



NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2018 EDITION

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Invitation	1
CLC Ag & Energy Field Day.....	2
Red River Farm Network News.....	3
Reducing risks of insecticides to pollinators	4
More to irrigation than meets the eye.....	5 & 6
Membership	7



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www.centralmnirrigators.com

You're Invited to Attend

Central Lakes College

AG AND ENERGY RESEARCH CENTER FIELD DAY

August 24, 2018 9:00am - 2:30pm

Highlights on the following page. [Here are some details for the day.](#)

Tractor Ride and Drive – All ages are welcome to come and experience some of the latest technologies in equipment such as sprayers, the new RX, and tillage demonstrations with trained John Deere technicians courtesy of Midwest Machinery in Wadena, MN.

Drone Flight – Hands-on experience with drone technology experiencing flights and agricultural uses of drones for your farm with UAS Pilot Jonathan Beck.

History of 50 years of Ag Center – The Ag and Energy Center is celebrating their 50th Anniversary this year. Come learn about the history of how it all began in 1968 from Del Lecy. This will be repeated during the day.

Kid's Program – Kids (suggested ages 5-14) are invited to join in the kid's activities ranging from tractor driving, digging for potatoes of all shapes, sizes, and colors, and exploring drone technology relating to agriculture. Kids are welcome to take fresh veggies home with them!

Nitrate Reduction Water Quality Study-AgXplore-NZONE MAX – The goal of this four-year study is to reduce nitrate leaching through the use of AgXplore's product NZONE MAX, which is mixed with all forms of urea when it is applied to the crop. Groundwater and soil pore water quality is being analyzed through monitoring wells and lysimeters set up at strategic areas in the field and along the parameter. Presenters will include Mark Peltier, Brandon McMillan, and Mitch Whyte from AgXplore and Dan Whitney and Kristi Anderson from NWATS.

Ag and Ground Water Quality Tour – This presentation includes a tour of an off-site field. This study is designed to execute a land management plan that fosters soil health and provides adaptive management options that can be replicated to ultimately balance financial and environmental sustainability. Furthermore, intensive water quality monitoring is a significant portion of the study. Presenters include Ryan Perish with MDA and Dan Whitney with NWATS.

Kernza Plot Tour – This study was established last year to evaluate a new specialty crop kernza, and its potential impacts on coarse sandy soils. Studies include a variety study to study yield and plant characteristics, nitrogen application timing, and traditional cropping rotations compared to kernza while analyzing water quality through the use of lysimeters. Jake Junger will be presenting from the University of Minnesota

Palmer Amaranth Workshop – Palmer Amaranth was recently discovered in Todd and Douglas counties. This workshop's objectives is to increase farmer's awareness of palmer amaranth and tactics that we can take to prevent the spread of this weed. Drone flights will be demonstrated during this workshop of how drones can be used to scout for this weed and other weeds that could be an issue. This workshop is organized by the Todd County Weed Inspector Nancy Uhlenkamp

Trade show – Aside from publicized tours and workshops, several industry reps will be present at our trade show that will be in the machine shed from 11-2. These folks will be available to share their research as well as product comparisons and some results. The will include U of M, Agriculture Research Service (USDA), and many private label seed companies. Our variety trials companies will also be present to share results and go to plots as needed for observation.

Nitrate testing of well water - Attendees should plan to bring water samples for free nitrate testing.

[The day and activities are free of charge including lunch.](#)

[This is a real opportunity to learn, share, and enjoy the region's agriculture!](#)

[See you at field day on the 24th!](#)



Central Lakes College AG AND ENERGY RESEARCH CENTER FIELD DAY

August 24, 2018 9:00am - 2:30pm
26505 County Road 2 Staples, MN



ACTIVITIES

9:00 - 2:30

Tractor Ride and Drive
courtesy of Midwest Machinery

9:00 - 9:30

Drone Flight
Hands on Demonstration

9:30 & 11:30

*History of
50 years of Ag Center*
(20 minute presentation)

11:00 - 12:00 Kid's Program
(Ages 5-14 suggested)

- Tractor Driving
- Potato Activities
- Explore Technology/drones
- Garden activities
- Will bring home fresh veggies

PLOT TOURS

All Day

Wadena SWCD will have
water nitrate testing

9:30

**Nitrate Reduction Water
Quality Study**
AgXplore - NZONE MAX
Brandon McMillan,
Mitch Whyte, Mark Peltier

10:30 - 12:00

*Ag & Ground Water
Quality Tour*

- Presented by
Ryan Perish, MDA;
Dan Whitney, NWATS

11:00 - 12:00

Kernza Plot Tour

New cropping options for sandy soils
while improving water quality

LOCAL FOODS

11:30

Living Legacy Gardens Tour

10:00 - 11:00

Local Foods Tour
Presented by
Thaddeus McCamant
• Pears • Cherries
• Apple Orchard

11:00 - 12:00

Viticulture Tour
Presented by CLC instructor
Dennis Drummond
• Grape growing
• Vineyard maturity
• Wine Making



12:00 - 1:30 Complimentary Lunch and Lunch Program

- Greetings from Minnesota State Chancellor Devinder Malhotra
- Vendors will be on hand to visit with and answer questions

1:30 - 2:00

Drone Flight Demo



1:30 - 2:00

Wine Tasting

1:30 - 3:00

Palmer Amaranth Workshop
Drone Scouting and Noxious
weed Identification

1:30 - 4:30

Forage Council Bus Tour
Grand View Ranch
• Managed grazing
• Frost seeding
• Pasture infrastructure
• Custom grazing

1:30

Living Legacy Gardens Tour
with Pie & Ice Cream

1:30 - 3:00

Apple Workshop
• Presented by Thaddeus
McCamant
• Late summer budding &
grafting of fruit trees
• Apple & Plum diseases of MN



1:45

*History of
50 years of Ag Center*
(20 minute presentation)

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Melody Weber—218.894.5123 mweber@clcmn.edu

To be a vendor contact: Tiffany Hulinsky—218.894.5141 thulinsky@clcmn.edu



RED RIVER FARM NETWORK

FARMNETNEWS

Source: FarmNetNews **A Weekly Update From Your Friends at the Red River Farm Network**
more info can be found at www.rfn.com

The End of a Bear Market – The U.S. corn and soybean crops may look good, but University of Minnesota Grain Market Economist Ed Usset says stocks are not growing worldwide. “I think we should be celebrating the end of a bear market. I want to clarify something, I’m not saying the start of a bull market, but I am noting the end of a bear market. When you’re no longer building stocks, you sort of take that wet blanket of bad news off the market and you can start to breathe again.” Trade uncertainty remains a question mark. “I’ve seen no evidence that trade wars are easy to win historically or otherwise and I don’t know how this plays out.”

A Strong Business IQ Needed – With very tight margins, Virginia Tech professor emeritus David Kohl is urging farmers to be proactive, not reactive. Speaking at Bell Bank events in Fergus Falls and Moorhead, Kohl said farmers need a solid business IQ. Kohl says there is reason for optimism in agriculture. “Farm assets are a whole lot cheaper, particularly for used equipment, than they were during the super-cycle,” said Kohl. “I’m optimistic for the people who are good managers. Pretty everybody could make money with \$8 corn, beans in the teens and \$30 milk. Now it is the good managers and tough times bring out those good managers.”

Know Your Cost of Production – Today’s farmer may be dealing with lingering effects from the super-cycle of 2006-to-2012. That includes high family living expenses or land costs. Bell Bank Senior Vice President Lynn Paulson says farmers can weather this downturn in the farm economy. “A producer needs to know the cost-of-production and break-evens. You need good financial records and a good marketing plan.” While there are pockets with problems, Paulsen says the crop looks good across Minnesota and the Dakotas. “That may help offset some of the commodity price shortfall, but I don’t know if you can rely on that year-after-year. At some point, we’re going to come back into trendline yields and we’ll have issues if the price environment hasn’t changed.” Rather than having the most bushels, Paulsen said it may be more important to have the most economical yields.

Farmland Values Edge Higher Nationwide – Nationwide, farmland values rose two percent this past year. The Northern Plains region went the other direction with farmland values down 1.4 percent. In Minnesota, farm real estate values averaged \$4,700 per acre, down \$50 from last year. Farmland in North Dakota is averaging \$1,830 per acre this year, down \$10 per acre from last year. South Dakota farm real estate averaged \$2,170 per acre, down \$10 from 2017. Cash rents for crop ground in the three states are mostly unchanged from last year.

Barley Harvest Begins – Dazey, North Dakota farmer Jim Broten has started barley harvest. Broten says the early harvest looks good. “They’ve taken off about 400-to-500 acres. So far, we’re doing quite well. We’re very pleased. It’s good quality and should make all the malt specs so that part is good.” Yields are as expected. “I was a little worried after the (Wheat Quality Council Spring) wheat tour. You know, they said the wheat fields are going to be down. Maybe our barley had some of the same aspect. Right now, I’d say we’re as good as they hoped, maybe even a little better.” RRFN’s Harvest Hotline coverage is sponsored, in part, by U.S. Custom Harvesters Incorporated.

Trump Promotes House Farm Bill – President Donald Trump has jumped into the farm bill debate with one of his recent tweets. Trump voiced support for the House version of the bill that includes work requirements to be eligible for food stamps. The House was divided along party lines, largely due to the language on nutrition assistance programs. There were attempts to put similar language in the Senate farm bill, but the votes weren’t there for its inclusion.

World Record Broken Near Winkler, MB – A Guinness world record was set Saturday at Winkler, Manitoba when 303 combines were harvesting the same field of winter wheat at one time. This number tops the previous record of 244 combines in 2012 in Saskatchewan. The world record event was also a fundraiser, bringing in nearly \$1 million for Children’s Camps International.

Reducing risks of insecticides to pollinators and increasing understanding between farmers and beekeepers



blog-crop-news.extension.umn.edu/2018/07/reducing-risks-of-insecticides-to.html

by Robert Koch, Extension Entomologist

As soybean aphid populations continue to increase and decisions are being made to apply insecticides to some fields, steps can be taken to help reduce unintended risks to pollinators (such as honeybees, native bees, butterflies and hover flies), which may occur in and near soybean fields. Below, I provide some steps that can be taken to help reduce the risk of exposing pollinators to insecticides. In addition, I provide links to two documents that stem from our larger effort to increase understanding and communication between farmers and beekeepers with a goal of reducing risks to pollinators.

Reducing risk to pollinators: Consider the following suggestions to reduce the risk of exposing pollinators to foliar-applied insecticides:

- Use integrated pest management (IPM) to reduce the need for insecticide applications, and use scouting and economic thresholds to ensure insecticides are applied only when needed to protect yield.

Communicate with local beekeepers about pesticide applications (products and schedules). Locations of some hives can be found on driftwatch.org.

If available, use insecticides and formulations with lower risk to bees. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture provides a summary of toxicities of different pesticides to bees ([Verified bee toxicity table](#)).

- Apply insecticides in early-morning or late-evening, which are time periods generally considered less harmful to most pollinating insects. However, avoid conditions conducive to inversions.
- Do not apply insecticides when winds could carry the product onto flowering habitats near fields. Winds speeds in excess of 10 mph may result in drift problems.

Always read and follow the instructions on product labels. Labels for some products/formulations with high toxicity to bees will provide specific directions for minimizing risk to pollinators.

Increasing understanding and communication between farmers and beekeepers: We recently created two extension publications to increase understanding and communication between farmers and beekeepers.

In the first publication, called [Let's see it from both sides](#), we recognize that farmers and beekeepers have more common than they (or others) may realize, and we examine where tension exists regarding how to best protect honey bee colonies while ensuring profitable crop production.

In the second publication, called [Getting to know commercial beekeepers](#), we provide an overview for farmers and agricultural professionals to better understand commercial beekeeping and beekeepers.

More to irrigation than meets the eye

By Sheila McCoy Staff Writer Morrison County Record sheila.mccoy@mcrecord.com

Jul 30, 2018

Quality. That is what most consumers look for when buying food. A certain expectation comes with the demand as well, said Alan Peterson, president of Irrigator's Association of Minnesota (IAM).

"Everything today requires so much quality. One example would be red potatoes that are sold in the supermarket have to be perfectly red," he said.

According to the American Farm Bureau Federation, "One U.S. farm feeds 165 people annually in the U.S. and abroad."

However, that number is expected to increase continuously as the global population steadily increases. By 2050, the global population is expected to have reached 9.7 billion. According to the American Farm Bureau Federation that means "The world's farmers will have to grow about 70 percent more food than what is now produced."

One way producers are able to produce better quality and quantity is by irrigating their crops.

"We can control all aspects of the input when we irrigate," Peterson said.

That also includes fertilizer applications as well as applying herbicide or fungicide.

"Potatoes are a perfect example for that," he said.

Potatoes are considered a specialty crop and are riskier to grow. Drought can have a crippling effect on the growth and yield of potatoes. While some crops, such as corn, may be able to continue to grow after a brief drought causing halted growth, potatoes aren't one of them, Peterson said.

In addition, many companies that buy producers' crops require the crop to be irrigated. Not to irrigate simply becomes too much of a gamble with too much to lose, Peterson said.

The crops are mainly used to provide food for people and feed for animals.

There are many misconceptions about irrigation. There may be rain in one region, but a few miles away, the irrigators are pumping water out. Without thinking about the fact that it didn't rain in all places, people sometimes make the conclusion that producers are just wasting water when they see irrigation, Peterson said.

Irrigating is not cheap for the producer. Peterson irrigates about 1,500 acres at his farm in Clear Lake. He estimates it costs him on average \$12,000 per month in electricity to irrigate.



Irrigation provides many benefits for crops grown to feed people and animals and is closely monitored by the producers.

Staff photo by Tyler Ohmann

Another reason producers are very keen on conserving water is that too much water can cause the crop roots to rot and spoil it altogether.

“If you over-irrigate soybeans, you get more diseases. It’s the same with kidney beans. As much as irrigation is helpful, over-irrigation would be the opposite. Now you’re creating your own problems. There are many reasons we don’t over-irrigate,” Peterson said.

There is more to irrigation than just spraying some water. Because of extensive water management and tests, irrigating producers can tell exactly how much water the crop needs to thrive and when it needs it.

Not all fields are ideal for irrigation, either. Since the soil in Morrison County is lighter, irrigation benefits the crops.

“It all really depends on the soil. You don’t see as much irrigation on heavier soils which can hold the moisture longer,” Peterson said.

Although irrigation usually gives producers a higher yield and a chance to come out better financially, it is still a struggle amidst commodity prices.

According to the American Farm Bureau Federation, “Farmers and ranchers receive only 15 cents out of every dollar spent on food at home and away from home. The rest goes for costs beyond the farm gate: wages and materials for production, processing, marketing, transportation and distribution. In 1980, farmers and ranchers received 31 cents.”

Some people are concerned with the amount of water that is drawn from the groundwater, lakes, rivers and other water sources. However, from talking with other people, reading reports and through his own experience, Peterson said the aquifers from which the water is pumped fill up quickly.

To help people better understand how producers make decisions to irrigate, how technology is used to be more efficient and conserve water, IAM, Prairie Farm and Schlichting Farm families invite people to tour the land, Wednesday, Aug. 1, at 9 a.m., at 3001 145th St. NW in Rice.

Visitors will also have the opportunity to hear from various experts in chemigation, agronomy and food production.

If you have a topic that you would like to see discussed in a future newsletter please contact Keith Olander, CMIC Educational Advisor, Central Lakes College Associate Dean of Agriculture at 1830 Airport Rd, Staples, MN 56479 or phone 1-218-894-5163 or email kolander@clcmn.edu.

If you are no longer interested in being on the CMIC mailing list please contact Keith at the above address with a subject of CMIC. Thank you for your input.

Why become or continue your CMIC and IAM memberships?

CMIC and the Irrigators Association of Minnesota are a partnership working to maintain the rights of all irrigators to be able to irrigate in the state of Minnesota. Everyone strives to promote wise use of irrigation so our next generation of farmers will also be able to irrigate.

One of CMIC's resolutions states: **Be It Resolved**, Due to the need of representation of irrigators within the Ground Water Management Areas (GWMA's), CMIC encourages member participation in this process and communication with legislators concerning this matter.

In the past year MDNR has held meetings in multiple areas of the state claiming that groundwater pumping is affecting both quality and quantity of trout streams in those areas. These are troubling claims because DNR has not in the past used water quality as a criteria when dealing with irrigation water permits.

After studying these areas for the next 4 to 5 years DNR intends to set a protected flow for the streams in these areas. This protected flow setting could affect appropriation amounts in these areas.

Last years elections brought change to MN political landscape. IAM is hopeful that this new legislative make-up will help rural issues to be addressed. IAM will once again be lobbying at the capitol on your behalf. Open dialogue is needed in both the House and Senate to educate them on the importance of irrigated agriculture in our state and local communities.

These continuing issues have lead to CMIC adopting the following resolution: **Be it Resolved**, CMIC would like members to encourage other water users in the agricultural community to actively engage in conservation practices and attend CMIC events in order to grow membership for communicating issues with all agencies.

Education of all ages may be the key to the future. CMIC has made a movement toward this goal by offering a precision agriculture equipment grant available for regional high schools. This years recipients' have a presentation that can be viewed at www.centralmnirrigators.com Other promotion is offered at trade show booths. You are urged to continue to share your agriculture knowledge with others whether it is by visiting with a neighbor, participating at a local school for ag in the classroom or attending local precinct caucuses.

CMIC and IAM are nonprofit organizations whose sole source of income is membership support. Strong local and state associations are the best way to ensure your ability to irrigate. **If you have not already submitted your 2018 membership at the Annual CMIC Meeting on January 18th we encourage you to enclose the bottom portion with your payment today.** Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter and for your continued support.



Submit to:
Robert Keppers
CMIC Treasurer
220 Bottlemiller Dr
Wadena, MN 56482

Name: _____

Address: _____

- ☐ 2018 CMIC Membership Dues \$30.00 enclosed
- ☐ 2018 IAM Membership Dues \$100.00 enclosed
- ☐ 2018 CMIC & IAM Membership Dues \$130.00 enclosed
- ☐ Please remove my name from this mailing list

Please retain a copy for your records



CLC Ag & Energy Center
1830 Airport Rd
Staples, MN 56479

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



**Save the Date:
CMIC Annual Meeting
January 24, 2019
Maslowski Wellness & Research Center
Wadena, MN**

**www.mnirrigator.org
www.centralmnirrigators.com**