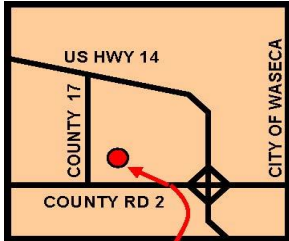


2017 - Waseca County Farmer Forum

Please Join Us... Free for Waseca County Residents!*

Thursday, March 09, 2017
Farmamerica
7367 360th Avenue, Waseca, MN



Pre-Registration needed by Wednesday, March 1, 2017
* \$10 to cover food costs for those outside of Waseca County

- Enclosed
- Pre-Registration - Needed by March 1
 - Sponsor info
 - Speaker bios

AGENDA

- 8:30 a.m. **Registration and Consultation with Resource Personnel** – coffee & juice; cookies & donuts available
- Dustin Anderson and Kay Clark – Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance
 - Jessica Nelson – Le Sueur River Watershed Network
 - Adam Arndt and Eric Gulbransen – Waseca Soil and Water Conservation District
 - Garrett Rohlfig and Russ Guse– Waseca County
 - Carol Raimann – Roundbank
- 9:00 a.m. **Welcome and Opening Remarks**
~ Moderator: Jessica Rollins, Executive Director, Farmamerica
- 9:15 a.m. **Update on Minnesota's Buffer Law**
~ Tom Gile, Buffer and Soil Erosion Program Coordinator, Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources
- 10:15 a.m. **The Forever Green Initiative – Developing New Crops and High-Efficiency Cropping Systems**
~ Dr. Don Wyse, Professor - Department of Agronomy and Plant Genetics and Co-Director of the Center for Integrated Natural Resources and Agricultural Management, University of Minnesota
- 11:00 a.m. **Break**
- 11:15 a.m. **Wetlands for Water Quality and Hydrologic Benefit**
~ Dr. Chris Lenhart, Professor – Department of Bioproducts and Biosystems Engineering, University of Minnesota
- 12:00 p.m. **Lunch** – Vegetable beef stew, rolls and pumpkin bars– Catered by Hy-Vee
- 12:45 p.m. **Minnesota's Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program**
~ Bill Fitzgerald, Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program Field Operations and Training Coordinator, Minnesota Department of Agriculture
- 1:30 p.m. **Nitrogen Management Strategies to Maximize Profitability and Minimize Nitrogen Loss**
~ Jeffrey Vetsch, Researcher 4 and Soil Scientist, University of Minnesota Southern Research and Outreach Center
- 2:15 p.m. **Closing Comments**
~ Dan Kuhns, Board Chair, Waseca County Board of Commissioners

Thank You for Joining Us!

*** Pre-Registration Needed by March 1, 2017 – Please See Reverse Side ****

FARMER FORUM PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____
EMAIL: _____

I / WE WILL ATTEND:
 MORNING SESSIONS
 LUNCH – *please pre-register each person attending lunch with name and address*
 AFTERNOON SESSIONS

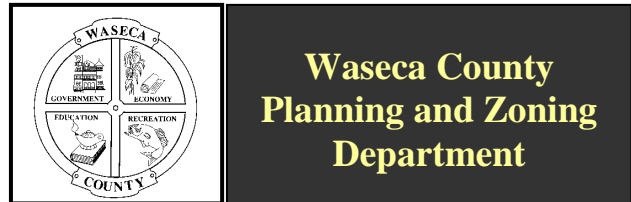
 Detach Form Above and Mail to: Waseca County Planning & Zoning, 300 N State St, Waseca, MN 56093
Or pre-register by phone: Call Shelley Hyatt at 507-835-0653 (voicemail 24/7)
Or send email: Shelley.Hyatt@co.waseca.mn.us

Pre-Registration Deadline ~ Wednesday, March 1, 2017

Catered food order based on number of guests pre-registered. Food accommodations will be made as much as possible for guests who haven't pre-registered. We apologize for any inconvenience resulting from lunch availability for walk-ins that day.

Thank you!

Program Sponsors





~ Tom Gile, Buffer and Soil Erosion Program Coordinator, Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources

Tom grew up in northeastern Minnesota, where he farmed, fished, and refined his passion for the outdoors. A 2006 graduate of St. Cloud State University, he received degrees in Meteorology and Hydrology. Following his graduation, he spent one year working as an engineering technician with the Area 6 Technical Service Area out of the Blue Earth County Soil and Water Conservation District office. After this, he spent five years as a Regulatory administration of the Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act, and the public drainage systems. The past two and a half years, Tom has been with the Board of Water and Soil Resources; first as a Board Conservationist, and was hired as the Buffers and Soil Erosion Program Coordinator in December of 2015.

The Forever Green Initiative ± Developing New Crops and High-Efficiency Cropping Systems

~ Don Wyse, Professor – Department of Agronomy and Plant Genetics and Co-Director of the Center for Integrated Natural Resources and Agricultural Management, University of Minnesota

Don Wyse is a professor at the University of Minnesota with a research focus on invasive weed biology and ecology, diversification of cropping systems, weed management in annual and perennial cropping systems, and selection and breeding of winter annual and perennial crops. Dr. Wyse received his Ph.D at Michigan State University in 1974. He has been working with the development of the next generation of Minnesota crops using plant genomics for the past 20 years, with the Forever Green Initiative being recognized as a formal initiative for the past 7 years. Projects currently underway include development of Kernza/intermediate wheatgrass, Field Pennycress, Camelina, and Native American hazelnuts.



Wetlands for Water Quality and Hydrologic Benefit

~ Chris Lenhart, Professor – Department of Bioproducts and Biosystems Engineering, University of Minnesota

Chris Lenhart is a research professor with the ecological engineering group with the Bioproducts & Biosystems Engineering Department at the University of Minnesota. His research involves stream and wetland restoration as well as watershed management particularly in agricultural settings. He and a group of researchers designed, modeled and have monitored a treatment wetland in Martin County, Minnesota since 2013. Beyond southern Minnesota he has a wetland mesocosm lab on the St. Paul campus and has studied restored and treatment wetlands in the western Lake Erie Basin of Ohio. Originally from Defiance, Ohio, Dr. Lenhart has degrees from the University of Notre Dame, UW-Madison, and the University of Minnesota.



Certification Program

~ Bill Fitzgerald, Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program Field Operations and Training Coordinator, Minnesota Department of Agriculture

Bill is originally from Iowa where he worked as a district technician in both Dickinson and Emmet Counties, as well as a Field Specialist with the Iowa CREP program where he covered 9 counties in the northwest part of the state. He then moved over to NRCS where he has held positions as a soil con and soil con tech in Iowa, Hawaii and Minnesota. For the past three years, he has been with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture working to develop and implement the Agriculture Water Quality Certification Program. Bill has a BS in biology from Briar Cliff University in Sioux City as well as an Associates in Geographic Information Systems Technology from Iowa Lakes Community College and Graduate study in Environmental Health and Water Quality at University of Minnesota.





Nitrogen Management Strategies to Maximize Profitability and Minimize Nitrogen Loss
~ Jeffrey Vetsch, Researcher 4 and Soil Scientist, University of Minnesota Southern Research and Outreach Center

Vetsch manages soil science research at the University of Minnesota, Southern Research and Outreach Center in Waseca. He conducts applied research in the areas of nutrient management, water quality and cropping systems, primarily in corn and soybeans. His research emphasis is on nitrogen management in corn. Jeff earned his BS and MS degrees from the University of Minnesota. He is a Certified Professional Soil Scientist.



Jessica Rollins, Executive Director, Farmamerica

Jessica joined the Farmamerica team in 2016. She received her BA in Psychology before realizing her true passion for agriculture communication in 2005. Jessica has worked with SD Pork Producers Council, MN Soybean Council, Preston Dairy & Farm Co-op, ADM and DuPont Pioneer gaining experience in public relations, marketing, ag communications and education. She grew up in southeast Minnesota on a crop and pork farm near Harmony. She stays busy with her one year-old daughter and husband, Grant, who farms near Pemberton. Rare, quiet moments to herself are spent reading and gardening.



Thank you for joining us!