

News Release:
August 1, 2008

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

EXTENSION

The Willow Lake Farm Agro-Ecology Summit: Bio-Energy Crops and Water Quality

The rising cost of energy continues to be a public concern and has a direct impact on the US economy. Current and future water quality and quantity issues relating to the production and processing of bio-energy crops are major concerns in many energy producing regions of Minnesota. These topics and more will be discussed at the 9th annual **Agro-Ecology Summit** at Willow Lake Farm near Windom, MN. The summit will be held **Friday, August 15 from 8:00AM to 5:00PM.**

This year, area farmers, state and federal agency officials and specialists from the University of Minnesota will address the connection between bio-energy crops and water quality.

Morning presentations will include:

Introduction to Willow Lake Farm, Tony Thompson, Owner/Operator
MN Changing Climate Patterns, Mark Seeley, UM Climatologist
Perennial Crops on the Landscape, Gregg Johnson, UM Agronomist, SROC
Controlled Drainage, Craig Schrader, UM Extension Educator

Afternoon tours and demonstrations will include:

On-Farm Oilseed Processing & Biodiesel Demonstration, Paul Porter, UM Agronomist
Controlled Drainage and Woodchip Bio-Reactor Tour & Demo: Craig Schrader, UM Extension Educator
Farm & Prairie CRP Walk, Tony Thompson, Owner/Operator

This event is free but space is limited.

Pre-registration is requested. Call 507-238-5449.

Continuing educational units are being applied for. Come dressed for the weather.

A program flier and map are found online at: www.extension.umn.edu/Agroforestry

Sponsors include: Willow Lake Farm, Water Resource Center at Minnesota State University in Mankato, US Fish and Wildlife Service in Windom, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, North Central Regional Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE), University of Minnesota Extension, Rural Advantage and MN River Board.