

“GREEN” ENERGY TO BE HIGHLIGHTED AT DECEMBER CONFERENCE

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KIRKSVILLE, MO – Some forms of alternative energy are greener than others. Algae-derived fuels have garnered a lot of attention of late because of algae’s potential for high oil and biomass production without displacing food crops. Algae also have tremendous potential as bioremediation agents, particularly in sewage, wastewater, and livestock effluent treatment applications, as well the ability to capture carbon dioxide. Opportunities for energy production and bioremediation with algae will be among several topics addressed at a Bioenergy Conference in Kirksville, Missouri on December 4, 2009. Full conference program and registration information are available at <http://bioenergyconference.truman.edu>.

Dr. David E. Brune will be one of eleven featured speakers. Dr. Brune is currently Professor of Bioprocess and Bioenergy at the University of Missouri-Columbia. Prior to his current position, Dr. Brune served 22 years as Professor and Newman Endowed Chair of Natural Resource Engineering at Clemson University in South Carolina. Dr. Brune’s research program encompasses aquaculture, microalgae for waste treatment, bioenergy from fermentation of biomass, and related topics. His work targets biological and physical processes for wastewater treatment and recovery of waste nutrients. He has experience in the development of both low-cost, semi-intensive and super-intensive culture systems for production of shrimp, catfish, and bivalves. Dr. Brune will give two presentations on algae production and energy generation systems.

Dr. Paul Nam, Assistant Professor of Chemistry at Missouri University of Science and Technology will present findings from a pilot study which is utilizing carbon dioxide from the Chamois power plant to grow algae in five 2,500-gallon pools. The oil is extracted for biodiesel and the remaining carbohydrates and proteins can be used for making ethanol and livestock feed.

Attendees will also hear from speakers addressing other bioenergy topics, including biomass handling and logistics, methane digesters, energy policy, alternative oilseeds, and on-farm oilseed processing. The conference will conclude with exhibits and demonstrations at the Truman State University Farm. An optional tour on the afternoon of December 3 will visit methane digesters at the Crystal Peak Fertilizer plant near Green City, MO.

Conference registration is \$50 and includes a resource notebook, DVD, lunch, and refreshments. Additionally, a waiver of the registration fee plus a travel scholarship of \$200 will be awarded to each of 40 applicants from the target groups of high school and college agriculture faculty and extension personnel who plan to use this information in educational or outreach activities.

Funding for the conference is provided by a Professional Development Program grant from USDA’s North Central Region Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program (NCR-SARE).

Scholarship application deadline is October 30, 2009 and the regular registration deadline is November 6, 2009. For more information contact Michael Seipel at mseipel@truman.edu or 660-785-4316.