

### **Minn. ethanol industry split on California emissions rule**

Minnesota farmers are divided on a proposal to adopt California's clean car law. The California rules won't increase the use of ethanol in Minnesota, and won't be much better at protecting the environment, said Bruce Stockman, executive director of the Minnesota Corn Growers. But his counterpart at the Minnesota Farmers Union supports the California rule already adopted by a dozen states. Doug Peterson said lawmakers have amended the bill to increase demand for E-85, a blend containing 85 percent ethanol. Rep. Melissa Hortman DFL-Brooklyn Park, said auto makers could meet the standard by selling more flex fuel vehicles. In California, auto makers have to sell vehicles that can burn E-85 and track actual use of the fuel through onboard computers. Hortman's bill gets a final committee hearing in the House next week. (Associated Press)

### **Big Stone II Proposed Coal Plant**

The controversy over the construction of a coal-fired plant on the South Dakota side of Big Stone Lake continues to be in the news. The leading climate change scientist – Dr. James Hansen – is asking Governor Pawlenty to help stop the construction of the Big Stone II Coal Plant:

- **NASA scientist asking Pawlenty to stop Big Stone II power plant project.** Dr. James Hansen has penned letters to everyone from the Prime Ministers of Australia and the United Kingdom to Jim Rogers, CEO of Duke Energy, asking all of them to halt the development of coal-fired plants, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/nasascientistpawlentybigstone.pdf>
- **NASA scientist asks Pawlenty to oppose coal power.** A NASA scientist is urging Gov. Pawlenty to oppose new coal-fired power plants, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/nasascientistpawlentycoal.pdf>
- **Top scientist objects to coal-based power plant.** Dr. James Hansen has asked Gov. Tim Pawlenty to quash the plant, citing the governors' work to reduce greenhouse gases. But Pawlenty hasn't reached for the "off" switch yet, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/topscientistobjectcoal.pdf>

### **Prior Lake and Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community to team up on compost operation on tribal land**

The tribe has operated the compost site since 2005, but use of the site has been at "less than capacity," said Danette Walthers-Moore, the city's community development and natural resources director. Starting in May, residents can bring leaves, branches, grass clippings and plant material to the site on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month (from May to October). The compost site will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The city will provide staff twice per month to control traffic, manage the gate and oversee chipping operations. The city also will provide a chipper for use at the site during those Saturday collection times. The tribe will maintain the compost material, turning compost stacks and maintaining moisture and heat levels. Also, the tribe will introduce food waste to the site, which, combined with leaves and branches, will create optimum conditions for the natural breakdown of materials, Walthers-Moore said. Both the city and the tribe will use the resulting compost and woodchips on their properties. In the future, residents also will be able to pick up compost and woodchips. (Lori Carlson)

### **Water, Water, Everywhere Presentation**

Dr. Henry Quade, professor emeritus of biology at Minnesota State University Mankato, will give a presentation, "Water, Water, Everywhere" at Centenary United Methodist Church, 501 South Second Street, on Monday, May 12, at 7:30 pm. Dr. Quade is the founder and was for many years the director of the Water Resources Center at Minnesota State Mankato. He has worked on projects from international, blowing a new Panama Canal with nuclear devices, down to the local county level. The Water Resources Center has worked closely with the 13 South Central Minnesota Joint Powers Board, the 37 Minnesota River Basin Joint Powers Board, and many lake associations. His talk is the fourth in a series of lectures on environmental and energy issues sponsored by the Centenary Green Team. The presentation is free and open to the public.

### **Scott County Communication Position**

Scott Soil and Water Conservation District is hiring a secretary/communication specialist. This position will be responsible for providing all secretarial duties, in addition to coordinating all public information programs for the Scott SWCD operation. For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/scottcountycommunication.pdf>

### **Events:**

May 11<sup>th</sup> (Sunday) is a **Spring Wildflower Walk** from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Ney Nature Center near Henderson. Come along and observe the profusion of spring flowers growing along the Ney Center trails. Learn some of the fun and interesting folklore surrounding these flowers and their colorful nicknames. Cost: \$5.00 per family w/NNC family membership and \$2.00 per individual w/NNC membership, \$7.00 per family and \$3.00 per individual for non-NNC members. For more information contact the Ney Nature Center at [info@neycenter.org](mailto:info@neycenter.org) or 507-248-3474.

May 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> (Saturday & Sunday) is the **16th Annual Rivers and History Weekend** at the Upper Sioux Agency State Park, Granite Falls, MN. CURE is sponsoring this annual family centered event with help from the Granite Falls Historical Society, the Upper Sioux Agency State Park, the Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center and the EF Foundation for Foreign Study. Come and canoe the area rivers, camp out and learn of the region's rich history. Look for more details in upcoming mailings or by visiting: [www.curemnriver.org](http://www.curemnriver.org) or by calling CURE toll Free at 1-877-269-2873.

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

### **Water Quality Articles:**

**A family farm – Organic farm sells shares of produce locally.** You have a family doctor, a family dentist and maybe even a family mechanic to rely on. Why not a family farmer for that same sort of individual care and personalized business? <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/afamilyfarm.pdf>

**Bag Ladies go green for Earth Day.** Bag ladies are taking over Fergus Falls – or at least they hope to. A people-driven movement to replace plastic shopping bags with cloth bags is beginning to spark a new trend in the area, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/bagladiesgogreeneearthday.pdf>

**Becoming good stewards to Mother Earth.** With the growing demand for healthy and organic food choices, and as people look to invest in local businesses and remain environmentally friendly, agriculture is finding a renewed niche, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/becominggoodstewardsmotherearth.pdf>

**Biodiesel mandate sparks food fight.** There was a bit of a food fight on the floor of the Minnesota House when several lawmakers questioned efforts to increase the content of biodiesel in diesel fuel sold in Minnesota, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/biodieselandatesparksfoodfight.pdf>

**Carbon, climate factor into opposition.** Janette Brimmer of the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy wants to look at the big picture when it comes to the expansion proposed for the Murphy Oil refinery in Superior, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/carbonclimatefactoropposition.pdf>

**Coleman pleased with apparent agreement on farm bill.** Congressional negotiators came to an apparent agreement last Friday on a massive five-year federal farm bill, even as farmers begin to work the soil, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/colemanpleasedwithfarmbill.pdf>

**County, MPCA spar over feedlot.** In response to a letter of concern from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, the Mower County Board maintains it did follow proper environmental and disclosure procedures when it issued permits to its former feedlot officer for property he owned and later sold, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/countympcasparoverfeedlot.pdf>

**A growing concern: grass-to-cropland conversion.** As Minnesota and other states devise plans to acquire land for growing grasses in order to meet federal mandates for next generation biofuels, vast Upper Midwest acreages already covered with grass are being rapidly converted to cropland, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/crpgrowingconcern.pdf>

**Dedicated funding's chances just got a lot better.** The House late last week became "actively engaged" in the formation of a citizens-legislative council to help decide how to spend wildlife money, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/dedicatedfundingchancesbetter.pdf>

**Pioneer Editorial: Earth Day brings new challenges.** April 22<sup>nd</sup> marked a resurgence of a celebration of the Earth Day that began in 1970. On that day 38 years ago, 20 million people celebrated the first Earth Day. President Nixon that year created the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to ensure a safe environment and public health, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/earthdaybringsnewchallenges.pdf>

**Environmentally focused jobs are likely on the rise.** With graduation quickly approaching and a weary job market, "green-collar" jobs-employment related to renewable energy, environmental sustainability or efficiency – have become a widely discussed topic, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/environmentallyfocusedjobs.pdf>

**Farm Bill extended: Sodsaver push is on.** Following another extension of the 2002 federal Farm Bill – this one, a week long – conservation groups took the opportunity to let House and Senate conferees know their priorities regarding the five-year plan currently on the table. Preservation of the Sodsaver provision tops the list, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/farmbillextendedsodsaver.pdf>

**Forum Editorial: Farm bill extension best option.** President Bush said he would not agree to a one-week extension of farm bill negotiations. He wanted an extension that would have kept provisions of the 2002 bill in place for a year. Last week he relented, and farm bill negotiators are in the midst of a one-week extension, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/farmbillextensionbestoption.pdf>

**Lots of food for thought when topic is ethanol, environment.** Ethanol has come under fire for everything from rising food prices to its use of groundwater resources, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/foodforthoughtethanolenvironment.pdf>

**Future of farming in the 'burbs raises quite the ruckus.** Facing packed public hearings on the subject, Scott County officials have agreed to sit down with advocates of small-scale farming to talk about land use and rapid growth, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/futureoffarminginscottcounty.pdf>

**Going green brings greenbacks to firms.** Businesses and environmentalists have been meeting at the intersection of conserving energy, cutting waste and making a buck, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/goinggreenbringsgreenbacks.pdf>

**Greenhouse-gas bills approved.** After lengthy debates, the Minnesota Senate and House on Wednesday approved bills setting general guidelines for the Legislature's role in a regional, market-based system to control greenhouse-gas emissions, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/greenhousegasbillsapproved.pdf>

**Editorial – Are you helping or hurting our water supply?** We all take it for granted that when we turn on the tap, we'll be treated to a refreshing and safe drink of cool, clear water, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/helpingorhurtingwatersupply.pdf>

**Linden Hills talks trash.** In southwest Minneapolis, organizers hope that non-recyclable paper, food scraps and an "anaerobic digester" will add up to electricity for their neighborhood, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/lindenhillstalktrash.pdf>

**I-TEAM: Minnesota Flushing Away Chance To Go Green.** Grand Canyon National Park, NASA Space Right Center, Heathrow Airport, The Rose Bowl and Taj Mahal. They, along with many others, have all taken the flush of urinals, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/mnflushingawaychancegreen.pdf>

**Both Minnesota houses OK studies anticipating greenhouse gas limits.** Legislation that anticipates eventual limits on greenhouse gases dominated a Minnesota House floor session last week, setting off debates about global warming and jobs before passing 91-38, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/mnhousesokgreenhousegaslimits.pdf>

**Minnesota lawmakers want a say in emissions decisions.** Minnesota legislators want to make sure they have a say in a new emissions policy, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/mnlawmakersemissionsdecisions.pdf>

**More area drivers turn to hybrids as gas prices climb.** This year's jump in gasoline prices likely has brought new believers in hybrid cars and trucks into auto dealerships, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/moredriversturnintohybrids.pdf>

**Farm interests, car dealers slow consideration of new vehicle emission rules.** Minnesota is poised to become the 13<sup>th</sup> state to adopt tough new vehicle standards. The rules are intended to reduce the amount of carbon produced by cars as a new strategy for reducing global warming. Minnesota's farm community is divided on the bill, and that's slowed down its passage, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/newvehicleemissionruleslowed.pdf>

**Oil consumption at the tipping point in U.S.?** Oil consumption in the United States dropped nearly 2 percent in the first quarter of 2008. If that trend holds, it would be the biggest percentage decline since the 1991-92 recession, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/oilconsumptiontippingpoint.pdf>

**Coleman: Outlook good for farm bill.** Sen. Norm Coleman remained optimistic that a new farm bill will be approved yet this year despite continued opposition from President Bush, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/outlookgoodforfarmbill.pdf>

**Ramsey eyeglass factory goes green.** A Ramsey company that makes eyeglasses is opting to see the world through new lenses - green ones, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/ramseyeyeglassfactorygreen.pdf>

**Ramsey eyeglass firm sets sights on wind energy.** Eyeglass maker Vision-Ease Lens company officially joined the "green power" movement by announcing that it will buy 16 million kilowatt hours of wind energy, enough to power its large lens factory in Ramsey for one year, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/ramseyeyeglassfirmwindenergy.pdf>

**Sevareid's '30s canoe adventure still inspires Minnesotans.** Sevareid is getting his own postage stamp and still inspires people looking for a little adventure, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/sevareidscanoeadventure.pdf>

**Chaska teens will paddle to Hudson Bay.** With Eric Sevareid as inspiration, two Chaska teens are off on a big adventure, planning to paddle 2,250 miles, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/chaskateensfollowcanoejourney.pdf>

**Canoeing with the Cree.** In the summer of 1930, two young Minneapolis men – Eric Sevareid, 17, and Walter Port, 19 – climbed into an 18-foot canvas canoe on the Mississippi River at Fort Snelling and began a 2,250-mile journey to Hudson Bay, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/canoeingwiththecree.pdf>

**Sevareid on a stamp.** New U.S. postage stamp will honor legendary journalist Eric Sevareid, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/sevareidonastamp.pdf>

**Students say 'YES' to clean energy.** If you are worried about the future of our planet, you might want to turn the job of finding solutions over to those with the biggest stake in it, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/studentssayyescleanenergy.pdf>

**Loons among about 20 birds mysteriously sickened near Brainerd.** Several loons and grebes have become ill or died in and near wastewater treatment ponds northeast of Brainerd, and state officials said they are trying to determine why, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/twentybirdsmysteriouslysickened.pdf>

**Water is life – protect it, say local conservation district leaders.** The Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District encourages you to think about your personal responsibility to be a good steward of the natural resources, including water, during its annual Stewardship Week celebration, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/waterislifeprotectit.pdf>

**Living Green.** What exactly is being “green?” And if it's so good, why aren't we doing more of it? Here's how we all can live greener – and why we should, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/buzzonbuzzword.pdf>

**Ken Bradley: The heat is on - - and that threatens fishing.** It's not just species and habitat that will suffer. It's also a state economy that thrives on recreation, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/heatisonthreatensfishing.pdf>

**Let the land – sellers sell, even to DNR.** Last week America celebrated Earth Day. Citizens across the country recognized this day by stepping up recycling, planting a tree or simply recommitting to conservation. In a stunning move, however, leaders in Anoka County celebrated Earth Day by voting to develop a wetland, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/letlandsellersselleventodnr.pdf>

**Presentation highlights ways to help earth.** The jury is in on global warming, according to local earth advocates. The world is heating up, and mankind is largely at fault, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/presentationhighlightswayshelpearth.pdf>

**Recycle More MN launched.** On Earth Day, the Recycling Association of Minnesota and MPCA announced the launch of Recycle More Minnesota, a statewide educational campaign designed to promote recycling throughout Minnesota at home, at work and on the go, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/recyclemoremnlaunched.pdf>

**Reducing greenhouse gas emissions will boost our economy.** Several business groups have launched nationwide campaigns to convince the public that serious effort to limit the pollution that causes global warming would have catastrophic consequences for the American economy, while providing no significant benefits, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/reducinggreenhousegasemissions.pdf>

**One St. Cloud man has a small solution to gas prices.** The high price of gas has plenty of drivers thinking about buying a more efficient car, perhaps even a hybrid, to save money. But one St. Cloud man offers another solution, and he's doing brisk business with commuters tired of expensive fuel, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/smallsolutiontogasprices.pdf>

**St. Croix Riverway to get grants to help clear river of pollutants.** Grant will be used to study ways to reduce phosphorous and nutrient loading, problems that landed the river on the list of polluted waters, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/stcroixriverwaygrantpollutants.pdf>

**Tainted ballpark dirt ends up near river.** Tons of contaminated soil from the site of the new Twins stadium is piled in a flood plain beside the Minnesota River while the Ballpark Authority, contractors and the state wrangle over its disposal, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/taintedballparkdirtnearriver.pdf>

**Forum Editorial: All in all, a darn good '08 farm bill.** Waiting for agreement on a new farm bill was like waiting for spring to come to the Red River Valley. It's been a long time, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/allinalldarngoodfarmbill.pdf>



**Augsburg student makes biodiesel splash.** An Augsburg College undergraduate is scheduled to appear on Capitol Hill and national television this week to present his solution to the food-versus-fuel quandary when it comes to making biodiesel,

<http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/augsburgstudentbiodieselsplash.pdf>

**Forget turf. Kahn is the real danger.** It is in the category of never failing to be amazed that three DFL legislators, led by Rep. Phyllis Kahn, who is particularly capable of causing amazement, have proposed that the state spend some of your money to study the health and safety of artificial turf,

<http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/forgetturfkahnrealdanger.pdf>

**Editorial: Free recycling is nice, but cheap is ok, too.** If the traffic jams around Apache Mall last weekend are any indication, an awful lot of people have been waiting for a chance to recycle their old computer monitors, CPUs, VCRs, printers and other electronic devices - - without paying a nickel,

<http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/freerecyclingnicebutcheapok.pdf>

**Jonah Goldberg: Global warming claim isn't moral equivalent of war.** Time magazine recently doctored the iconic photo of the flag-raising at Iwo Jima to "celebrate" Earth Day. Instead of Marines valiantly struggling to lift the stars and stripes, they are depicted planting a tree,

<http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/globalwarmingclaimnotwar.pdf>

**Minnesota's Green Economy: Pawlenty gets out-hustled by his peers in recruitment of green jobs.** When it comes to recruiting "green-collar" jobs to Minnesota, critics say Gov. Tim Pawlenty has had a lower profile than some of his peers,

<http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/greeneconomypawlentygetsouthustled.pdf>

**Not a question of if, but when.** Do we have your attention? We should say LUST, which remains a government acronym for Leaking Underground Storage Tanks. This kind of LUST is hazardous to our public health but not to our private relationships,

<http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/notaquestionofifbutwhen.pdf>

**Shortages Threaten Farmers' Key Tool: Fertilizers.** As with all things today, the cost of fertilizer is rising quickly and there are shortages across the world,

<http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/fertilizershortagesthreatenfarmers.pdf>

*Rivers must have been the guides which conducted the footsteps of the first travelers. They are the constant lure, when they flow by our doors, to distant enterprise and adventure, and, by a natural impulse, the dwellers on their banks will at length accompany their currents to the lowlands of the globe, or explore at their invitation the interior of continents. – Henry David Thoreau*

**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://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/mailman/listinfo/mrwa> to receive regular updates on what is happening in the Minnesota River Watershed.

Thanks,

Scott

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