

WHICH OILSEEDS PRODUCE THE MOST VEGETABLE OIL PER ACRE?

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KIRKSVILLE, MO – Increased attention is being focused on developing resource-efficient and environmentally-friendly biofuels that can be made from feedstocks that do not compete with food or feed sources. An important class of biofuel that could fulfill these requirements is biodiesel manufactured from recycled vegetable oil, animal fats, algae, or oilseeds other than soybeans.

Each of these alternatives will be addressed in presentations and demonstrations at a Bioenergy Conference in Kirksville, Missouri on December 4, 2009. Full conference program and registration information are available at <http://bioenergyconference.truman.edu>. Registration deadlines are fast approaching, so those interested are encouraged to visit the website to register or apply for a conference fee waiver and travel scholarship.

Dr. Rob Myers of the Thomas Jefferson Agricultural Institute will address which alternative oilseeds are most highly productive in states like Missouri, Kansas, Illinois, and Iowa and which are most adaptable to current cropping systems and processing technologies. Leif Kindberg will address and have available a myriad of bioenergy resources available from the ATTRA- National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service, managed by the National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT). Dr. David Brune and Dr. Paul Nam will present ongoing research on algal production and oil extraction techniques. Jamie Derr, a farmer from south-central Wisconsin will talk about and demonstrate a mobile screw press that he uses to extract soybean and canola oil. Derr Solarmass LLC, his row crop operation, replaces 25 percent of its petroleum diesel needs with farm-manufactured biodiesel. Bulldog Biodiesel, a student organization at Truman State University, will demonstrate the batch processor that they use to turn waste vegetable oil from campus cafeterias and area restaurants into biodiesel used in University Farm and Physical Plant vehicles.

Attendees will also hear from speakers addressing other bioenergy topics, including biomass handling and logistics, methane digesters, the effect of bioenergy crops on wildlife habitat and soil and water conservation, and energy policy. 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 or visit the website at <http://bioenergyconference.truman.edu>.