



Soil and Water Conservation Society West North Central Regional Conference

Impacts of Increased Bio-Fuel Production on the Midwest Landscape

Call for Presenters

"Impacts of Increased Bio-Fuel Production on the Midwest Landscape" is the theme of the 2007 SWCS West North Central Regional Conference to be held October 16-18 in Dubuque, Iowa. With regional and national attention focused on the use of renewable bio-fuels, energy conservation and energy independence, the impact on the environment (specifically on soil and water quality and quantity) is a critical dimension of the dialog that has often been in the background. The desire for less reliance on fossil fuels and foreign sources of energy will have a dramatic impact on national soil and water resources. The goal of the conference is to elevate the debate beyond just technology creation and narrow economic development aspects to address soil conservation, water quality and human decisions about land management and how these intersect in the public debate surrounding bio-based fuels; and in particular, increases in grain based bio-fuel production.

The conference will feature oral presentations and poster sessions to address these important issues. Consider presenting your research and educational programs to your peers at a conference that will attract agency personnel, researchers, educators, policy makers and others interested in reducing, managing, as well as evaluating the environmental impacts of bio-fuels development and the bio-fuel landscape.

Audience

The conference will bring together agencies, university research and extension, agribusiness, policymakers, farmers, nongovernmental organizations and students to explore current bio-fuels issues.

Timeline

February 15, 2007	SWCS WC Region begins accepting proposals for presentations
March 31, 2007	Deadline for proposal submission
April 15, 2007	Notice of acceptance or rejection of proposals
April 30, 2007	Deadline for presenters in all categories to indicate intent to participate in the conference program
May 31, 2007	Program finalized
June 30, 2007	Brochure and press release developed and distributed

Reimbursement and honorarium policies

Funds are not available to support the travel expenses for oral and poster session presenters. Travel scholarships are available from the North Central Region Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program.

Location

The conference will be held at the Holiday Inn Hotel Dubuque/Galena (450 Main Street, Dubuque, 1-563-5562000, www.holidayinn.com) located in the heart of this historic Iowa riverboat community. Located just blocks from America's River at the Port of Dubuque and the new Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium, the Holiday Inn Hotel offers downtown convenience and exceptional Midwest hospitality.



Soil and Water Conservation Society West North Central Regional Conference

Impacts of Increased Bio-Fuel Production on the Midwest Landscape

Instructions for Submitting Proposals for Oral Presentations and Poster Presentations

Proposals will be accepted through March 31 and must be sent electronically to Deborah Cavanaugh-Grant, Program Chair, cvnghgrn@uiuc.edu (217-968-5512).

Information required for oral presentations and poster presentations include:

- Title of presentation
- Contact person with affiliation, address, phone, fax, and email
- Presenter, affiliation, and email
- Other presenter(s) and affiliation(s)
- Description (250 words or fewer)

Proposals will be reviewed and ranked by the conference planning team.

Presentation Options

Oral Presentations

Oral concurrent sessions will take place on Tuesday through Thursday. Concurrent sessions will be 90 minutes in length and will include a diverse slate of presenters. If your proposal is accepted, the program committee will schedule your presentation with others that complement your topic. Each presenter will be given 20 minutes - 15 minutes to make the presentation and five minutes for questions.

Poster Presentations

Posters will be on display Tuesday through Thursday. Presenters will be asked to be at their boards at specific times (to be determined) during which presenters will answer questions and explain their experiences and results to conference attendees. A poster presentation entails affixing printed materials (typed information, photos, graphs, etc.) on a specific topic to a four-foot high by eight-foot wide poster board. Audiovisual equipment is not permitted and tabletop or freestanding displays are not considered posters.



Soil and Water Conservation Society West North Central Regional Conference

Impacts of Increased Bio-Fuel Production on the Midwest Landscape

Abstract Standards

- 1) Abstract word limit is 250 words.
- 2) The Abstract should include the following components:
 - (a) Explanation of the importance of the research or activity
 - (b) Objectives/Goals/Purpose
 - (c) Methods
 - (d) Results/Expected results
 - (e) Conclusion/Summary

The following will be used as a guide for reviewers to establish whether an abstract meets minimum standards:

Abstract components:

- Does the abstract contain a justification/importance/relevance statement?
- Does the abstract have a clear statement of purpose or does the abstract identify the main goal/objective of the study/project/activity?
- Does the abstract describe, in general, the method(s) use in the study or activity?
- Does the abstract provided sufficient information about data collection and analysis procedures (if applicable)?
- Does the abstract include results/outcomes? Are the results of empirical studies discussed, or in the case where the study has not yet been carried out, are there predictions about the expected direction of the findings? Are outcomes/potential outcomes clearly expressed?
- Does the author indicate the potential contributions of the study to science/society?

General:

- Does the topic have current relevance?
- Is the abstract well organized and clearly written?
- Assessment of overall quality, clearly defined purpose and objectives, theoretical and/or applied focus, clearly defined research/activity methods and findings, and potential practical application