

University of Minnesota Southwest Research and Outreach Center

Organic Field Day

Thursday, July 9, 2009



Organic Field Day Schedule

Organic Field Day allows those interested in organic agriculture to connect with each other and University of Minnesota Researchers. Field tours and presentations will highlight current organic research at the University of Minnesota and practical organic production applications.

Organic Field Day is free and open to the public. A fee will be charged for lunch. For more information contact the SWROC at 507-752-7372.

Please register in advance by contacting the SWROC at 507-752-7372 or by sending an email to werne022@umn.edu

- 7:30 – 8:00 am – Exhibitor set up; Refreshments
- 8:00 – 11:30 am – Field Tours. Field tour stops to include:
 - Organic high tunnel – Indoor and outdoor vegetable production
 - No-till roller/crimper research – grain and vegetable crops
 - Soil pit comparing organic and conventionally managed soils
 - Forage research plots
 - Weed control plots
 - Perennial cropping systems
- 11:30 am – 12:00 noon – Visit exhibits
- 12:00 – 12:45 pm – Organic and local food lunch, visit exhibits
- 12:45 – 1:00 pm – Exhibitor “Sound Bites”
- 1:00 – 1:45 pm – “Tricks and Trades for Weed Control”
Jed Colquhoun, UW Extension
- 1:45 – 2:30 pm – “Farm Use of Roller/crimper”
Jim Miller, WI organic farmer
- 2:30 – 2:45 pm – Refreshments, visit exhibits
- 2:45 – 3:30 pm – “Soil Quality, Health, and Biology”
Sharon Weyers, USDA-ARS
- 3:30 – 4:15 pm – “UMN Organic Research Update”
Robert King, UMN, facilitator
- 4:15 pm - Adjourn

2009 SWROC Upcoming Events

Thursday and Friday, July 23-24—NCIS Hail School

Tues, Aug 4-Thur, Aug 6—University on the Prairie

Tuesday, August 11—Strip Till Field Day

Thursday, August 20—Yield Day

Tuesday, August 25—Ag Lender's Day

Wed. and Thurs., Sept 23-24—Elementary Field Days

Please visit the SWROC website for the most current events and dates. <http://swroc.cfans.umn.edu>

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Driven to DiscoverSM

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University of Minnesota

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The Southwest Research and Outreach Center is located on State Highway 330, just off State Highway 14 between Lamberton and Revere in southwest Minnesota.

Organic Field Day is sponsored by:



Southwest Research & Outreach Center
University of Minnesota
23669 130th Street
Lamberton, Minnesota 56152

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUBJECT: University of Minnesota SWROC's Organic Field Day

EVENT DATE: Thursday, July 9, 2009

SWROC to Host University of Minnesota Organic Field Day

Lamberton, Minn. – The Southwest Research and Outreach Center in Lamberton, MN, will host the University of Minnesota's Organic Field Day on Thursday, July 9, 2009, from 8:00 am to 4:15 pm. During the Organic Field Day UMN researchers and invited guest speakers will present the latest research-based information about organic no-till production, high tunnel season extension, weed management, cover crops, soil quality, and perennial crops.

“Despite tough economic times, interest in organic production remains strong. The annual Organic Field Day provides organic and conventional producers an excellent opportunity to hear from top researchers, visit exhibits, and network with one another,” commented Jim Riddle, UMN Coordinator for Organic Agriculture Outreach.

Light refreshments will be served at 7:30 am. Beginning at 8:00 am, University of Minnesota faculty will conduct field tours to present ongoing research on weed management strategies, organic no-till production, alternative crop rotations, forage and cover crop establishment, perennial crops, forage effects on soil quality, and research supported by the USDA Risk Management Agency.

The field tour will feature a soil pit comparing organic and conventionally managed soils in adjacent plots. Visitors will get a chance to see vegetables and grains planted behind the SWROC's roller/crimper, a tool used by farmers for one-pass, no-till incorporation of cover crops at planting. There will also be a tour of the Center's high tunnel demonstration facility, with a comparison between indoor and outdoor production of tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, and salad greens.

Afternoon presentations include “Tricks and Trades for Weed Control” by Jed Colquhoun, UW Extension; “Farm Use of the Roller/crimper” by Jim Miller, WI organic farmer; “Soil Quality, Health, and Biology” by Sharon Weyers, USDA-ARS-Morris; and “UMN Organic Research Update” facilitated by Dr. Robert King, UMN.

“This year's organic field day will be packed with useful information for grain, forage, and vegetable producers.” said Riddle. “Don't miss it!”

The field day will include a delicious organic and local food lunch, with plenty of time to network and visit exhibits.

The Organic Field Day is free and open to the public. A small fee will be charged for lunch. If you plan to attend, or would like to have an exhibit, please register in advance by contacting the SWROC at 507-752-7372 or by sending an email to werne022@umn.edu. For more information, visit: www.organicecology.umn.edu