RVI Rural Minnesota Journal

The Agriculture and Forestry Issue: Looking to the Future

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About the Authors

DOUGLAS G. TIFFANY, Assistant Extension Professor at the University of Minnesota, has worked on numerous renewable energy topics. He has analyzed the economics of producing biodiesel, ethanol, electricity from wind, pyrolysis oil from biomass and biofuels or electricity from biomass. Tiffany has presented his work on college campuses, legislative hearings, and to farmer audiences. For 2001-2002, Tiffany was awarded the Endowed



Chair of Agricultural Systems in the College of Agriculture at the University of Minnesota. Tiffany earned B.S. and M.S. degrees in Agricultural Economics at the University of Minnesota and has work experience in state government and commercial banking.

STEVEN J. TAFF is an associate professor and extension economist with the Department of Applied Economics and an Adjunct Professor with the Department of Forest Resources, both at the University of Minnesota. A former county extension agent and regional planner, Taff holds advanced degrees in urban and regional



planning (M.S.) and in agricultural economics (Ph.D.) from the University of Wisconsin. At Minnesota since 1986, he specializes in the economics of agricultural and natural resource policies, with special emphasis on land management decisions in both rural and urban settings.

Taff is widely known for his attempts to bring economic science to bear on practical policy making. Some of his recent research

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examines the economics of alternative energy systems, long-term carbon-reduction policies for energy producers, land ownership change in forested areas, and performance measures in landscape design.

KURT MARKHAM was appointed in 2001 to be the first director of the new Agricultural Marketing Services (AMS) Division within the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. With more than 30



years of experience in ag marketing, Markham helps coordinate efforts between farmers, commodity groups, grain companies and trade teams to increase value-added processing. In addition, he helps producers adjust to future trends by identifying marketing opportunities through consultation with the Minnesota Trade Office, federal trade officials, market research organizations, producers, processors and exporters.

Before joining the MDA, Markham was manager of strategic development for Commodity Specialists Company in Minneapolis and a project consultant for Country Information Brokering in Washington, D.C.

Recently he has been appointed to the Governor's Ethanol Coalition, Director of the U.S. Dairy Export Council, Executive Committee for Food Export Association of the Midwest, and State Administrator for the Agricultural Marketing and Bargaining Committee (mediator for producers vs. processors). Markham is also past president of North American Agricultural Marketing Officials.

DR. JIM BOWYER is professor emeritus, University of Minnesota Department of Bioproducts and Biosystems Engineering. He is an Elected Fellow of the International Academy of Wood Science; President of Bowyer & Associates, Inc. – a wood science and bioenergy consulting firm; and Director of the Sustainable Materials Program in Dovetail Partners, Inc. – a nonprofit organization in Minneapolis that collaborates to develop unique concepts,



systems, programs, and models to foster sustainable forestry and catalyze responsible trade and consumption.

Bowyer has served as President of the Forest Products Society (1993-94) and of the Society of Wood Science and Technology (1987-

88), Vice President of the Consortium for Research on Renewable Industrial Materials (1992-2003), and Chairman of the Tropical Forest Foundation (2002-2008). He was Head of the University of Minnesota's Department of Wood & Paper Science from 1984 to 1994, and Founder and Director of the Forest Products Management Development Institute at the University of Minnesota (an organization dedicated to education and development of industry professionals) from 1994 to 2003.

WARREN FORMO is the Executive Director of the Minnesota Agricultural Water Resources Coalition, a consortium of producer groups working together to address water quality issues.



The MAWRC is dedicated to improving communication among the agricultural community, consumers, researchers and policy-makers regarding the economic and environmental effects of agricultural practices employed on Minnesota farms.

Formo holds a B.S. degree in Agricultural Education from the University of Minnesota. Prior to joining the MAWRC, he served as the Assistant Executive Director of the Minnesota

Corn Growers Association, specializing in farm policy and organizational development. His work experience also includes 15 years as an active farmer, operating a diversified crop and livestock farm in West Central Minnesota.

MATTHEW PAHS is a transportation planner with the Minnesota Department of Transportation in Saint Paul. Currently working in the Freight, Rail, and Waterways section, he is responsible for leading studies that identify freight transportation issues in Minnesota. Pahs has eight years of experience in the field of planning, with a strong focus on alternate modes of transportation for passengers and freight. He



holds a Master of Urban and Regional Planning degree from Portland State University and a B.S. in Urban and Regional Studies from the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay.

CHERYL MILLER is Project Coordinator for the Minnesota Terrestrial Carbon Sequestration Initiative, an interdisciplinary research and public policy forum at the University of Minnesota. In

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this capacity, she facilitates discussions among scientists, government staff and user groups on carbon sequestration opportunities in the state. She has twenty years professional experience in land and water conservation, including a decade with Minnesota Audubon. In the 1990s, she worked on establishment of the Minnesota River CREP and on landmark flood reduction agreements for the Red River of the North.

More recently, she has worked with groups around the Midwest on projects to better understand the role of forests and agriculture in climate stabilization. She has written and edited publications on conservation and sustainable management, most recently related to climate-related policies and terrestrial carbon sequestration. Miller has a B.A. in Journalism from the University of Iowa and an M.A. in Public Policy and Politics from the University of California, Davis.



MARTIN MITCHELL is a Professor of Geography at Minnesota State University, Mankato, and has lived in Minnesota since 1993. He is originally from the San Francisco Bay Area and graduated from California State University, Chico, where he studied geography and agricultural business. He holds a Ph.D. in geography from the University of Illinois and Master's Degree from the University of Georgia. He also worked as a land use planner

in California. Since 1995, Mitchell has been involved with several joint projects with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources addressing the CRP.



DICK KIMMEL is the Farmland Wildlife Research Group Leader with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, where he has been employed since 1981. He has a Ph.D. in Wildlife Management and an M.A. in Animal Behavior from West Virginia University. His research interests include avian habitat management, wildlife responses to farm programs, and mathematical modeling for hunting season logistics as related to wildlife

populations and hunt quality.



ANN M. BODE is Associate Director of The Hormel Institute, University of Minnesota, and a research professor of cellular and molecular biology there. She received both her B.S. and M.S. from Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, and a Ph.D. in applied physiology from the University of Oregon, Eugene, and has been at The Hormel Institute since 1999. Before that, she was an associate professor of physiology at the

University of North Dakota School of Medicine, Grand Forks, N.D. Her research interests lie in molecular mechanisms of chemopreventive food factors. She has authored 145 scientific research articles.