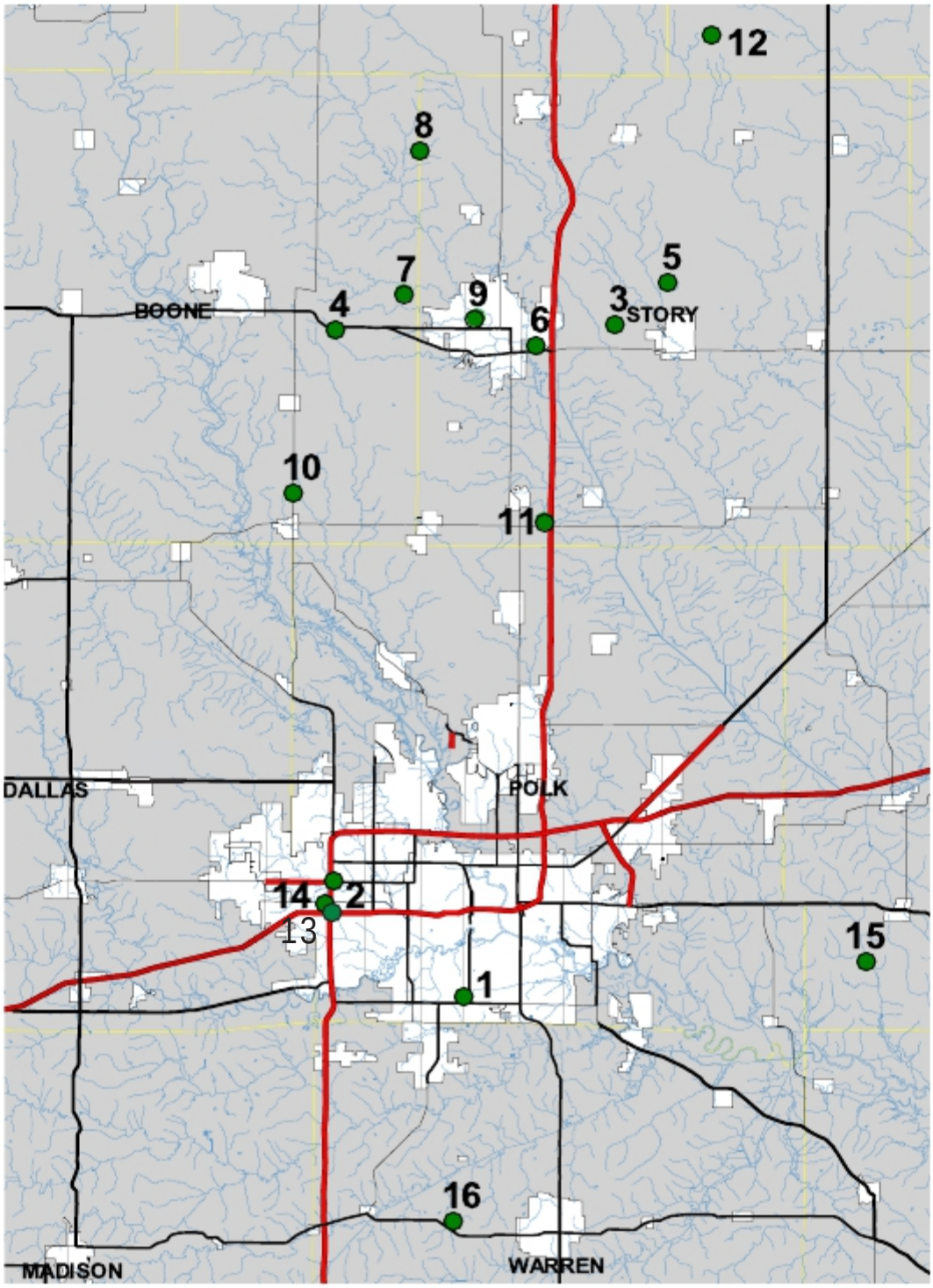
Mississippi to Iowa
Farmer to Farmer Exchange
Part 2: *The Journey Upstream*

7 - 10 July 2010

Tour Stops



Key

1. Des Moines International Airport
2. The Machine Shed Restaurant
3. Lincolnway Energy
4. BioCentury Research Farm
5. Couser Cattle Company
6. Hampton Inn
7. ISU Kelley Farm
8. IDALS CREP site
9. ISU Farm Bureau Pavilion
10. ISU Reynoldson Farm
11. Channel Bio
12. Friest Farms
13. Iowa Farm Bureau Federation
14. Hy-Line International, LLC
15. Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge
16. La Vida Loca Winery

Participants

Mississippi *(Biographical sketches on pages 22-23)*

1. Bowen Flowers
   Producer: cotton, corn, rice and soybeans
2. Bryon Griffith
   Director, Gulf of Mexico Program, US EPA
3. Dan Prevost
   Delta F.A.R.M.
4. Dan Branton
   Delta F.A.R.M.
5. Jerry Cain
   Department of Environmental Quality
6. Mike Lamensdorf
   Commissioner of Indian Bayou Drainage District, Director of Delta Wildlife
7. Phil Bass
   Gulf of Mexico Program, US EPA
8. Richard Ingram
   Producer and Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality
9. Trey Cooke
   Delta F.A.R.M.

Iowa *(Biographical sketches on pages 24-26)*

1. Bill Northey
   Secretary, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship
2. Bill Tentinger
   Producer: hogs, corn and soybeans
3. Dean Lemke
   Iowa Water Resources Board Chief, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship
4. Dennis Friest
   Producer: corn, soybeans, hogs
5. Don Elsbernd
   Producer: corn, soybeans, previously dairy
6. Doug Gronau
   Producer: corn, soybeans, hay
7. Gene Lucht
   Public Affairs Editor, ***Iowa Farmer Today***
8. Harlan Hansen
   Iowa Drainage District president, former producer
8. Joe Murphy
   Photographer, writer for Iowa Farm Bureau Federation
10. Matt Helmers
    Extension Ag. Engineer, Iowa State University
11. Tracy Blackmer
    Research Director, On-Farm Network®, Iowa Soybean Association

Stop 1

Lincolnway Energy, LLC

Nevada, Iowa

Lincolnway Energy Cooperative was formed in March 2004 following several months of evaluation by the group's founders. Lincolnway Energy, LLC was formed from Lincolnway Energy Cooperative on May 18, 2004. A site was selected near Nevada, Iowa, adjacent to the Heart of Iowa Coop, because of its proximity to an abundant supply of corn, through an alliance with the cooperative and its unit train loading facility.

After nearly two years under construction, Lincolnway Energy began ethanol production on May 22, 2006. The dry-mill coal-fired plant produces more than 50 million gallons of ethanol per year.

The site is annexed by the City of Nevada, which provided three phase electrical service, an ample and inexpensive water supply, waste water discharge, fire protection and other municipal services.

The physical location of Lincolnway Energy, LLC is approximately 2.5 miles west of Nevada along County Hwy E-41, Lincoln Highway. It is approximately 2.5 miles east of Ames, Iowa and I-35.

Vision:
Lincolnway Energy, LLC was formed for the purpose of building, owning and operating a dry mill fuel ethanol plant to be located near Nevada, Iowa. Lincolnway Energy Board of Directors determined that the production facility should be designed for 50 million gallon annual capacity and that coal should replace natural gas as the plant's primary power source.

Mission:
Our mission is to provide clean renewable energy, maintain a safe and rewarding place to work and maximize shareholder value.

Lincolnway's Products:

Fuel Ethanol

Fuel ethanol is a commodity product sold in unbranded form to gasoline refiners and producers who blend it with gasoline and sell it to the end consumer as "ethanol enhanced gasoline" or as an "oxygenated fuel". Each gallon of fuel ethanol produced is indistinguishable from the next, so product quality is determined simply by whether or not the ethanol meets minimum commercial specifications. The primary specification is that ethanol contains no more than 0.5% water by volume, which is an easy requirement to meet with today's dehydration technology.

Distillers Grains

Number 2 yellow corn is 60-65% starch, about 8% protein, with oil and a variety of other constituents making up the remaining 27-32%. In making ethanol, the corn is ground up and the starch is separated out in a way that enables it to be converted into ethanol in a multi-step process. Distiller's grains are what remains of the corn solids after the starch has been converted into ethanol. These are dried to approximately 30% moisture. Watery material from other areas of the plant, which contains corn dry matter, proteins, fiber, fats and oil, is evaporated into thick syrup called condensed distillers solubles. The condensed distiller's solubles is blended with the distiller's grains in the dryer to create the final feed product, which is called *distillers dried grains with solubles* (DDGS).

Lincolnway Energy LLC
59511 West Lincoln Hwy.
Nevada, IA 50201
(515) 232-1010
www.lincolnwayenergy.com

Stop 2

ISU BioCentury Farm

Boone, Iowa

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
Bioeconomy Initiative

Cargill Day
September 19, 2006

New Century Farm

ICM Visit
April 26, 2007

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
Bioeconomy Initiative

Cargill Day
September 19, 2006

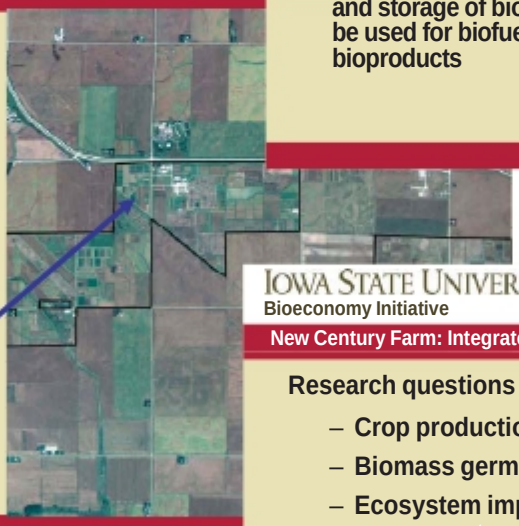
So, what is the New Century Farm?

- An integrated biomass production, processing & utilization facility
- A research, teaching & extension facility to make Iowa, Midwest & nation "feedstock ready!"
- A "place" to research sustainable production, harvesting, transportation and storage of biomass to be used for biofuels & bioproducts

2

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
Bioeconomy Initiative

Location: west Ames
Co-located with existingg agronomy & ag engineering research & demonstration farm



IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
Bioeconomy Initiative

New Century Farm: Integrated biomass production & processing facility

Research questions to be answered:

- Crop production
- Biomass germplasm development
- Ecosystem impacts
- Harvesting, transporting & storing
- Biomass processing
  - Biochemical
  - Thermochemical
  - Bioprocessing
- Byproduct utilization
- Systems impact (ecosystem, social & economic, nutrient recycling)

6

Stop 3

Couser Cattle Company

Cattle feedlot; seed production

20408 620th Ave.
Nevada, Iowa

- View alternative waste management system.
- Discuss seed production and farm operation using “recycle system” of corn to ethanol, using DDG and soy protein to feed cattle; then return manure to land for grain production.

Photos:JackieDitsworth
IowaCattlemen'sAssociation

Bill Couser

To accommodate more than doubling feedlot capacity, Bill Couser worked with ISU, DNR and EPA to develop alternative technology systems that would meet environmental requirements and improve manure management. Improvements and additions to the feedlot and surrounding area include vegetative infiltration basins, vegetative treatment areas, and solids settling basins to replace a settled effluent basin.

This alternative technology system is monitored by Iowa State University to measure the effectiveness of the system in managing nutrients in feedlot runoff.

These, and other management practices, earned Bill Couser and his operation the 2010 Iowa Environmental Stewardship Award. To Couser, cattle are recyclers, turning co-products from seed corn and renewable fuel production into meat and manure, which is recycled as fertilizer for corn production.

Day 2

Stop 1

Iowa State University Kelley Research Farm

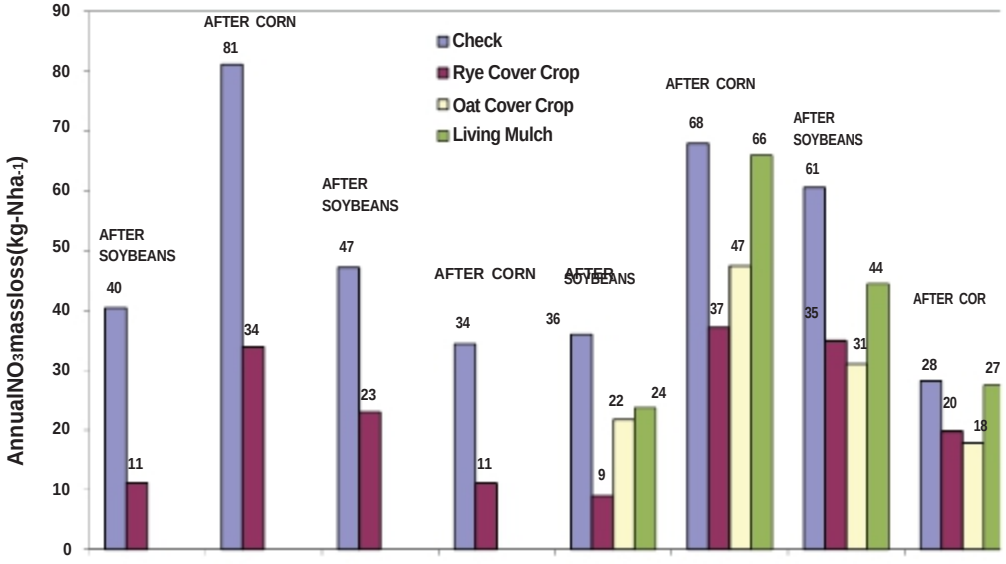
Ames, Iowa

Presenter: Dan Jaynes
Research by: Tom Kaspar, Dan Jaynes, Tim Parkin, and Tom Moorman.

The Kelley Farm Tile Drainage Research Site is operated by scientists from the USDA-ARS-National Laboratory for Agriculture and the Environment on the Iowa State University land known as the Kelly Farm. In Iowa, a substantial portion of the nitrate lost from agricultural land comes from tile drainage systems. The purpose of this site is to measure the water and nitrate coming through the tile drainage system from 24 plots 100 ft wide by 140 ft long. Drainage water from each plot goes to one of three collection sites where the volume of water is measured over time and a small sample is taken each time the collection sump pump operates. These drainage water samples are then analyzed for nitrate and ammonium. Using these measurements we can calculate the volume of drainage water, the nitrate concentration of the drainage water, and total amount of nitrate in the drainage water.

In Iowa, a corn-soybean rotation only has living plants growing and taking up water and nitrogen for 5 months of the year. As a result, much of the nitrate and water flows through drainage systems during the fall, winter, and spring months when the corn and soybeans are not growing or are very small. A cover crop can reduce nitrate losses and water flow during these months by putting living plants into fields to take up water and nitrogen. At our site we have three cover crop treatments: a rye winter cover crop that is planted after harvest and killed before planting; an oat cover crop that is broadcast seeded into the standing soybean and corn crops before harvest; and a white clover living mulch cover crop that is present in the interrows all year long and is just suppressed during the growing season. The rye treatment has been in place since 2002 and the other treatments since 2006. The figure below shows that the rye cover crop has consistently reduced (57%) the amount of nitrate lost in tile drainage compared to the check, which has no cover crops. The oat cover crop, which does not overwinter, also does very well. This may be because we have had a lot of fall and early winter drainage the last 4 years. The white clover living mulch cover crop has done as well as the oat cover crop in some years, but not so well in others. This is partly because the living mulch has suppressed the growth of the main crops during some years and they have not taken up as much nitrogen from the soil as they normally would. The graph also shows that we lose nitrate in our tile drainage water every year, even though nitrogen fertilizer was only applied after planting in the corn years (even years). This means that a lot of the nitrogen is coming from mineralization of organic matter and that we would still lose nitrogen in the drainage water even if we could put on exactly the right amount of fertilizer each corn year.

Annual N Loss in Tile Drainage for a Corn-Soybean Rotation with or without a Cover Crop



Stop 2

IDALS CREP site

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

Presenters:

Dean W. Lemke, P.E.
Chief, Water Resources Bureau
Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

Shawn Richmond
Iowa CREP Coordinator
Division of Soil Conservation

The Iowa Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program is a joint effort of the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship and the United States Department of Agriculture in cooperation with local Soil and Water Conservation Districts that provides incentives to landowners to establish wetlands in heavily tile-drained regions of Iowa. The goal is to improve water quality by reducing nitrogen loads and the movement of agricultural chemicals from croplands to streams and rivers. In addition, these wetlands will provide wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities.

Enrollment is open to land located in 37 eligible counties in North Central Iowa. Specific CREP eligibility criteria are as follows:

- Drainage area feeding to wetland must be between 500-4000 acres
- Wetland pool area must be between 0.5% and 2% of its watershed area (i.e. a 1000 acre watershed would require a wetland between 5 and 20 acres in size)
- The buffer to wetland pool ratio should not exceed 4:1
- Deep water area (>3ft deep) of the wetland should not exceed 25% of the total wetland area
- All tile drainage outlets entering the wetland must have at least 1 foot of separation above the design water level of the wetland in order to protect drainage rights

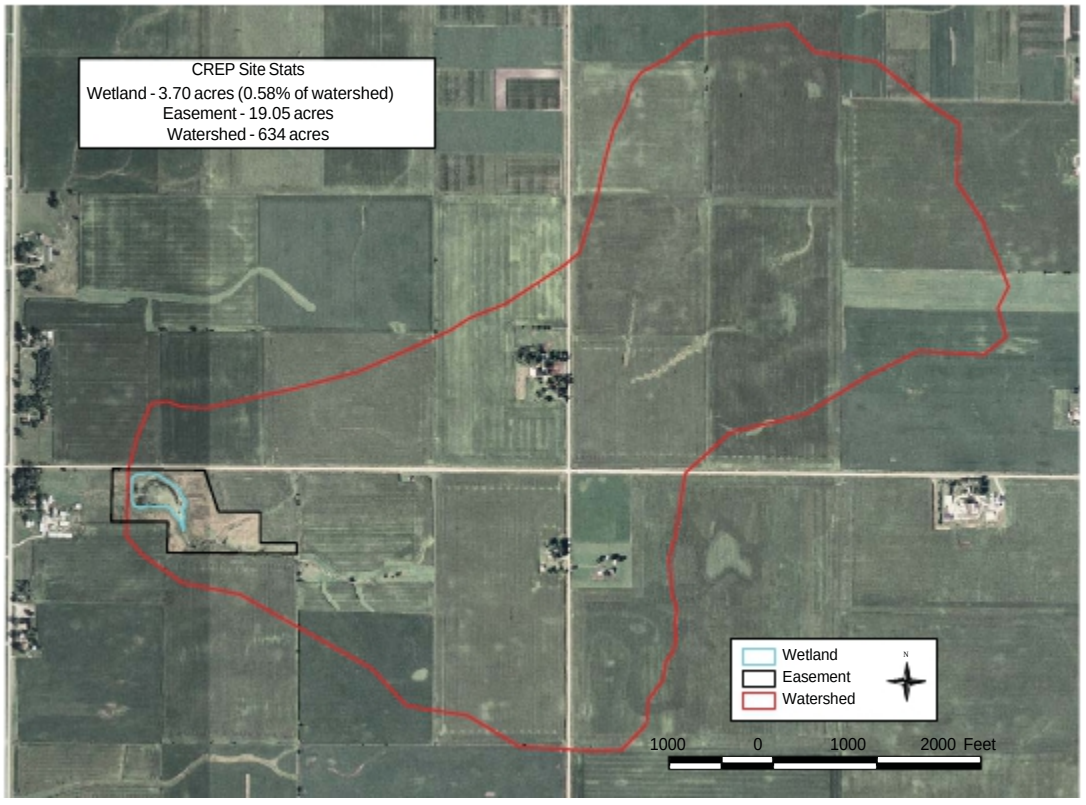
CREP wetlands are constructed as a CP-23 practice, which entails creation of an earthen berm, steel sheet pile weir, and grouted riprap stilling basin along with a water level control structure to maintain the wetland. The other primary component of this practice is a buffer area surrounding the wetland that is seeded to native grasses and forbs.

Landowners enrolling in CREP will receive:

- Up to 15 years of annual rental payments from USDA for all enrolled acres paid at 150% of the weighted average soil rental rate
- 100% cost-share for wetland restoration and buffer establishment
- 90% of construction costs paid by USDA
- 10% of construction costs paid by State
- A one-time, up-front incentive payment from the State to enter into either a 30-year or perpetual easement.

Research at Iowa State University has demonstrated that strategically sited and designed CREP wetlands can remove 40-90% of nitrates and over 90% of herbicides from cropland drainage waters.

Individuals interested in the Iowa CREP may contact the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship-Division of Soil Conservation or their local USDA and Soil and Water Conservation District offices.



LUNCH

ISU Farm Bureau Pavilion

ISU College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
Dean Wendy Wintersteen and invited faculty will host.

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

Stop 3

Iowa State University Reynoldson Research Farm

Madrid, Iowa

Matt Helmers

Four topics will be covered at the Reynoldson Research Farm.

1. Matt Helmers will discuss the Gilmore City Water Quality work.

2. Helmers will also discuss studies on low input cropping systems.

3. Chad Ingels, ISU Extension and Jeff Pape, a producer, will present results from the Hewitt Creek watershed project, north of Dyersville, Iowa.

4. Matt Helmers and Jackie Comito, Program Manager, Iowa Learning Farm, will introduce us to the the Iowa Learning Farm, which is a statewide initiative, begun in 2005, involving farmer cooperators, agency partners, and project personnel. The goals of this initiative include:
   - To build a Culture of Conservation that strengthens our individual and collective commitments to a set of values, beliefs, and attitudes about the centrality of natural resources to our standard of living and quality of life
   - Demonstrate field trials so producers can evaluate agronomic and economic information, share local wisdom, and provide a place where "seeing is believing"
   - Utilize locally-led networks
   - Conduct a state-wide educational program on the importance of residue management
   - Perform water quality modeling for estimating pollutant load reductions
   - Offer educational materials related to the social, agronomic, environmental and economic aspects of residue management and other conservation practices.

Stop 4

Channel Bio

Huxley, Iowa

Channel's BioFuture Experience puts all the pieces of the seed puzzle together in a fun, interactive environment. The event is a different-every-time exploration of new traits, farming practices, components, and industry trends. We share the latest on new breeding technologies and discuss ways these innovations will benefit producers and consumers.

The experience is based at the BioFuture Facility in Huxley, Iowa. The facility is the interior of a working seed breeding research station turned into a larger than life, thought-provoking educational exhibit, discussion center and theater.

Your event begins with a walking tour through the Circle of Science, a behind-the-scenes look at new technologies coming down the research pipeline. From there, you'll step outside and see some of those technologies first-hand in the facility's field research demonstrations, and participate in conversations with leading seed experts.

Most tours conclude with a tour of Monsanto's Genotyping Lab, located just a few miles south of our BioFuture facility. Watching the lab's robotics and seed breeding equipment at work is an experience you won't soon forget.

To learn more and watch a virtual tour of the BioFuture Experience, go to **channelbio.com**.

BioFuture is about you – learning about new technologies and practices, networking with fellow ag professionals, and having fun.

Channel®

Day 3

Stop 1

Friest Farms

Radcliffe, Iowa

Speakers:

Denny Friest, Friest Farms

Suzy Friedman, Deputy Director, Center for Conservation Incentives, Environmental Defense Fund, Washington, D.C.

Jesse Klein – Associate Wind Site Manger, NextEra Energy – Story Wind, Zearing, IA

Special Guests:

Annette Sweeney (R) – Iowa House of Representatives, District 44, Serving since 2008.

John Holmes – Extension Agronomist

Dennis Gogerty –Prairie Land Cooperative, Agronomy Specialist

The Friests (Denny, his wife Helen, their son Brent and daughter-in-law Colette) operate a family crop and livestock farm, producing about 1,500 acres of corn and soybeans and marketing nearly 10,000 hogs annually in one of the few independent pork production businesses remaining in the state. Denny was one of the first growers to participate in the On-Farm Network® and has studied nitrogen and manure management intensively.

Some of Denny's replicated strip trials are located in the NextEra wind energy park. The North 60 windmills are in the SW corner of Hardin County. He farms around 6 of them with his field trials with access road to the windmills in his field. Denny is an avid record keeper since his early work with the On-Farm Network and is happy to review his data with anyone who will listen. He uses GPS and yield monitors to collect the data. He has three CRP wetlands and a CRP waterway on his farmland.

PrairieLand COOP in Garden City has a 100 car train loadout facility along with a full service for fertilizer and spraying facilities. Denny works closely with Dennis Gogerty, the Agronomist from PrairieLand, who collects soil samples and collects corn stalk samples on behalf of the On-Farm Network. His son Brent is President of the Hardin County Pork Producers

Stop 1a *(near Brent's home)*

Manure Sidedress Application - Alan Neese, a commercial manure applicator, will demonstrate a new manure applicator purchased specifically to custom sidedress manure on corn up to 2 ft. tall.

Stop 1b *(South Road West 80)*

Hog Operation: 275 sow farrow-to-finish site at the home farm and a 2500 head contract finishing building 1 mile away. That site is 3 years old with a building with a scale system.

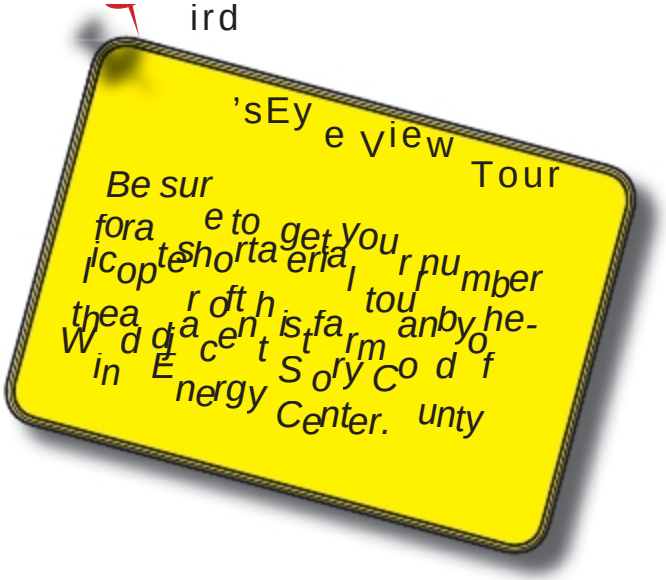
Special opportunity: Helicopter flights during the morning will give you a bird's eye view of the Friest operation, and particularly of the fields where there are On-Farm Network® trials, the hog barns and the NextEra Wind Farm.

Manure Trials with four spring applied products. (This field has compaction issues that are visible.)

a. Dow AgroScience's Instinct
b. Specialty Fertilizer Product's Nutrisphere-N
c. AMS' Accomplish
d. AgXplore's NZone

Stop 1c *(Sampson Farm)*

Ultimate Trials. The purpose of an Ultimate trial is to identify areas of the field that might need more or less nitrogen. This is achieved by using two uniform rates that vary by 25 pounds of nitrogen per acre in alternating strips across the field. The areas with differences in yields identify areas needing more nitrogen.



The Story County Wind Energy Center

Speaker: Jesse Klein – Associate Wind Site Manger, NextEra Energy – Story Wind, Zearing, IA

The Story Wind Energy Center is constructed over 57 square miles between Radcliffe to the North and Colo to the South in Story and Hardin counties, Iowa.

NextEra Energy Resources, through a subsidiary, owns and operates the facility. There are 200 GE turbines, each with a generation capacity of 1.5 megawatts for a total of 300 megawatts. This is enough electricity to power over 75,000 homes.

There are 22 full-time employees at this site.

Overview

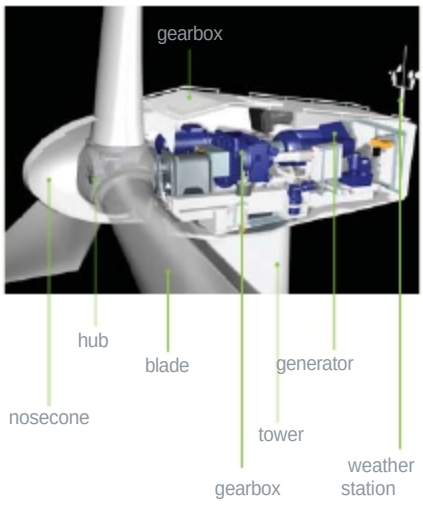
» Located in Story and Hardin counties, Iowa
» Owned and operated by a subsidiary of NextEra™ Energy Resources
» A combined 300-megawatt wind generation plant
» 200 1.5-megawatt GE turbines that are capable of generating enough electricity to power about 75,000 homes
» Each wind turbine is 262 feet tall from the ground to the hub in the center of the blades
» Story County I began commercial operation in 2008; Story County II in 2009

Benefits

» Site employment
» Adds tax base to Story County
» Provides economic stimulus of landowner lease payments
» Creates no air or water pollution
» Uses no water in the generation of electricity
» Allows land to remain in agricultural use
» Supports community activities such as the RAGBRAI, Threshold Learning Center and Zearing Days celebration

About NextEra™ Energy Resources

» A leading clean energy provider operating wind, natural gas, solar, hydroelectric and nuclear power plants across the nation
» Approximately 18,000 megawatts of generating capacity in 26 states and Canada
» The largest wind generator in the country with facilities in 17 states and Canada
» A subsidiary of FPL Group, Inc., with headquarters in Juno Beach, Florida



How It Works

Wind turbines work on the same principle as a child's pinwheel. When you blow on a pinwheel, the blades of the pinwheel spin around—same with a wind turbine.

When the wind blows against the blades of the wind turbine, the blades slowly rotate. The blades are connected to a drive shaft inside the large box (called a nacelle) seen on the top of the tower. The drive shaft turns the generator, which makes the electricity. Each wind turbine operates independently of the others. Each is, essentially, an individual power plant.

The turbine has a weather station on the top that tells it the wind speed and wind direction. That information is sent to the turbine's computer, which moves the top of the turbine (the nacelle and blades) so that the blades are always facing into the wind. The nacelle can turn 360 degrees.

The electricity is carried in cables from the generator down the inside of the tower, then underground to the site's substation. That power then goes into the offsite transmission lines and is used by the local utility to serve its customers in the region.

Working Lunch

Iowa Farm Bureau Federation Office

5400 University Ave.
West Des Moines, Iowa

PEOPLE. PROGRESS. PRIDE.®
IOWA FARM BUREAU

Speaker

Zach Bader
Communications Specialist
Iowa Farm Bureau

"Using Layered PR to Reach Iowa Consumers."

Today's consumers have more sources for news than ever before, from backyard discussions with neighbors and daily newspapers to social media websites and web-connected mobile devices. Iowa Farm Bureau's Public Relations department is committed to sharing Iowa agriculture's story with consumers, wherever they search for news."

Stop 2

Hy-Line International

1755 West Lakes Parkway
West Des Moines, Iowa

Speaker

Dr. Douglas Grieve
President

With a strategically placed nationwide sales, production, and service network that gives every customer hands-on service and guaranteed high quality product delivered to his farm in a timely manner, Hy-Line brand layers dominate the American egg industry.

The company has the only nationwide chick production network in the industry, with regional production centers in Iowa, California, Washington, Texas, Georgia, Indiana and Pennsylvania. This assures that commercial day-old chicks are delivered healthy, on time, and in the quantities required.

In addition to production and distribution, Hy-Line maintains a team of professional veterinarians, pathologists, nutritionists, microbiologists and poultry husbandry specialists who assist customers in solving their individual technical problems.

To do this Hy-Line, has the largest breeding company owned diagnostic laboratory in the industry in Dallas Center, Iowa. Specialists at this ultra-modern facility use the most advanced scientific techniques to diagnose problems and provide solutions.

Also at it's Dallas Center facility is the largest layer breeding stock hatchery in the world, producing breeders for domestic distribution as well as supplying parent breeders all around the world. The central Iowa complex also maintains grandparent stock farms and a new, modern great grandparent facility.

The Hy-Line international distribution system covers more than 120 countries worldwide. Hy-Line brand brown and white egg birds are sold in the northern and southern hemispheres and from the arctic to the Antarctic through a network of national distributors, wholly owned subsidiaries and joint venture organizations.

Hy-Line International sales, production and technical service outreach is directed from the company's corporate headquarters building in West Des Moines, Iowa.

Hy-Line North America Corporate Office

1755 West Lakes Parkway
West Des Moines, Iowa 50266
Phone: (515) 225-6030
www.hy-line.com

Stop 3
Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge
Prairie City, Iowa

Speakers

Dr. Matt Helmers, Associate Professor of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering and Extension Agricultural Engineer, Iowa State
Project co-leader

Dr. Heidi Asbjornsen, Associate Professor
Dept. of Natural Resource Ecology and Management
Project co-leader

What is being studied?

Dr. Helmers and the team are evaluating the benefits that may be provided by incorporating small amounts of perennial vegetation at strategic locations. The systems being studied include a range of percentage and placement of perennial vegetation. The project is being conducted on fourteen small watersheds around the Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge ranging in size from 1.2 acres to 13 acres.

Who is supporting the project?

This project is possible through support and cooperation of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge
The project has been made possible through funding support from the following organizations:

- Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture, Ecology Initiative
- Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Department of Soil Conservation, through funds appropriated by the Iowa General Assembly for the Conservation Reserve Program/District Initiative Program
- U.S. Forest Service North Central Research Station
- Iowa State University College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
- NCR-SARE
- USDA-AFRI-Managed Ecosystems Program
- National Science Foundation

What is the Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge?

The Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge located in Jasper County, Iowa, is a unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System administered by the federal government. The Refuge was created by an act of Congress in 1990 to re-create 8,000 acres of tallgrass prairie and oak savanna, the native plant and animal communities existing in central Iowa prior to the Euro–American settlement of the 1840's. Refuge staff and volunteers are working with conservation officers, schools, scientists, and prairie enthusiasts to preserve a piece of Iowa's natural heritage. Rare prairie and savanna seeds are being collected, studied, sown, and tended. Small savanna and prairie remnants within Refuge boundaries are being protected. Mowing, brush cutting, and prescribed burns are being used to manage both planting and remnant sites. Ongoing research is guiding the restoration processes.

For more information: ***www.fws.gov/midwest/nealsmith***

Mississippi Biographical Information

Bowen Flowers

Bowen Flowers is a part-owner and operator of a cotton, corn, rice and soybean farm in Coahoma and Tunica counties. He serves on the Board of the Coahoma County Soil and Water Conservation District, the Board of Delta Wildlife and co-Chairs the Delta Council Soil and Water Conservation Committee. Bowen has also served as a Commissioner of the Mississippi Soil and Water Conservation Commission and is a Past President of Delta Wildlife.

Bryon O. Griffith

Bryon Griffith was appointed as EPA Director of the Gulf of Mexico Program in July 2004. He previously served as Deputy Director starting in the fall of 1995. The Gulf of Mexico Program, located at Stennis Space Center in Mississippi, is a public and private partnership that includes state agencies, business representatives, broad environmental and public interests, and numerous Federal agencies working together to protect the natural resources and ensure the economic vitality of the Gulf region. Bryon received his Business Degree from the University of Southern Mississippi in 1979 and began his EPA career. In 1991, Bryon accepted a position as special assistant to the Director of the Gulf of Mexico Program. In 2004, following the issuance of the U.S. Ocean Action Plan, the Chairman of the White House Council on Environmental Quality appointed Bryon to serve as Federal co-lead for the Gulf of Mexico Alliance. The Alliance was initiated by the governors of the five Gulf States with the goal of significantly increasing regional collaboration at state, local, and federal levels to achieve actions in five priority issue areas.

Dan Branton

Dan Branton is a catfish, cotton, corn, and soybean producer from Leland, MS. Dan currently serves on the Executive Committee of Delta F.A.R.M and as a National Cotton Council Cotton Producer Delegate. Dan has also served as President of Delta Council, on the Soybean Promotion Board, National Cotton Council Board and Catfish Farmers of America Board. He as two sons and two grandsons.

Dan Prevost

Dan is the watershed specialist with Delta F.A.R.M. and currently administers the Fellowship for a Healthier Gulf of Mexico Program. He is a Certified Forester, Associated Wildlife Biologist and serves on the Board of the Mississippi Chapter of the Wildlife Society.

Jerry W. Cain

Jerry has been the Director of the Office of Pollution Control (OPC) of the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality since April of 2006. Prior to becoming Director of OPC, Jerry has held various engineering positions in the Department of Environmental Quality since 1978. He has been intimately involved in environmental issues associated with agriculture and was instrumental in the development of many of Mississippi state programs. Jerry has a personal interest in farming, specifically cattle and timber, and has been very involved in the management and operation of the family farm in Choctaw County, Mississippi.

Mike Lamensdorf

Mike Lamensdorf is a cotton ginner and cotton, soybean, wheat, milo, and pecan producer from Cary, MS, where he farms with his father. Mike currently serves as a Commissioner of Indian Bayou Drainage District, Director of Delta Wildlife, Director of the Bank of Anguilla, and President of One Grower Publishing which prints Cotton Farming, Soybean South, The Peanut Grower and Rice Farming magazines. He has served as a Vice-President of Delta Council and participated in the Cotton Producer Exchange Program and the Cotton Coalition Program. Mike and his wife of 23 years have three children.

Phil Bass

Phil Bass is the State Policy Coordinator with the Environmental Protection Agency Gulf of Mexico Program. His responsibilities include directly supporting the leadership on the Gulf of Mexico Alliance, supporting nutrient reduction activities to reduce northern gulf hypoxia, and supporting innovative technology in the restoration and recovery of the Gulf of Mexico. Phil served for over 15 years as the Director of the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality's laboratory, and for 8 years as Chief of the Field Services Division. He was selected as Director of the Office of Pollution Control in March of 2000. Upon retirement, Phil began his service with the Gulf of Mexico Program. Phil operates and still lives on the family farm.

Richard Ingram

Richard Ingram is the Special Projects Director for the Office of Pollution Control of the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality. His job includes coordination of Mississippi River and Gulf of Mexico activities for the agency. Richard previously implemented and managed Mississippi's Basin Management, Source Water Protection and Wellhead Protection Programs over a 17-year period. Prior to his state employment, Richard served as an oil & gas exploration and development consultant for 12 years. Richard is a graduate of Belhaven College (B.S. Business Administration), Millsaps College (B.S. Geology), and the University of Mississippi (M.S. Geological Engineering). His wife, Susan, is the Judicial Assistant for the Chief Justice of the Mississippi Supreme Court. They have two children, Tyler, a senior Electrical Engineering major at Mississippi State University, and Austin, a junior in high school.

Trey Cooke

Trey is the Executive Director of Delta F.A.R.M. and Delta Wildlife. Both organizations represent farmers and help address natural resource concerns by finding solutions that provide for a more environmentally and economically sustainable future for agriculture.

Iowa Biographical Information

Bill Northey

Bill is a fourth generation farmer from Spirit Lake, Iowa who grows corn and soybeans. He was elected in November 2006 and is serving his first term as Secretary of Agriculture. As Secretary, Northey has committed to traveling to each of Iowa's 99 counties every year to hear from farmers and rural residents with a stake in the future of agriculture. These meetings allow him to listen to their needs and better lead the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship as it seeks to serve the people of the state. His priorities as Secretary of Agriculture are advancing the opportunities available through renewable energy, promoting conservation and stewardship, and telling the story of Iowa agriculture.

Bill Tentinger

Bill is a pork producer and grain farmer from Plymouth County. Bill's livestock consists of a 400 head sow farrow to finish operation with the farrowing done at his home farm. Bill is a member of the Plymouth County Pork Producers, the Iowa Soybean Association, American Soybean Association, Iowa Corn Growers and Farm Bureau. He serves on the Executive Committee of the Iowa Pork Producers Association Board of Directors and holds the position of Vice President of Resources, and previously held the position of Vice President of Operations. He serves on the Public Policy, Finance, Bylaws and Resolutions, Environmental and the Animal Well-Being committees for the Iowa Pork Producers Association. Bill also is a presenter with the Operation Main Street program for the National Pork Board. He and wife Joan have operated their farrow-to-finish operation for more than forty years.

Dean Lemke

Dean is part owner and operator of a fifth generation family farm operation in north-central Iowa producing corn and soybeans. He is chief of the Water Resources Bureau, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, is a graduate of Iowa State University and has an Iowa engineering license as an agricultural engineer. He has 38 years of experience in developing research towards new technologies and implementing programs which provide technical and financial assistance to Iowa farmers for installing conservation and environmental practices. He represents Iowa on the coordinating committee of the Mississippi River/Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia Task Force, and he chairs the 5-state Upper Mississippi River team addressing Gulf hypoxia comprised of the states of Illinois, Minnesota, Missouri, Wisconsin and Iowa.

Don Elsbernd

Don, of Allamakee County and has been farming for 28 years. The operation began as a dairy farm and evolved over time into a cash grain farm. In his current operation, he raises no-till corn and soybeans. He currently serves as president of the Iowa Corn Growers Association. In his previous terms on the ICGA board, he has served on several committees, including Grassroots Network, Membership & Checkoff; the Industrial Usage & Production Committee; and the Budget Committee. Elsbernd is active in the Winneshiek County Corn/Soybean Association. He also serves as chairman of Growers National Coop board. He belongs to the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation and the Iowa Soybean Association Other activities include Food Resources Bank growing projects in Winneshiek and Allamakee counties.

Doug Gronau

Doug Gronau of Vail is a member of the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation (IFBF) board of directors. He represents District 4, which consists of 11 counties in west central Iowa. Prior to his election to the board in November 2001, Doug was vice chairman of the internal study committee that serves as a liaison between county Farm Bureau voting delegates and the Iowa Farm Bureau board of directors. Doug has served in numerous Crawford County Farm Bureau leadership capacities since becoming a member in 1974. Before becoming an IFBF Director, he served on several state-wide committees include the IFBF Speaker Corps. As an IFBF Director, Doug's assigned interest is the environment. A no-till farmer, he has served on several statewide environmental committees representing IFBF, including serving on the advisory board for the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture, Iowa State University.

Gene Lucht

Gene Lucht is the public affairs editor for Iowa Farmer Today, a weekly agricultural magazine. Gene grew up on a diversified farm near Garwin, Iowa where the family raised corn, soybeans and hogs, among other things. A graduate of Iowa State University, he worked on daily newspapers before joining Iowa Farmer Today more than 20 years ago. Today he lives in Ankeny with his wife, Gail, and their children, Sierra and Dakota. In his spare time he coaches youth sports enjoys reading and travelling.

Harlan Hansen

Harlen has been a Humboldt County Supervisor since 1995. He farmed from 1972 to 2005 raising hogs, corn and soybeans. He has been a member of the Iowa Drainage District Association since 2000 and was elected president of the association in 2008. He earned his B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from The State University of Iowa in 1963. He worked in Industry from 1963 to 1987 with John Deere, the Air Force and Chantland Co. Harlen has been married for 49 years, has three daughters and ten grand children.

Joe Murphy, Photographer/Writer

Joe Murphy is a photographer and writer for the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation (IFBF). In this position, he is responsible for the photography assignments of the weekly *Iowa Farm Bureau Spokesman* and the monthly *Family Living*. He also creates marketing photos and provides images for the Iowa Farm Bureau website. In addition to his photo responsibilities, Murphy writes news and feature stories and provides creative input and publication pagination. Prior to joining Farm Bureau, Murphy worked for several Iowa newspapers, as a managing editor, reporting and working as a photographer. He has received numerous awards for his photography and writing. Murphy received his bachelor's degree in Journalism and Mass Communications from the University of Iowa. Joe and his wife Melissa live in Van Meter with their two children.

Matt Helmers

Dr. Matt Helmers is an Associate Professor and Extension Agricultural Engineer in the Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering at Iowa State University. Dr. Helmers is an Iowa native from Sibley, Iowa and his family still farms in this area. His research and extension focus at Iowa State is in the areas of water quality and water resources management. In particular, he is studying water quality effects of agricultural best management practices including strategic placement and design of buffer systems and methods to improve water quality in tile drained landscapes.

Tracy Blackmer, Ph.D., Director, On-Farm Network®.

Dr. Tracy Blackmer received his B.S. in agronomy from Iowa State University, and his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in agronomy from the University of Nebraska in Lincoln. Tracy is currently director of research at the Iowa Soybean Association. He directs the On-Farm Network® and has been the principal investigator on more than a dozen projects using advanced technologies to help improve grower profitability and reduce environmental impact. He has authored or co-authored a number of professional journal articles on precision ag application and methodology. Prior to joining the Iowa Soybean Association, Blackmer worked for the USDA-ARS at Lincoln, Nebraska, and at Monsanto where he was a Technical Manager.

Dennis Friest

Dennis (Denny) Friest has been farming since 1970. He and his wife Helen and their son Brent and daughter-in-law Colette, operate a family crop and livestock farm near Radcliffe, Iowa, producing about 1,500 acres of corn and soybeans and marketing nearly 10,000 hogs in one of the few independent pork production businesses remaining in the state. Denny was one of the first growers to participate in the On-Farm Network and has studied nitrogen and manure management intensively. With a goal of producing economically optimal, not maximum, yields, he has steadily cut back on nitrogen use until he's now confidently applying 40-60 lbs. per acre less than he was 10 years ago. Denny and Helen have three children and seven grandchildren. While farming and family takes up most of his time, Denny is an avid Cyclone fan and also finds time to play an occasional round of golf.

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