

AGBIO COMMUNICATIONS UNIT
SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

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Prairie bio-fuels and wildlife field day event set for Aug. 16 near Colman

BROOKINGS, S.D. – A “walk-and-talk” field day is set for Aug. 16 near Colman.

The tour begins at 1 p.m. and it is entitled “Prairie Establishment for Bio-fuels and Wildlife.” It will take place at EcoSun Prairie Farms, located at 46786 232nd Street, Colman.

The event is free but pre-registration is encouraged before Aug. 12. To register, call event organizer Jill Sackett at 507-238-5449, or e-mail her at sacke032@umn.edu. Or call SDSU plant science researcher Kurt Reitsma at 605-688-4594, or e-mail him at Kurtis.Reitsma@sdstate.edu.

EcoSun Prairie Farms, South Dakota State University, the South Dakota Cooperative Extension Service, Minnesota Rural Advantage, and the University of Minnesota Extension are sponsoring and hosting the event.

Members of EcoSun Prairie Farms will share their experiences growing and managing grassland on former corn and soybean land. They also will explain how they market a range of grassland products including hay, grass-fed beef, native plant seed, bio-fuel feedstock, and carbon credits. The event includes a tour of the farm.

Researchers also will highlight two projects taking place at nearby South Dakota State University. SDSU professor Susan Rupp and her colleagues will describe how harvesting the prairie as a feedstock for potential bio-fuel development affects prairie wildlife and

plant and animal diversity.

SDSU Professor Tom Schumacher and colleagues will highlight a project that examines the use of multiple sources of biomass for bio-fuel feedstock production and how these sources could improve productivity and the environment.

Car-pooling is encouraged as parking is limited. Organizers have applied for continuing education units for Certified Crop Advisors. For more information on EcoSun Prairie Farms, visit their website at www.ecosunprairiefarms.org.

To reach the site traveling south on Interstate 29, take Exit 114 at Flandreau and then turn west on 230th Street. Drive travel 3 and one-half miles to 469th Avenue, then turn south on 469th Avenue and continue driving 2 miles to 232nd Street. Here, turn west and travel three-quarters of a mile. The parking area will be on the north side of the road. People attending the event cannot park at the farmstead.

Those attending who approach from the south can take I-29 Exit 109 at Colman, then drive west on South Dakota Highway 34 to reach Colman. Once in town, drive 2 miles north on Main Street to 233rd Street, then turn west. Continue driving three-quarters of a mile to 469th Avenue, then turn north and drive 1 mile to 232nd Street. Turn west on 232nd Street and continue one-quarter mile to the signs that indicate parking areas.

Attendees who use GPS can use these coordinates to get to the farm 44° 1' 23" N.

Latitude, 96° 50' 37" W. Longitude.