

Grass-based Ag in Action at Prairie Horizons

Luverne and Mary Jo Forbord are hosting a day and evening at Prairie Horizons Farm, focusing on grass-based agriculture. You are welcome to attend the entire day, or any segment of the day without a fee, but you must pre-register by August 15th for the 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. bioenergy segment. Visit www.sfa-mn.org for updates, registration, and directions, or call Anne at 320 226-6318 for more information.

***Prairie Horizons Farm, rural Benson, MN
Friday, August 22nd, 2008
A Whole-Systems Approach to Bioenergy
10:00 am to 3:00 pm***

Explore today's hottest issues in bioenergy production from on-farm, on-the-landscape, and in-the-market perspectives.

- 1) What is the state-of-the-art in bioenergy production?
- 2) Can biomass cropping systems be productive and profitable while benefiting soil, water, wildlife, and rural communities?
- 3) How feasible and productive are native grasses compared to other sources of biomass?
- 4) What is, and will be, the bioenergy market for native grasses?

Tour highlights:

Productive Conservation on Working Lands 'native grass for biomass' field study; On-farm risk management strategy using warm and cool season native and introduced grasses, legumes, and native prairie in rotational grazing, multi-species grazing, and biomass production; 3rd crop demonstration plot tour; Goals, status, successes, and challenges of the U of M Morris and Chippewa Valley Ethanol Company gasifier projects; and Locally grown, in season lunch featuring delicious pasture-raised foods.

Speakers:

Mark Lindquist—MN Department of Natural Resources Biofuels Program Manager; Luverne Forbord—Prairie Horizons Farm owner/steward; Sharon Weyers—USDA-Agricultural Research Service Research Soil Scientist; Joel Tallaksen—U of M West Central Research and Outreach

Center gasification project coordinator; Andy Zurn—Chippewa Valley Ethanol Company, Engineer; Jim Kleinschmit—Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy; Gary Wyatt—U of M Extension Natural Resources Educator; and Mary Jo Forbord—Sustainable Farming Association of MN Executive Director, Prairie Horizons Farm owner/steward

In partnership with:

Productive Conservation on Working Lands, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education-North Central Region, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, Sustainable Farming Association of Minnesota, Pope County Working Lands Initiative, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Chippewa River Watershed Project, WesMin Resource Conservation and Development, Rural Advantage, University of Minnesota Extension and West Central Research and Outreach Center, Chippewa Valley Ethanol Company and USDA-Agricultural Research Service.

Evening Schedule:

Pope County Working Lands Initiative Tour 3:30 pm to 5:30 p.m. Rotational grazing systems, multi-species grazing, cooperative grazing, invasive species control, native remnant prairies, public/private partnership innovation for more and higher quality grasslands.

Potluck Dinner 6:00 p.m. with a special invitation to members and prospective members of the Sustainable Farming Association—Western Chapter.

Prairie Horizons Farm Rotational Grazing System Tour 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Film Festival and Bonfire 9:00 p.m.

The Forbords rotationally graze Lowline Angus cattle on certified organic pasture, and sell 100% grass-fed Prairie Horizons Beef directly to customers. They are the 2007 Minnesota Chapter of the Wildlife Society Conservation Award recipients.

For more information about Prairie Horizons Farm, visit www.localfoods.umn.edu/prairiehorizons