



Rural Advantage
1243 Lake Avenue, Suite 222
Fairmont, Minnesota 56031-1974



2013 Third Crop Walk-n-Talks



Phone: 507-238-5449
Email: sacke032@umn.edu



2013 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 improve rural vitality and supply food, fiber, and fuel in a diversified agroecosystem.

The 2013 Third Crop Walk-n-Talks were made possible by:

- The McKnight Foundation
 - University of Minnesota
 - USDA Farmers Market Promotion Program
 - Rural Advantage
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For more information about the 2013 Third Crop Walk-n-Talks, please contact the Rural Advantage office.

Rural Advantage

1243 Lake Avenue, Suite 222
Fairmont, MN, 56031

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linda@ruraladvantage.org

Web: www.ruraladvantage.org



The Third Crop Walk-n-Talks are outdoor events. Please dress accordingly.

Related Events

August 6-8 Farmfest

8:00am-5:00pm Gilfillan Estates - 28366 Co. Hwy. 13 - Morgan, MN
Visit the Rural Advantage booth to learn about 3rd crops, Local Foods, cover crops, and more.

Entrance Fee

August 10 8th Annual Minnesota Garlic Festival

10am - 6pm McLeod Cnty Fairgrounds - 840 Century Ave. - Hutchinson, MN
Minnesota Garlic Festival is the premier event for lovers of garlic, great local foods and good times! Family friendly, fun filled and fragrant, this festival features fantastic foods, celebrity chefs, marvelous music, area artisans, goofy games...and lots of GARLIC - all in support of a healthy environment, sustainable farms and vital rural communities in Minnesota.

<http://www.sfa-mn.org/garlicfest/>

Entrance Fee

Contact: Jerry Ford, Sustainable Farming Association
jerry@sfa-mn.org

August 15 From Soil to Oil—What's the Buzz? (Field Day)

9:30am-1:00pm North Central Soil Conservation Research Lab - Morris, MN
The field day will begin at the Soil Lab then buses will take attendees to Swan Lake Research Farm just north of Morris. There attendees will learn about research being conducted on pollinators, oil seed plant species, and cover crops.

Contact: Nancy Barbour, USDA-ARS NC Soil Conservation Research Lab
Nancy.Barbour@ars.usda.gov 320-589-3411 ext. 163

September 19 University of Minnesota SROC's Centennial Celebration

3:00pm-8:00pm SROC - 35838 120th Street - Waseca, MN
Join the University of Minnesota in celebrating 100 years at the Southern Research and Outreach Center in Waseca! There will be booths and activities for interests of all kinds. The Centennial program begins at 5:00pm. The picnic supper will be from 4:30pm—7:00pm.

Contact: Southern Research and Outreach Center
sroc.cfans.umn.edu 507-835-3620



Agroforestry

Tuesday, September 17, 2013
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Empire Wastewater Treatment
2540 W. 197th Street
Farmington, MN 55024

Agroforestry for Biomass Production and Nutrient Management

Perennials like grasses and fast-growing trees and shrubs can be used for many purposes. Livestock feed, habitat, water quality, prevention of soil erosion, and bioenergy to name a few. These plants react well to the alley cropping system. Alley cropping involves planting perennial herbaceous crops between blocks of willow or poplar.

The University of Minnesota, USDA National Agroforestry Center, and the Metropolitan Council have collaborated on a project to evaluate the productive potential and the nutrient uptake of woody and herbaceous crops planted in the alley crop style. The research plots include switchgrass, prairie cordgrass, an alfalfa / intermediate wheatgrass mix, a native tallgrass prairie mix, and hybrid poplar and willow. The plots were established in 2010 on land previously used for municipal biosolid application. The grasses have been harvested yearly and the poplar and willow will be harvested for the first time this fall. Data collected will include establishment success, amount of growth, and amount of soil nutrient uptake.

Contact for this event:
Jill Sackett, UMN Extension/Rural Advantage, 507-238-5449

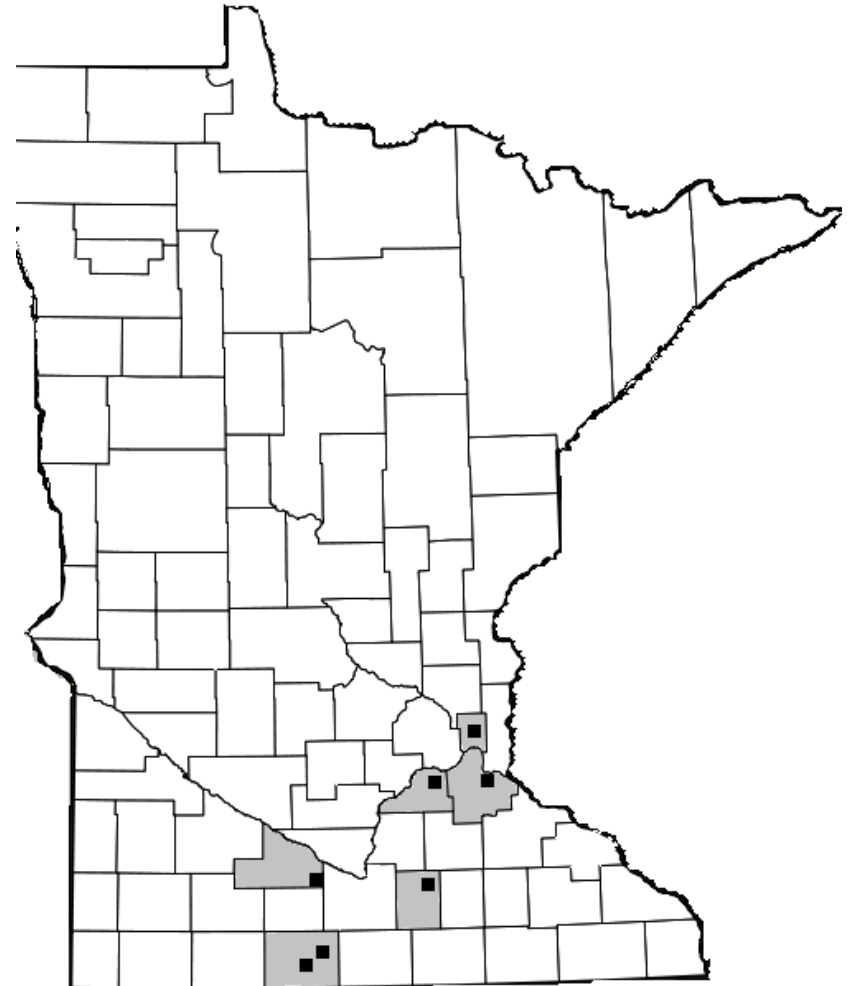
DIRECTIONS:

Empire Wastewater Treatment Plant

From the West: From I-35, take Exit 81 for Co Rd 70 / Lakeville / Farmington. Travel east on 210th street West for 0.2 miles and take the first left onto Kensington Blvd. Quickly turn right onto 210th St. W (3.0 miles). Continue on Lakeville Blvd (1.5 miles). Continue on 212th St W / Dakota Co Rd 50 (3.0 miles). Turn left onto MN-3 and travel about 0.5 miles. Turn right onto Co Rd 66 / Vermillion River Trail and travel 1.2 miles. Take the 1st left onto Biscayne Ave for about 0.5 miles. Take the 1st right onto 197th St. W.

From the East: From MN-52, head West on Co Rd 66 / 200th St. E. for about 5.5 miles. Turn right onto Biscayne Ave for about 0.5 miles. Take the 1st right onto 197th St. W.

2013 Walk-n-Talk Map



August 1 - Scott County

August 9 - Martin County

August 14 - Brown County

August 20 - Ramsey County

August 22 - Martin County

September 7 - Waseca County

September 17 - Dakota County

Multifunctional Grasslands

Thursday, August 1, 2013
10:00 am - 12:00 pm

SMSC
2330 Sioux Trail Northwest
Prior Lake, MN 55372

Restored Native Grasslands for Pollinators, Biofuels, and Grazing

Join the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community (SMSC), the University of Minnesota, and Rural Advantage for a look into multifunctional grasslands.

SMSC has planted native grasslands on the Reservation since 2000. These native grasslands are used for cultural purposes, habitat, water quality, and recreation. Another exciting opportunity is the burgeoning biofuel market. While managing the native grasslands, SMSC has found that establishment has been the greatest challenge.

The University of Minnesota has partnered with SMSC on a research project to improve the success of native grassland establishment. One promising option is the use of “nurse” crops that have the potential to increase establishment success by interfering with weed competition and increasing soil microbial action.

Pre-registration is needed. RSVP by July 30 to:
sacke032@umn.edu 507-238-5449

Contact for this event:
Jill Sackett, UMN Extension/Rural Advantage, 507-238-5449

DIRECTIONS:

Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community / Little Six Casino

From MN-169 South: 5.0 miles north of Jordan, turn right onto Co Rd 14 / W 150th St and travel east for about 4.5 miles. Turn left onto Marschall Road for about 0.8 miles. Right onto 140th St. NW for about 1.6 miles. Right onto Mystic Lake Drive NW for about 0.5 miles. Right onto Sioux Trail NW.

From MN-169 North: 8.0 miles south of I-494, right exit at Canterbury Road / Scott Co Rd 83 and head south by turning left. Travel about 3.0 miles and turn right onto Sioux Trail NW.

Park in the West Parking Lot. A bus will take attendees to the field day site.

Beginning Hop Grower Workshop

Saturday, September 7, 2013
8:30 am - 4:00 pm

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

Join the Minnesota Hop Growers Association (MHGA), University of Minnesota, and Rural Advantage for a day jam-packed with information for the beginning hop grower.

The workshop will be held at the University's Southern Research and Outreach Center (SROC) where hop research has been conducted for the last few years. The day will open with registration at 8:30am. Indoor presentations will start at 9:00am and be followed by an outdoor tour of the SROC hop yard. Lunch will be after the tour. The last of the indoor presentations will follow the meal and adjournment will be at 4:00pm.



Attendees will learn about the history of hop production and brewing, how to establish and operate a successful hop yard, harvesting and processing, economics, and marketing. There will also be time for discussion and networking. The experienced presenters will include hop growers, researchers, processors, and brewers.

Registration Fee (includes materials, refreshments, and lunch):

\$25 for members

\$50 for non-members

\$75 for registration and one year membership to MHGA

To register, visit the MHGA website. www.mhga.org

DIRECTIONS:

From US Hwy 14: Take the exit for Co. Rd. 2 / 360th Ave. Travel east on 360th Ave. for 1.0 mile. Turn right to continue traveling on 360th Ave. After the railroad tracks, veer/turn right onto Old US Hwy 14. Travel for about 0.3 miles. Then turn south (right) onto 120th St. The driveway to the parking lot will be on the left side of the road.

Agriculture Water Quality Projects

Thursday, August 22, 2013
10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Darwin & Sandy Roberts Farm
1838 260th Avenue
Granada, MN 56039

Elm Creek is located in the Blue Earth River Watershed in south central Minnesota. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency has placed Elm Creek on its Impaired Water List due to excess nutrients, excess soil, and high fecal coliform counts.

Researchers from the University of Minnesota have put together a number of water quality options that farmers can place on their land to help with the issues in Elm Creek. They are working with local farmer Darwin Roberts, the Martin Soil and Water Conservation District, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Minnesota Department of Agriculture to construct a few of these options for demonstration and research purposes.

A constructed wetland has been built at the edge of Roberts' field and the field's tile has been re-routed; it now runs through the wetland before emptying into Elm Creek. It is meant to remove nitrate and phosphorus from the drainage water from roughly 30 acres. The wetland's perennial plants also have the potential for decreasing the amount of soil and phosphorus lost into Elm Creek.

Two woodchip bioreactors have also been constructed at the field edge. The field's tile as been re-routed to run through the bioreactors before emptying into Elm Creek. Bioreactors reduce the level of nitrate in the drainage water leaving the field.

A streambank stabilization project is also in the works to help decrease the amount of soil and nitrate lost due to high water flow and runoff in Elm Creek.

Contact for this event:
Jill Sackett, UMN Extension / Rural Advantage, 507-238-5449

DIRECTIONS:

From the Granada Exit off Interstate 90: Travel North on 260th Ave. / Co. Rd. 53 for 6.2 miles. The field day site will be North of the farm driveway and South of 190th Street about 1/4 mile. The site will be on East side of the road. Carpooling is suggested.

Growing Nutrient Dense Foods

Friday, August 9, 2013
5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

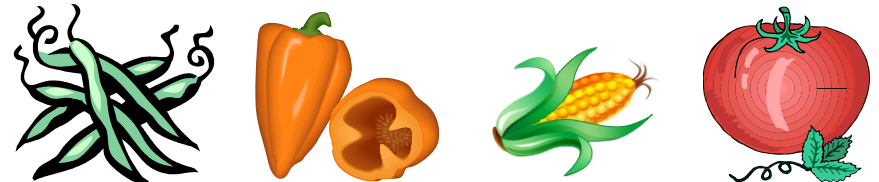
Fairmont Community Gardens
507 West Lake Avenue
Fairmont, MN 56031

Whether a novice or a seasoned expert, gardeners are concerned about growing healthy plants that produce flavorful and nutritious fruits and vegetables. Join Rural Advantage and International Ag Labs for an evening of gardening tips at the Community Gardens located at Heritage Acres in Fairmont, Minnesota.

Growing tasty and nutritious produce starts with good soil. Jon Frank with International Ag Labs will be giving tips and techniques for increasing soil fertility with rock powders in order to produce more nutrient dense fruits and vegetables. The evening will also include a walk-through of the plots at the Community Gardens.

International Ag Labs is part of a national competition comparing nutrient density of bush green beans. If you are interested in competing, or simply want to know how your green beans measure up, contact Jon Frank, 507-235-6909. Samples can be dropped off at International Ag Labs.

Contact for this event:
Jill Sackett, UMN Extension / Rural Advantage, 507-238-5449



DIRECTIONS:

From Interstate 90: Take Exit 99 for Co. Hwy. 39 / Fairmont. Travel south on Co. Hwy. 39 / 190th Ave. / Bixby Rd for about 1.3 miles. Travel east (left) on Lake Avenue for about 1.0 miles. Heritage Acres will be on the south side of the road. Drive all the way to the back of Heritage Acres, past the red outbuildings and the white house. The Community Gardens will be on the west side.

Small-scale CSA Management

Wednesday, August 14, 2013
5:30 pm - 7:30 pm
Alternative Roots Farm
11197 130th Street
Madelia, MN 56062

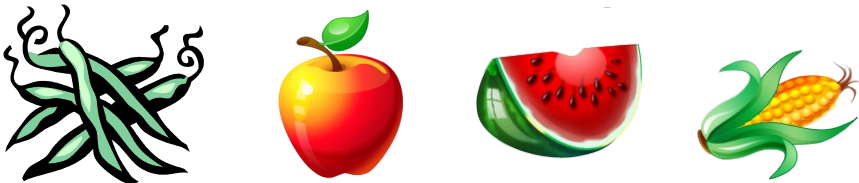
Join Alternative Roots Farm, Rural Advantage, and University of Minnesota for an evening at a local CSA.

John and Brooke Knisley own and operate Alternative Roots Farm near Madelia, Minnesota., where they offer CSA and farm shares. They specialize in heirloom vegetable production on their 4 acre farm and also have a fruit orchard. Produce in 2013 includes apples, basil, beans (snap/dry/wax), broccoli, brussels sprouts, cabbage, carrots, celery, sweet corn, cucumbers, garlic, ground cherries, kale, kohlrabi, leeks, lettuce, melons, onions, parsnips, peas (shell/snap/snow), peppers (sweet/hot), potatoes, radishes, shallots, spinach, squash (acorn/butternut/buttercup/pie pumpkin/zucchini), Swiss chard, and tomatoes.

The Knisleys will be sharing information on their CSA production/harvesting/post-harvest handling, using cover crops, raising small grains and flint corn, their native prairie buffer, and the orchard. Economics and marketing will also be covered.

All who are interested are welcome to attend this outdoor event. Please dress accordingly.

Contact for this event:
Jill Sackett, UMN Extension/Rural Advantage, 507-238-5449



DIRECTIONS:

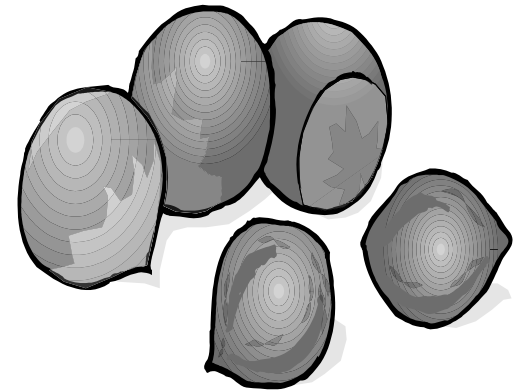
From Madelia: Travel north on State Hwy. 15 for approximately 6.5 miles. Turn east (right) on 130th St. (gravel). Travel for about 1.5 miles (includes an S-curve).

From New Ulm: Travel south on State Hwy. 15 for approximately 10.0 miles. Turn east (left) on 130th St. (gravel). Travel for about 1.5 miles (includes an S-curve).

“Forever Green” Third Crops

Tuesday, August 20, 2013
10:00 am - 12:30 pm
U of M - St. Paul Campus
Research Plots on Fairview Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55108

3rd Crops are a variety of crops other than corn and soybean. Forever Green crops are winter-annual crops and perennial crops. Both have the potential to enhance our current cropping system while producing new commodity markets, creating new ag industries, improving soil health, and increasing water quality.



University of Minnesota scientists have seen the potential in these Forever Green 3rd Crops and are researching their genetics, agronomics, yields, and potential uses.

Join Rural Advantage and University of Minnesota to view and discuss some of the Forever Green research plots on the St. Paul campus. Of particular focus will be hybrid hazelnuts (genomics, propagation techniques, nut production, and weed management), intermediate wheatgrass (genomics and yield), native prairie mixes (yields), prairie cordgrass, perennial sunflowers (genomics and yield), and perennial biomass crops (bioenergy yields).

Contact for this event:
Jill Sackett, UMN Extension / Rural Advantage, 507-238-5449

DIRECTIONS:

From the University of Minnesota—St. Paul Campus:
The field day will be held at the research plots just north of Larpenteur Avenue on the north side of campus. From Larpenteur, turn north onto Fairview Avenue. The field road will be the first right. The gravel road will curve towards the left. Follow it to the end. Look for Field Day signs. Carpooling encouraged.