



Energy May Be Farmers' Richest Harvest

By Paul Williams

Farm Bill Includes Provisions for Renewable Energy

Utah Enacts Net Metering Legislation

Minnesota Law Mandates 2-percent Biodiesel Blend

Headlines like these are signs of the mounting demand for alternative fuels and renewable energy that is being felt across the United States, from the halls of Congress to the hog farms of the Midwest to tiny energy co-ops in the San Juan Islands. Whether spurred by patriotism, economics, or the inexorable arithmetic of depletion and pollution, interest in alternatives to fossil fuels is riding high. And under the provisions of Titles VI and IX of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, that interest holds the promise of opportunity for farmers and farm-based entrepreneurs.

Title IX of the Farm Bill recently passed by Congress and signed into law by President Bush provides more than \$200-million for clean energy development, including financial incentives for

wind power, biomass energy, and energy efficiency on family farms and ranches. Combined with efforts in many states to promote alternative technologies and energy conservation, "[Title IX] provides new value-added opportunities for farmers and ranchers to form co-operatives and participate as equity partners in new businesses to sell renewable energy sources like wind power and biomass," says Howard Learner, Executive Director of the Chicago-based Environmental Law and Policy Center.

Among the Title IX provisions of the new Farm Bill are programs for direct financial assistance to farmers, ranchers, and rural small businesses to purchase wind generators and other renewable energy systems, as well as funding to support methane generation and ethanol and biodiesel production. Congress has already mandated increased use of renewable energy, with a goal of having 10% of the national electrical supply furnished from renewable sources by 2020. To encourage this transition, Congress has also provided several tax incentives, including alternative-fuel credits for producers of biofuels and credits for solar and wind-generation systems in homes, farms, and businesses.

The Farm Bill amends the Conservation Reserve Program to permit wind turbines on CRP land, and it allows biomass — renewable organic matter that can be converted to energy — to be harvested from CRP land, providing it's done in concert with CRP conservation goals. Income from the biomass harvest would be deducted from CRP payments, however.

The Energy Title also requires Federal agencies to give purchasing preference to fuels that contain bio-based products, when they are practical and available at competitive costs.

"Farmers," says Ed Woolsey of the Iowa Renewable Energy Association, "have new financial opportunities to . . . diversify their operations in an environmentally-friendly way. Energy is an en-

tirely new market for agriculture, and one that has virtually unlimited demand."

Of particular interest to all farmers are the amendments to the Bill's Rural Development Title that provide start-up funding for renewable energy projects. Farm- and ranch-based renewable energy projects are now considered "value-added agricultural products," making them eligible for competitive grants.

Not every provision of the 2002 Farm Bill was a win for sustainable agriculture. The Bill calls for deep cuts in the funding for Guaranteed Farm Operating Loans, provides no money for training farm workers in new technologies, and lops one-third of the budget

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Staff Spotlight:
Anne Ayers Fanatico

If, in the near future, you see more range-fed poultry in your grocer's cooler, [Anne Fanatico](#) may have had a lot to do with it. Anne leads the sustainable poultry team at NCAT, providing information on range poultry production for ATTRA. She has also worked with other organizations, including Heifer International, to evaluate pasture-based production for small farmers and assess the entrepreneurship needed to expand small processing plants and to enter larger regional markets. She is currently leading a project exploring the very successful *Label Rouge* certification program in France. In addition to her ATTRA publications, her work with Heifer International, and her participation in a project to study the feasibility of using features of *Label Rouge* to benefit American farmers, Anne is using her vast spare time to complete a Ph.D. in Poultry Science.

This year she returned to France — along with NCAT ag-economics specialist [Holly Born](#) — to continue her study of the technical and social aspects of the *Label Rouge* program. Anne had to eat a

lot of French food and was perhaps forced to sample their wines, but those are the kinds of sacrifices she is willing to make to put better poultry on our plates.

Anne Fanatico is another reason that ATTRA publications continue to be among the top sources of practical information about sustainable agriculture in the United States.

Opportunities

Ag Energy Grants and Loans.

The Center of Excellence for Sustainable Development, a program of the U.S. Department of Energy, offers full information and application forms for a variety of national, regional, and state grants and loans for alternative energy use, research, and production, on the CESD web site at <http://www.sustainable.doe.gov/financing/intro.shtml>.

Money for goats in Kentucky.

Under its Goat Diversification Program, Kentucky is making part of its tobacco settlement money available to farmers wanting to enter, improve, or expand goat production. **NOT ALL COUNTIES ARE PARTICIPATING.** Contact your county Extension agent to find out whether you are eligible.

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from organic farming research. Perhaps the greatest sources for optimism in the 2002 Farm Bill are the monetary and other incentives it contains to develop the technologies associated with alternative fuels and renewable energy, the sources of power for the future.

"A Summary of the Clean Energy Provisions of the Farm Bill" is available on-line from the Environmental Law and Policy Center at <http://www.elpc.org>. The USDA has also launched a new and extremely useful web site that includes the entire text of the Farm Bill, program details, questions and answers, program applications, and sign-up forms. The site address is <http://www.usda.gov/farmbill>.

For further information, request ATTRA's new publication *Biodiesel: A Brief Overview*

USDA Launches New Farm Bill Web Site

Complete information about the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 is now available on a new USDA web site, <http://www.usda.gov/farmbill>. The web site includes the entire Farm Bill, program details, questions and answers, program applications, and sign-up forms. It is also linked to the USDA main web site, <http://www.usda.gov>.

Events

July 30, 31, and August 1. Upper Midwest Grazing Conference. Midway Best Western Hotel, 3100 Dodge Street, Highway 120 West, Dubuque, IA. This conference includes speakers, a trade show, and tours of area farms. Sponsored by the Extension services of Iowa State University, the University of Illinois, and the University of Wisconsin. For complete information, contact: (in Illinois) Jim Endress, 815-397-7714, endress@mail.aces.uiuc.edu; (in Wisconsin) Dave Watcher, 608-723-2125, dave.watcher@ces.uwex.edu; (in Iowa or other states) Larry Tranel, 563-583-6496; or see the conference web site, <http://www.wisc.edu/cias/uppermidwest>.

August 9-11. Northeast Organic Farming Association (NOFA) 28th An-

nual Summer Conference. Hampshire College, Amherst, MA. Discount on fees for applications received before July 8. For information, contact: Dennis or Audrey Cronin, 508-799-2278, nofareg@juno.com; or Julie Rawson and Jack Kittredge, 978-355-2853, jackkitt@aol.com.

August 12-13. Nebraska Grazing Conference. Holiday Inn, Kearney, NE. Sponsored by University of Nebraska Center for Grassland Studies. Substantial savings on registration fees for registering before August 1. For complete information, contact: Buffalo County Extension, 1400 E 34, Kearney, NE 68847. Phone: 308-236-1235. <http://www.grassland.unl.edu/grazeconf.htm>

September 9-13. Biodiesel Fuel Workshop. Guidestone Farm, Loveland,

CO. Sponsored by Solar Energy International. A complete course on making and using biodiesel fuel on the farm. \$500 registration fee. Contact: Solar Energy International, P.O. Box 715, Carbondale, CO 81623. Phone: 970-963-8855. FAX: 970-963-8866. E-mail: zenfuel@yahoo.com. <http://www.solarenergy.org/register.html>

September 17-20. Third National Small Farm Conference. Convention Center, Albuquerque, NM. Sponsored by the USDA and New Mexico State University. Registration deadline is August 16. For complete information, contact: Edmund Gomez, NMSU, P.O. Box 159, Alcalde, NM 87511. Phone: 505-852-2668. E-mail: gn@nmsu.edu, or see "What's New" on the ATTRA web site <http://www.attra.ncat.org>.

New and Updated ATTRA Publications

- [Alternative Control of Johnsongrass](#) (updated)
- [Alternative Thistle Control](#) (new)
- [Biodiesel: A Brief Overview](#) (new)
- ["Bug Vacuums" for Organic Crop Production](#) (new)
- [Conservation Tillage](#) (update)
- [Control of Field Bindweed](#) (updated)
- [Evaluating a Rural Enterprise](#) (update)
- [Grazing Networks for Livestock Producers](#) (new)
- [Kenaf Production](#) (new)
- [Legal Issues for Small-Scale Poultry Processors](#) (new - a publication of Heifer Project International)
- [Market Gardening: A Start-up Guide](#) (new)
- [Marketing Organic Grains](#) (new)
- [Moving Beyond Conventional Cash Cropping](#) (new)
- [Notes on Compost Teas](#) (new)
- [Options for Food Dehydration](#) (updated — formerly titled "Small-scale Food Dehydration")
- [Organic Greenhouse Tomato Production](#) (new)
- [Organic Livestock Feed Suppliers](#) (updated)
- [Organic Potting Mixes for Certified Production](#) (updated)
- [Powdery Mildew Control in Cucurbits: Organic Options](#) (updated)
- [Predator Control for Sustainable and Organic Livestock Production](#) (new)
- [Root Zone Heating for Greenhouse Crops](#) (new)
- [Rye as a Cover Crop](#) (new)
- [Specialty Vegetables](#) (new)
- [Suppliers of Seed for Certified Organic Production](#) (update — formerly "Suppliers of Organic and/or Non-GMO Seeds and Plants")
- [Sustainable Agriculture Curricula K-12](#) (updated)
- [Sustainable Dry Bean Production](#) (updated)
- [Sustainable Goat Production: Meat Goats](#) (new)
- [Sustainable Poultry: Production Overview](#) (new)
- [The Economics of Grass-based Dairying](#) (new)
- [Woodlot Enterprises](#) (new)

ATTRA is also now distributing the USDA-RBS series on farm cooperatives:

- [Cooperative Services: What We Do, How We Work](#)
- [How to Start a Cooperative](#)
- [Small Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Cooperative Operations](#)
- [Understanding Cooperatives: Ag. Marketing Cooperatives](#)
- [Cooperative Feasibility Study Guide](#)
- [Cooperative Farm Bargaining and Price Negotiations](#)
- [Cooperative Marketing Agencies-in-Common](#)

ORGANIC NOTE: The ATTRA publication "Organic Certification Organizations and Programs" is NOT NOW AVAILABLE. ATTRA organics specialist George Kuepper is currently completing checksheets for compliance with the new National Organic Program (NOP) rules. On April 29, 2002, the NOP published its list of accredited organic certifiers. Internet links to the NOP list appear on the ATTRA web site, <<http://attra.ncat.org>>, where you can also find a complete list of ATTRA publications.

Call 1-800-346-9140 today to receive your copy.

Servicio Telefónico en Español para Servirle el 15 de Julio

The National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT) is pleased to announce its new toll-free telephone line where Spanish-speaking farmers and ranchers can obtain information about all aspects of organic and sustainable agriculture. Starting **July 15** NCAT's ATTRA service will have Spanish-fluent staff to answer questions about organic production and sustainable agriculture. Voicemail allows reception of off-hours calls. Please call **1-800-411-3222** from 8am to 5pm PST, (7-4 MST, 6-3 CST, 5-2 EST), Monday through Friday.

ATTRA Intern Graduates with Honors



Michelle Thomas, an NCAT/ATTRA intern at the Fayetteville office, graduated from the University of Arkansas in May as an Honors Student in Animal Science. In 1998, Michelle came to

ATTRA for Grassroots Grazier Training, and she credits that experience for her decision to return to college, after sixteen years as a dental hygienist.

Michelle and her husband, David, a police officer in Ft. Smith, Arkansas, maintain a small cattle operation and have two children, ages 10 and 13.

While working with ATTRA, Michelle has authored a publication on the benefits of dung beetles in pasture management and been an integral part of the ATTRA pastured beef project. She will be attending graduate school in the fall, but we look forward to her continued association with the ATTRA project.

Congratulations, Michelle. And keep those beetles rollin'.

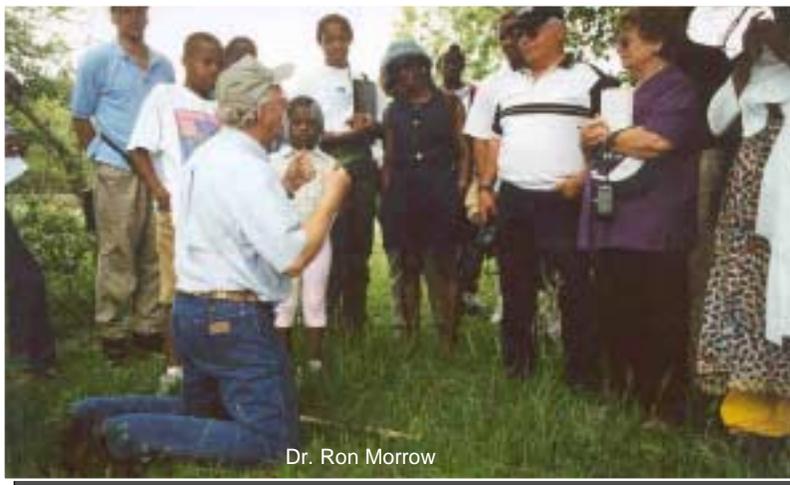


Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas
P. O. Box 3657 • Fayetteville, AR 72702
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A project of the National Center for Appropriate Technology

Do you need an expert

to address a critical topic at your next conference or workshop? If you do, NCAT-ATTRA agriculture specialists are available to make presentations on a wide range of subjects concerning sustainable agriculture. Among them are:



Dr. Ron Morrow

- **Whole-Farm Planning for Livestock Production**
 - **Holistic Management • Organic Certification**
 - **Pastured Poultry Production • Integrated Pest Management**
 - **Sheep and Goat Production • Water Quality Issues**
 - **Organic Livestock Production • Grazing Management**
 - **Value-added Marketing • Agroforestry**
- and many others

For a complete list of speakers, their bios and topic areas, see the ATTRA web site at <<http://www.attra.ncat.org>>. In some cases, conferences and workshops may be asked to assist with travel and accommodation expenses. To schedule a speaker or for more information, contact Dr. Ron Morrow, NCAT-ATTRA, P.O. Box 3657, Fayetteville, AR 72702, (479) 442-9824 / (800) 346-9140, <ronm@ncatark.uark.edu>.

ATTRA Expands Phone Hours to 7am-7pm CST

You can call us for information or request ATTRA publications now from **7am to 7pm**, Central Time, Monday through Friday. The telephone number remains **800-346-9140**.

ATTRAnews

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ATTRAnews is the quarterly newsletter of Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas. It is distributed free throughout the United States to farmers, ranchers, Cooperative Extension agents, educators, and others interested in sustainable agriculture. ATTRA is a primary source of information about sustainable agriculture in the United States. ATTRA is funded through the USDA Rural Business-Cooperative Service and is a project of the National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT), a private, non-profit organization that since 1976 has championed sustainable technologies and community development that protect natural resources and assist people, especially the economically disadvantaged, to become self-reliant.

