

Green Lands Blue Waters



Bridges and Buffers, Farms and Cities:
Continuous Living Cover Farming Systems
2015 Conference: 3 and 4 November
Coffman Memorial Union, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis Campus

The 2015 Green Lands Blue Waters (GLBW) conference brings solution-oriented approaches to some of the hot topics in Midwest agriculture today. The new Minnesota law requiring buffers of perennial vegetation along waterways, the lawsuit by the Des Moines Water Works against three counties upstream; state Nutrient Reduction Strategies; and the Mississippi River Gulf of Mexico Watershed Nutrient Task Force brought national attention to agricultural water issues. The declining pollinator insects and a rising interest in soil health are also gaining attention on the farm, policy-makers, and the general public.

Building on previously-successful GLBW conferences, participants will learn about and discuss the science and practices of Continuous Living Cover (CLC) farming systems; how CLC farming is helping to address environmental challenges in agriculture; how watershed-based groups are implementing CLC farming and tracing the results; and the development of businesses and markets for CLC crops.

Tuesday, November 3 (Mississippi Room)

- 8:00 Registration and light breakfast
- 9:00 – 9:15 Welcome:
Greg Cuomo, Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Programs; College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences, University of Minnesota
- 9:15 – 10:00 Keynote speaker: Joan Iverson Nassauer, Professor of Landscape Architecture, School of Natural Resources and Environment, University of Michigan
Changing Rural and Urban Perspectives on Midwestern Agricultural Landscapes
- 10:00 – 10:30 Networking break (Mississippi Room; posters in room 303)
- 10:30 – 12:00 **Land, Water, Climate and CLC Farming Systems**
Moderator:
The Agricultural Conservation Planning Framework: A Multi-Practice Approach to Increase Perennial Cover for Watershed Improvement
Mark Tomer, USDA Agricultural Research Service, National Laboratory for Agriculture and the Environment, Ames, Iowa

Climate Change and Continuous Living Cover Farming

John Baker, USDA Agricultural Research Service and Department of Soil, Water, and Climate, University of Minnesota

- 12:00 – 1:00 Lunch (Mississippi Room; posters in room 303)
- 1:00 – 2:30 Join a 90 minute working session, each focused on a CLC cropping strategy, where you will learn about current research and programs; share your experiences; and discuss opportunities and future initiatives.
- Cover Crops (Mississippi Room)
Perennial Forage and Pastures (Room 323)
Perennial Grains (Room 324)
Agroforestry (Room 325)
Perennial Biomass (Room 326)
- 2:30 – 3:30 Networking break (Mississippi Room; posters in room 303)
- 3:00 – 3:40 **Reports from the CLC Sessions**
Moderator: Matt Leibman, Department of Agronomy, Iowa State University (Theater)
- 3:40 – 4:30 **The Forever Green Initiative**
Professor Don Wyse, Department of Agronomy and Plant Genetics, University of Minnesota (Theater)
- 4:30 – 5:00 **From Farm to Table**
Moderator: Jan Joannides, Executive Director, Renewing the Countryside (Theater)
- Grass-fed meat and dairy: Warren King, Co-manager, The Pasture Project
Kernza™ : Jacob Jungers, Research Associate, Department of Agronomy and Plant Genetics, University of Minnesota
Elderberry: Michael Gold, Associate Director, Center for Agroforestry, University of Missouri
Midwestern hazelnut: Amanda Sames, Graduate Student in Conservation Biology, University of Minnesota
- 5:00 – 7:00 **Reception** (Mississippi Room; posters in room 303)

Wednesday, November 4

- 7:30 – 8:00 Light breakfast / networking (Mississippi Room)
- 8:00 – 8:30 **Introduction to the GLBW Watershed Initiative**

CO-Chairs of the GLBW Watershed Initiative: George Boody, Executive Director, Land Stewardship Project and Linda Meschke, President and Founder, Rural Advantage

8:30 – 10:00

A Strategic Watershed Tour:

Participants will rotate through three rooms (323, 324, and 325), each focused on a different topic important to increasing CLC farming to achieve watershed goals. Practitioners working in watershed-based programs will frame the topic, present examples from watersheds in the region, and engage the conferees in discovery of ways forward.

Women Caring for the Land

Jen Filipiak, American Farmland Trust

Jean Eells, Women, Food, and Agriculture Network

Robin Moore and Caroline van Schaik, Land Stewardship Project

Structures and roles of watershed-based partnerships

Jennifer Ronnenberg, Fillmore County Soil and Water Conservation District

Ross Evelsizer, Northeast Iowa RC&D

Narrative change for restoration of watershed health

George Boody and Terry VanDerPol, Land Stewardship Project

Deb Ryun, St. Croix River Association

10:00 – 10:30

Networking break (Mississippi Room; posters in room 303)

10:30 – 12:00

Governmental programs supporting implementation of CLC

Implementing Minnesota's Buffers Initiative

John Jaschke, Executive Director, Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources

Implementing CLC farming to help achieve nutrient goals in the Mississippi River and Gulf of Mexico

Wayne Anderson, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and Mississippi River Gulf of Mexico Nutrient Task Force

12:00 – 12:45

Lunch (Mississippi Room).

12:45 – 1:30

Keynote speaker (Mississippi Room): Wes Jackson, Founder and President, The Land Institute

Ecological Agriculture for an Ecological Civilization: Progress Report

Food and drinks are provided by Common Roots Catering (CRC) of Minneapolis. For this event CRC will showcase food produced in CLC farming systems in our region, including grass-fed meat and dairy, Kernza™, elderberry, and Midwest hazelnuts.