



Rural Advantage
1243 Lake Avenue, Suite 222
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2009 Third Crop Walk-n-Talks



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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
EXTENSION

2009 Third Crop Walk-n-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.

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



For more information about the Walk-n-Talks, please contact the Rural Advantage office.

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U of M—Waseca SROC Open House

Sunday, September 10, 2009
5:00pm—7:00pm

U of M - SROC - Waseca
35838 120th Street
Waseca, MN 56093

As part of the Open House at University of Minnesota Southern Research and Outreach Center (SROC)- Waseca, **Rural Advantage** will be hosting a booth focused on 3rd Crops and the opportunities that 3rd Crops can bring. Be sure to stop by our booth to learn more about the various 3rd Crops for Southern Minnesota!

The Open House at SROC illustrates what the University of Minnesota and others are doing to help find the balance between food production, energy, the environment, human health, and other quality of life issues. This event offers fun and exciting activities for the whole family: exhibits and displays, 4-H activities and games, picnic supper, prizes, farm animals, "Kids' Pedal Tractor Power Pull" (sanctioned), horse-drawn wagon rides, demonstrations, samples of MN-grown food and beverages, "Country Store", Goldy Gopher, and much more!

A **FREE supper** is served from 4:30pm to 7:00pm.

The event is free to the public. For more information, call 507-835-3620.

DIRECTIONS

The Southern Research and Outreach Center (SROC) is located on Highway 14, west of Waseca at County Road 57 (120th St.) across from Loon Lake. From Owatonna (I-35), west on Highway 14, approximately 15 miles. From Mankato, approximately 27 miles east on Highway 14.

Hazelnuts for Food and Fuel

Saturday, September 26, 2009
10:00am—4:00pm
(Lunch on your own)

1186 W. Lakewood Avenue
Lake City, MN 55041

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 an 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, cover cropping, intercropping, and on-farm research—Hazelnut cloning.

The annual meeting for the **Minnesota Hazelnut Foundation** will be held from 9:00am—10:00am. The event will then be open to the public from 10:00am—4:00pm. Be sure to dress appropriately for the outdoor demonstrations and tours.

DIRECTIONS

MN Hwy 63 from Rochester: As entering Lake City, look for St. Johns Cemetery. Directly after cemetery turn right on S. Cross St. At T-intersection, turn right onto W. Lakewood Ave/Co Rd 9. Hazel field will be on right after elementary school.

MN Hwy 61 from Winona: As entering Lake City, look for marina. Turn left onto W. Lakewood Ave./Co Rd 9. Travel about 1.0 mile. Look for hazel field on right after elementary school.

Native Prairie Seed Production

Thursday, September 3, 2009
1:00pm–3:00pm

Timber Lake WMA
Wilder, MN



Rural Advantage has partnered with Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to host a field day devoted entirely to the various emerging opportunities and benefits of the Native Prairie species. Timber Lake Wildlife Management Area is an ideal place to hold this event.

Topics to be discussed are: **habitat benefits, seed harvest, seed demand, and native grasses and forbs for biomass production.**



There will also be a demonstration of mechanized harvest as well as hand harvesting. **Randy Markl**, DNR-Windom Area Wildlife Manager, **Jill Sackett**, Conservation Agronomist for University of Minnesota and



Rural Advantage along with others experienced in conservation and native species will be available to answer questions.

DIRECTIONS

From North: Travel SW on State Hwy 60 out of Windom approximately 5.0 miles. You will be approaching the town of Wilder. Continue traveling 1.0 miles SW on State Hwy 60.

From South—Interstate 90: Take Exit 64—Hwy 86 (Lakefield Exit) North for roughly 13.0 miles. Turn left on State Hwy 60 travel roughly 1.5 miles to Wilder. Continue traveling 1.0 miles SW on State Hwy 60.

Growing Bio-Energy Crops

Thursday, June 18, 2009
6:00pm–9:00pm

U of M - SROC - Waseca
35838 120th Street
Waseca, MN 56093



Many bio-energy crops are being researched at the University of Minnesota. Besides the bio-energy crops of corn and soybeans, perennial bio-energy crops are being studied as well. These include oil producing crops, native grasses/forbs, willows, and hybrid poplars. Current research (from seed to harvest), management, and possible uses of these perennial crops will be discussed at this workshop. Presenters will include SROC Agronomist **Gregg Johnson** and Extension Educators **Jill Sackett** and **Gary Wyatt**. We will also tour the bio-energy crops planted at the **UM Southern Research and Outreach Center (SROC)** and discuss current and future research goals. Economics, marketing, and cost share programs will be reviewed. Dress properly for the outdoor tour.

The public is invited to attend. Woodland Advisor and Master Gardener credits are available upon request.

Registration is \$20. Pre-registration is requested. To register for this Bio-Energy workshop, visit: <http://cfc.cfans.umn.edu/wa/> or contact **Kathy Eckwright**, 507-389-6972, eckwr001@umn.edu. **This workshop is sponsored by the University of Minnesota Extension.**

DIRECTIONS:

The Southern Research and Outreach Center (SROC) is located on Highway 14, west of Waseca at County Road 57 (120th St.) across from Loon Lake. From Owatonna (I-35), west on Highway 14, approximately 15 miles. From Mankato, approximately 27 miles east on Highway 14.

Wheat Day

Wednesday, July 1, 2009
1:00pm–4:00pm
Lunch - 12:30pm

45116 151st Avenue
Kilkenny, MN 56052



University of Minnesota Professionals **Dan Kaiser** and **Doug Holen** along with landowner **Dick Stangler** will be available to discuss their various wheat research and answer questions pertaining to: variety selection and management practices of spring and winter wheat, common diseases, planting criteria, sulfur and nitrogen effects, and planting date effects on yield. Attendees are encouraged to bring plant samples of anything that needs addressing.

Dress properly for the outdoor tour.

Lunch will be provided by the **Southern Minnesota Wheat Growers Group**.

Please join us at 12:30pm for brats, hotdogs, and soda before the tour.



Contacts for this event:

Jill Sackett, UM Extension/Rural Advantage, 507-238-5449

Diane Stouffer, UM Extension—Le Sueur/Blue Earth Counties, 507-380-6098

DIRECTIONS:

From the South—At the intersection of Hwy 60 and Hwy 13, turn northwest onto 13, travel ¾ mi, then turn straight north onto 151st Avenue/Co Rd 3. Travel 5 miles north to Jim Stangler farm on the west side of the road. Signs will be posted.

From the North—At the intersection of Hwy 13 and Co Rd 2, turn east and travel 1.5 miles. Turn south on CoRd 3 to the “Y”. Follow the “Y” to the left (151st Avenue/Co Rd 3) 1/8 mile to the Jim Stangler farm site on west side of the road. Signs will be posted.

FREE EVENT!

Agroecology Summit

Friday, August 21, 2009
8:30am–5:00pm

Willow Lake Farm
93532 520th Avenue
Windom, MN 56101

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 advantages of adding conservation practices to conventional agriculture.

Dr. Carrie Jennings of Minnesota Geological Survey and **Tony Thompson**, owner of Willow Lake Farm, will be speaking on various topics related to soil and water conservation and quality. Other speakers to be announced soon.

Lunch will be made available during this event. **Registration is required.**

Please look for more information regarding registration and the day’s schedule in the near future.

DIRECTIONS

From Windom: Travel south for 0.5 miles to MN Hwy 71. Turn left onto Hwy 71. Travel 2.0 miles to Co Rds 79 and 36. Turn left (east) onto Co Rd 36 (930th St). Travel east 2.0 miles to 520th Ave/McKinney Dr. Turn left (north) at 520th Ave and travel 0.7 miles. Willow Lake Farm is on the right (east).

From Jackson/I-90: Travel north 9.0 miles on MN Hwy 71. When highway bears northwest, continue 2.0 miles on Hwy 71. After passing two small lakes, take the first right-hand turn onto 520th Ave. Travel straight north for 2.6 miles. Turn right (East) into Willow Lake Farm.

3rd Crop Demo Plot Tour

Sunday, August 30, 2009
5:00pm–7:00pm

Heritage Acres
507 Lake Avenue
Fairmont, MN 56031

3rd Crop Demo Plot Tour in conjunction with the Annual Ag. Appreciation Picnic

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

Please join **Rural Advantage** after dinner to discuss the multiple economic and environmental benefits of various **3rd Crops**.

See numerous 3rd Crop plantings at varying growth stages and discuss the management strategies associated with each planting. 3rd Crop species in the Demonstration Plot include: Aronia, Dogwood, American Plum, False Indigo, Black Currant, and so **much more**.

DIRECTIONS

From Interstate 90: Take Exit 99 (Co Rd 39) South. At the four-way-stop, turn East and follow Lake Ave for about 1.0 mile. Heritage Acres will be on the South side of Lake Ave.

From State Highway 15: Turn West on Blue Earth Ave. Blue Earth Ave. changes to Lake Ave. Travel past courthouse. Heritage Acres will be on the South side of Lake Ave after the bridge and Hobo Trail.

FREE EVENTS!

Perennials for Food and Fuel

Friday, August 14, 2009
9:00am–12:00pm
1:00pm–5:00pm
Prairie Horizons Farm
31008 State Hwy 29
Benson, MN 56381

Managing Diversity on the Landscape

Prairie Horizons Farm Tour/3rd Crop Walk-n-Talk 9:00am–12:00pm
Luverne and Mary Jo Forbord rotationally graze Lowline Angus cattle at Prairie Horizons Farm on certified organic pasture, and sell 100% grass-fed Prairie Horizons Beef directly to customers. The morning tour will include a rotational grazing tour and the 3rd crop demonstration ~ a two acre plot with over 20 food bearing and ornamental woody species and several varieties of native grasses.

Productive Conservation on Working Lands/Pope County Working Lands Initiative Tour 1:00pm – 5:00pm

Featuring rotational grazing systems, multi-species grazing, cooperative grazing, native perennial grasses and legumes for biomass production, invasive species control, native remnant prairies, public/private partnerships, and innovations for increasing the acreage of well-managed, high quality grasslands.

The **Field Day and Lunch** are FREE with an **RSVP** no later than August 7th.

For additional information or to RSVP, please contact Jill Sackett with Rural Advantage at 507-238-5449 or sacke032@umn.edu or Mary Jo Forbord at 320-239-4054 or sustainablefarming@hcinet.net

Project and Research Partners include Rural Advantage, Productive Conservation on Working Lands, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Minnesota DNR, Pope County Working Lands Initiative, Chippewa River Watershed Project, Pope County Soil and Water Conservation Service, NRCS, Pope County FSA, USDA Agriculture Research Service, and the University of Minnesota.

DIRECTIONS

Prairie Horizons Farm is 11 miles north of Benson on State Hwy 29, or 11 miles south of Starbuck on State Hwy 29. Look for the Prairie Horizons farm gate on the east side of the highway.

Annual Grass Seed Plot Tour

Date To Be Determined
4:00pm–8:00pm
Magnusson Research Farm
Roseau, MN

This annual event has been held for a number of years at the Magnusson Research Farm near Roseau, Minnesota. All interested parties are invited to attend.

The main crops to be included on the tour will be **Kentucky Bluegrass** and **Perennial Ryegrass**, but the tour will not be limited to only these two. Discussion and trials will focus on production, varieties, and management. The management issues will include fertility, fungicide, growth regulator, weed control, residue management, seeding date, and much more.

Please look for additional information pertaining to the date and time of this event in the upcoming weeks.

DIRECTIONS

Magnusson Research Farm: Travel 2.0 miles North of the junction of Hwy 11 on Hwy 310. Then travel West 3.5 miles on Co Rd 16.

Getting Juiced, Sustainably!

Wednesday, July 8, 2009
9:30am–3:00pm
(Lunch on your own)
IATP
2104 Stevens Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55404

The **Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP)** along with **SARE**, **Rural Advantage**, and **University of Minnesota Extension** are offering a **renewable energy training session** focused on past, present and future sustainable bioenergy. This workshop for natural resource and agricultural educators will focus special attention on **small scale bio-diesel and bio-energy crop options**. We'll look at past bioenergy efforts and discuss the success and challenges faced by **emerging community renewable energy projects**.



There is **no charge** for agriculture and natural resource educators, resource professionals, students and interested community members.

Registration Required. Please email Amy Stratton at astratton@iatp.org to register or for questions. Please check www.iatp.org for more information coming soon.

Sponsored by North Central Region Sustainable Agriculture and Research Education, Institute for agriculture and Trade Policy, University of Minnesota Extension, and Rural Advantage.

DIRECTIONS

I-35 W North towards Minneapolis: Take Lake St/31st St. Exit. Turn left onto Lake St. Turn right onto 1st Ave. S. Turn right onto E. 22nd St. Turn left onto Stevens Ave. S. Stevens Avenue is a one-way street. IATP is situated between 1st Ave. S. and Stevens Ave. S just South of Franklin Avenue.

A Sustainable Small Farm Experience

Wednesday, July 15, 2009
6:00pm–8:00pm
Seven Story Farm–Heidi Morlock
22285 Delaware Avenue
Belle Plaine, MN 56011

Small Fruits, Nuts, Beginning Sheep Production, Wetland Restoration, Renewable Energy, and Much More.

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 with establishing, managing, and marketing the many diverse features of the farm. Also to be discussed are Heidi’s experiences with beginning sheep production and on-farm renewable energy via wind generator.

If you are interested in small-scale, diversified, sustainable agriculture, please join us! There is **no cost** for attending.

DIRECTIONS

From South: From State Hwy 169. Turn right (East) on Co Rd 64 exit in Belle Plaine. At the T Intersection with Co Rd 59 (Delaware Ave), take a left (North). Third place on right (East). Fire # 2285. Look for wind generator.

From North: From State Hwy 169. Continue traveling South past Jordan stop light for about 2.0 miles. Take left (East) onto Co Rd 59 (Delaware Ave.) at the OK Corral restaurant. Travel about 2.0 miles. Farm on left. Fire # 2285. Look for wind generator.

Minnesota Strip Till Expo

Tuesday, August 11, 2009
9:00am–4:00pm
U of M - SWROC - Lamberton
23669 130th Street
Lamberton, MN 56152

Tillage for Today and Tomorrow

The University of Minnesota Southwestern Research and Outreach Center (SWROC) will be the site of the 2009 Minnesota StripTill Expo. Educational Sessions are scheduled which include presentations from University of Minnesota personnel Dan Kaiser, Rob Holcomb, Jodi DeJong-Hughes and others. A farmer panel is also planned as well as field tours. Refreshments will be available for purchase.



Scheduled Activities:

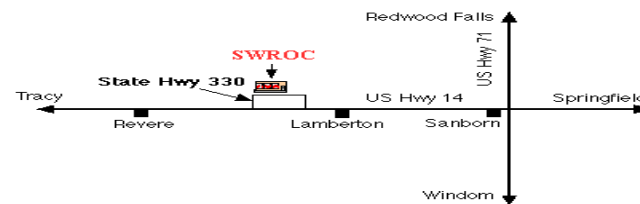
- Field Demos and Discussion with Manufacturers (9:00am-11:00am and 1:00pm-3:00pm)
- Tour Field Plots and Research (11:00am–12:00pm and 3:00pm- 4:00pm)
- Concurrent Educational Sessions (10:00am-12:00pm and 1:00pm-3:00pm)

For More Information Contact:

Jodi DeJong-Hughes, dejon003@umn.edu, 1-888-241-3261

DIRECTIONS

Follow US Highway 14 1.5 miles West of Lamberton. Turn North and follow State Highway 330 to the Center.



Vineyard and Winery Tour

Monday, August 10, 2009
1:00pm–3:00pm

Winterhaven Vineyard & Nursery
18103 628th Ave.
Janesville, MN 56048



Winterhaven Vineyard was established in the spring of 2000. The vineyard currently covers over 10 acres with over 6000 vines, and growing. They have 17 different varieties at this time and adding more every year. Winterhaven is focusing on the newest cold hardy varieties.

Winterhaven Nursery was established during 2001. For two years the nursery plants were grown indoors. These plants were potted, live growing plants. In the spring of 2003, nursery stock began to be grown outdoors in nursery beds. Winterhaven now sells many bare-root grape vines. A greenhouse is being utilized in order to supply new varieties sooner as potted plants.

2009 brings another new endeavor for Winterhaven. The Winter family is proud to announce the opening of their new winery.

Come join **Rural Advantage** and the Winter family as we tour the vineyard, nursery, and winery. **Ray Winter**, owner and operator of Winterhaven, will be leading the tour and is more than willing to answer questions and share his experiences.

DIRECTIONS

From Mankato: State Highway 14 East to Smiths Mill. Turn right onto Blue Earth Co Rd 37. Travel South 4 miles to 1st stop sign. Turn right onto Blue Earth Co Rd 15 (blacktop). Travel 1/2 mile on Blue Earth Co 15. Take 1st gravel road on left. First place on the LEFT about 1 mile.

From Janesville: State Highway 14 West to Smiths Mill. Turn left onto Blue Earth Co Rd 37. Travel South 4 miles to 1st stop sign. Turn right onto Blue Earth Co Rd 15 (blacktop). Travel 1/2 mile on Blue Earth Co 15. Take 1st gravel road on left. First place on the LEFT about 1 mile.

Working Trees: Energy, Food, and More

Monday, July 27, 2009
6:00pm–8:00pm

Seven Mile Creek Park
Nicollet County, Minnesota

This field day will focus on the opportunities and challenges found in agroforestry, specifically in the working trees and shrubs.



Lois Braun-UM Hazelnut Research Scientist and **Jeff Jensen-Grower/Rural Advantage** will be available to share their experiences with producing hazelnuts. Be sure to ask Lois about the mound

layering work she is doing. **Gary Wyatt** of UM Extension will be discussing growing willow and hybrid poplar for biomass and bioenergy. He will also be able to answer questions on Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) which has now been found in areas of Minnesota. Questions pertaining to Woody Decorative Florals are also welcome

as are any questions that arise during the event.

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DIRECTIONS

Seven Mile Creek Park is located midway between Mankato and St. Peter along US 169. The park shelters and woody planting site are located in the East portion of the park (to the East of US 169) along the Minnesota River. Seven Mile Creek Park is roughly 5.0 miles North of Mankato directly off of US 169 and roughly 7.0 miles South of St. Peter.

All About Aronias

Thursday, July 30, 2009
6:00pm–8:00pm

SHEEK, Inc. CREP land
Sherburn, MN 56171

During Rural Advantage’s 2009 3rd Crop Producer Meetings in February and March of last winter, there was much interest shown in Aronia berries. **Rural Advantage** is proud to be able to offer a field day to learn more on these amazing berries.



The Aronia berry has become popular for its health benefits. These small dark purple/black berries contain more antioxidants, polyphenols, and anthocyanins than cranberries, blueberries, and most other fruits. The fresh Aronia berry tends to have a tart taste, but when frozen or used in

wines, jams, juice, tea, salsa, baked goods, et cetera, the fruit is both nutritious and delicious. The Aronia plant itself is native to the Midwest and is capable of adapting to most soil types and pH levels as well as growing in full sun to shade. They are easy to grow and require little input making them a wonderful addition to the landscape.

SHEEK, Inc. has generously offered the use of their Aronia planting on CREP land near Sherburn, Minnesota. If you are looking for more information on this 3rd Crop, please join us!

DIRECTIONS

The Aronia site is located in Martin County near Sherburn, MN.

We will be meeting at the Kum & Go in Sherburn, MN. The gas station is located directly South of Interstate 90 along Highway 4. Please arrive by 5:30 pm to drive to the Aronia site just South of town. There is plenty of parking for those who would like to leave their vehicles and carpool.

Farmfest 2009

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
August 4-6, 2009
8:00am–5:00pm

Gilfillan Estates
28366 Co. Hwy. 13
Morgan, MN 56266

Agripreneurship Pavilion

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 only the second time, a pavilion will be dedicated to the interests of **alternative agriculture** and **rural land opportunities**. Rural Advantage is proud to be part of such an exciting project. We will be hosting a booth so be sure to stop by and learn about the 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!



DIRECTIONS

From **Redwood Falls, MN**: Follow Hwy 67 East. Show site on left.

From **Morgan, MN**: Follow Hwy 67 West. Show site on right.

From **Jackpot Junction/Morton, MN**: Follow Hwy 13 South. Show site on right.

Agripreneurship Pavilion is near the New Ulm Farm-City Hub Club site.