Southern Iowa Biomass Crop Workshop

Emily A. Heaton
Iowa State University, heaton@iastate.edu

Rick Sprague
United States Department of Agriculture

Follow this and additional works at: http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/cropnews

Part of the Agricultural Science Commons, Agriculture Commons, and the Agronomy and Crop Sciences Commons

Recommended Citation
http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/cropnews/256

The Iowa State University Digital Repository provides access to Integrated Crop Management News for historical purposes only. Users are hereby notified that the content may be inaccurate, out of date, incomplete and/or may not meet the needs and requirements of the user. Users should make their own assessment of the information and whether it is suitable for their intended purpose. For current information on integrated crop management from Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, please visit https://crops.extension.iastate.edu/.
Southern Iowa Biomass Crop Workshop

Abstract
There is increasing interest in biomass crops for energy in Iowa. Initially, it was thought that strong commodity prices would limit the interest of growers in planting perennials for bioenergy, but that doesn’t seem to be the case. A Biomass Crop Production workshop Thursday, March 8, at Southwestern Community College in Creston, Iowa will explore why interest is increasing. The program will start at 8:45 a.m. and conclude at 2:15 p.m.

Keywords
Agronomy

Disciplines
Agricultural Science | Agriculture | Agronomy and Crop Sciences

Rights
Works produced by employees of the U.S. Government as part of their official duties are not copyrighted within the U.S. The content of this document is not copyrighted.

This article is available at Iowa State University Digital Repository: http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/cropnews/256
Southern Iowa Biomass Crop Workshop

By Emily Heaton, Department of Agronomy and Rick Sprague, Natural Resources Conservation and Service

There is increasing interest in biomass crops for energy in Iowa. Initially, it was thought that strong commodity prices would limit the interest of growers in planting perennials for bioenergy, but that doesn’t seem to be the case. A Biomass Crop Production workshop Thursday, March 8, at Southwestern Community College in Creston, Iowa will explore why interest is increasing.

The program will start at 8:45 a.m. and conclude at 2:15 p.m.

Workshop participants will learn about opportunities to grow and market profitable biomass crops that are adapted to southern Iowa soils and climate. The Southern Iowa Resource Conservation and Development Area has been working with Iowa State University and the Iowa Farm Energy Working Group to evaluate biomass crops, including giant Miscanthus and warm season grasses that can be used to produce renewable energy feedstocks. Two companies are cooperating in this joint venture, with plans to create businesses that convert biomass to anhydrous ammonia and energy pellets. Collectively, these renewable energy enterprises would consume 54,000 acres of energy crops and create over 50 new jobs.

Based on feedback from the 2011 Workshop, this year’s event has been structured with more time for participants to interact with speakers. The morning session will feature three speakers. Steve Flick of ShowMe Energy with an update on his company’s activities since they received funding from the Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP) in Missouri. John Caveny, the second speaker, will focus on Miscanthus production. He has been growing Miscanthus longer than any farmer in the United States and will share his experiences and offer advice on growing Miscanthus as an energy crop. The final speaker, Allen Powell of the Farm Service Agency in Columbia, Mo., will tell how BCAP is working on the ground.

Guided small group discussions and networking opportunities will make up the afternoon activities. Discussion will focus on identifying strengths and needs in developing a strong supply chain in Southern Iowa.

Pre-registration is $20 until midnight, March 2. After that registration is $30. Registration can be completed online with a credit card (MasterCard or VISA only) at [www.aep.iastate.edu/biomass](http://www.aep.iastate.edu/biomass). Registrations may also be faxed with a credit card to 515-294-1311 or be mailed along with a check or credit card information to: ANR Program Services, 2101 Agronomy Hall, Ames, Iowa, 50011-1010. Registration includes refreshments, lunch and class materials. A student discount is available.

Registrations will be accepted the day of the workshop with registration opening at 8 a.m. on March 8. For more information, call (515) 294-6429 or email anr@iastate.edu.

This program is sponsored by ISU Extension, USDA-NRCS, Southern Iowa Resource Conservation and Development Area and SynGest.
Emily Heaton is an Iowa State University Extension production biomass specialist. She can be contacted at 515-294-1310 or heaton@iastate.edu. Rick Sprague is the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Grassland Specialist for Southwest Iowa. He can be reached at 641-782-4218 or richard.sprague@ia.usda.gov.

This article was published originally on 2/14/2012. The information contained within the article may or may not be up to date depending on when you are accessing the information.

Links to this material are strongly encouraged. This article may be republished without further permission if it is published as written and includes credit to the author, Integrated Crop Management News and Iowa State University Extension. Prior permission from the author is required if this article is republished in any other manner.