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Ozarks New Energy Targets Farmers at Oct. 7-8 Conference

Farmers, ranchers and agribusiness owners can expect to learn about carbon trading, biochar, sustainable agriculture, urban farming, perennial crops for fuel and electricity, small hydro-electric dams and other renewable energy topics at the third Ozarks New Energy Conference, “Connecting With New Energy,” Oct. 7-8 in Springfield.

The conference returns to Plaster Student Union at Missouri State University.

Among the sessions of particular interest to farmers are:

- Plenary speaker Dr. John Ikerd, agricultural economist, on “Energy From Agriculture: Food and/or Fuel.”
- Dr. David Laird, a leading scientist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Agricultural Research Service in Ames, Iowa, on “The Pyrolysis-Biochar Platform for Sustainable Bioenergy,” covering the benefits of biochar, a product produced by gasification that enriches soils.
- Todd Tolbert of Associated Electric Cooperative and Richard Oswald of the Missouri Farmers Union on “Carbon Trading for Farmers” – how to bank carbon dioxide in crops, pastures and woodlands.

- “Wood for Power: Pros & Cons” – Two speakers will present opposing viewpoints on using forest products to produce large-scale electricity.
- “Perennial Crops for Food, Fuel & Electricity” by Trish Jackson of the Climate and Alternative Energy Project will cover the science of using perennial grains and residues for food, fuel and electricity.
- “N-Hydrogen3, the Key to U.S. Energy Independence” by Norm Olson of the BECON Center, University of Iowa, on ammonia as a fuel.
- “Alternative Energy and Carbon-free Fuel” by plenary speaker Bill Ayres of the biomass division of R3Sciences, LLC, Kansas City.
- “A Case Study for a Small Hydroelectric Facility in the Ozarks” by Mel Eakins of Great River Associates, Springfield.
- “Urban Farming” by Adam and Melissa Millsap of Urban Roots, Springfield, on what’s practical and possible in an urban landscape.

Other sessions also of interest to farmers will be a presentation on steam technology by Mike Brown of Springfield and heat pumps by speakers from Connelly Mechanical and Sunbelt Environmental Services. Field trips are being planned to various energy-efficient and LEED buildings, and demonstrations will include a biodiesel demo and one of a gasification unit that produces biochar.

Online registration is available at www.ozarksnewenergy.org or call 417-581-0745 to request a paper registration. Early-bird registration through Sept. 1 is \$75, but discounts are available for ONE Friends and students.

ONE 3 sponsors to date include Associated Electric Cooperative, Carson-Mitchell, College of Natural and Applied Science at Missouri State University, Connelly Mechanical, Drury University, Emerald Ops, Great River Associates, Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance, National Biomass Producers Association, Oakridge Consulting, Southern Star Central Gas Pipeline, The Alternative Energy Co. and TradeWind Energy,

ONE is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit dedicated to promoting education, knowledge and training about sustainable, renewable and alternative energy in the Ozarks.

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