:00 pm–7:00 pm	507 Lake Avenue Fairmont, MN 56031
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