

A
Field
Tour
Guide

Planning and
Conducting a
Successful
Event

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Acknowledgements

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Planning Team: Chris Barnier, DeEtta Bilek, Glen Borgerding, Kristen Corselius, Tomas Hansmeyer, Jan Joannides, Sister Ruth Lettner, Greg Nolan, Steve Potter, JoAnn Sanders, Ken Sanders, Rick Scherping, Steve Simmons

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Introduction

Interested in creating a field tour? We were! Members of the Central Chapter of the Minnesota Sustainable Farming Association (SFA) wanted to raise awareness of alternative farming systems to key people in their community: agricultural lenders, extension educators, agency personnel and other agricultural service providers. Previous efforts to get these individuals to field days had met with limited success. The University of Minnesota's Center for Integrated Natural Resources and Agricultural Management (CINRAM) was interested in building awareness of land use systems that balance environmental, economic and community well-being. It made sense to work together—so we did. This partnership broadened our resources to plan and conduct the event and provided added credibility.

This document describes the steps we took to create a field tour. While our plan was specific to our circumstances, we hope this document will be helpful to others who would like to plan and conduct similar events in their communities. For a glimpse at our Field Tour, see Appendix A.

Developing a Plan

Who should be on the planning committee?

Begin with a core group that has a vision of what you want to accomplish. Then think about who you want to listen to the important messages that will be central to the field tour? Invite some of these individuals to be on the planning committee. They hold key information about your tour audience and can network with their colleagues and friends to raise interest for your event. As planning proceeds, try and divide tasks among committee members. We had an intern who did a lot of the work, but we all pitched in and helped. We had funding available to compensate people for their involvement. Whether or not you do this depends on your circumstances.

Who is the audience for the field tour?

In our case we wanted to focus on policymakers, educators and agricultural service providers. While a more general audience might benefit from the tour, we thought that the professionals we wanted to reach might feel more comfortable if we limited the audience. In planning your tour, it is important to know what your goal is so that you can determine who you want to come.

What should the field tour agenda be?

This is a time to consider motives and be creative! What are three important messages you want to communicate? People can only remember so much from one event so go for quality rather than quantity. Jot down all ideas. Who knows how one idea might really help the event. Always keep an open ear to ideas!

What day do we choose for the field day?

Choose a day which is convenient for the audience. Select a few dates and check for conflicts by calling key people from your audience. Many agencies have regional meetings which will have priority over field tours. Certain times of year may work better than others. It is also important to consider availability of field tour speakers, facilities, and food preparers. And remember, the weather can be unpredictable at certain times of the year.

After checking with speakers, tour sites, and audience schedule conflicts, select the most appropriate date. Also have a back up plan if you have to cancel the event due to the weather.

Which farms do we tour?

When choosing the farms to tour, we thought about the alternative farming examples that were important in central Minnesota. We decided on a rotational grazing dairy, a farm using strip cropping, a pasture/forbes collection system, and a community supported agriculture garden. The farm options depend on your areas resources and the willingness and enthusiasm of producers to be involved in the tour.

For our farm tour, the speakers were the farmers, and the tour sites, their farms. We selected farmers that we thought would be willing to speak to a large audience. We did not necessarily want farms that were remarkably successful, but rather farmers that would tell their stories openly and honestly. Call all potential speakers, asking about the availability and the types of stories they have to offer. If possible, set money aside in the budget so you can offer these people an honorarium.

What other facilities will we need?

Besides the farms, we also wanted a facility to meet at initially where we could hold a discussion with participants and where we could eat lunch. We chose Camphill Village as it was one of our farm sites, had adequate meeting space, was prepared to serve lunch, and was centrally located. Other things to pay attention to are:

- bathroom facilities (and if your bus tour is long, make sure there's a place to stop for a bathroom break along the way)
- registration sites
- site-to-site transportation
- tour site accessibility
- eating facilities
- making sure water or other liquids are available

What is the tour schedule?

Plan a reasonable day—one that is not so long that people get tired and anxious to leave. When deciding on starting and ending times, consider people's travel time getting to your event and home again. Think about what time you have and how to best split-up the day. Try and be realistic. Allow for breaks and people movement (boarding buses etc...).

What's for lunch?

To leave a lasting impression, choose locally produced food to create a unique menu. Caterers are often open to your creative suggestions! We were fortunate to have a planning committee member with garden produce, catering abilities and eating facilities.

Getting People to Come

How do you reach people?

Once we determined the sorts of people we wanted to invite, we brainstormed where we might be able to get information on how to contact them. For example, we got the names of agricultural lenders through the local Farm Services Agency. We actually ended up with a lot more names than was financially feasible to invite. We ended up narrowing our audience by focusing on the individuals from those organizations that lived in the region of the state where the event was to be held. We also made sure everyone on the planning committee had a chance to review the mailing list and add names if they wished.

Letters of Invitation: Once we had the names we sent a letter of invitation and a flyer describing the event. Get this out a month before the event so people can put it on their calendars and make plans. Make sure invitations include:

- title and description of event
- who is being invited
- date
- attendance costs
- schedule
- speaker descriptions
- registration information and costs
- map with directions

(A copy of our letter and flyer can be found in Appendices B and C.)

Announcements through newsletters and email lists:

We put a short blurb about our event in a number of organizational newsletters or asked that they be sent out on email lists. While this is an effective way to catch the attention of people already interested in this topic area, it may not be as successful at getting people to attend who are not yet interested.

Personal Invitations

Our experience is that 6-10% of those receiving invitations to events will attend. This percentage can be improved if you personally communicate with key audience members. Committee members each agreed to call a handful of people directly. Personal phone calls seemed a very good way of raising interest within agencies for the field day. We made phone calls two weeks before the event. A second invitation or reminder postcard might be appropriate for those you do not reach by phone.

Do people need to register? Should we charge a fee?

That depends on how your event is set up. We decided to have people register, but not to charge a fee. We had resources from grants available to cover the event and thought we might get more people to come if the event was free. We wanted people to register ahead of time, however, so that we could plan for food, buses, etc.

How many will attend?

Set a deadline for registration several days prior to the event so that you will have an estimate of attendance. Add about 10% onto this for those who register the day of the event. Give this information to the caterer, tour site, etc...

Confirm, confirm, confirm

Confirm everything — food, facilities, tour sites. Make sure speakers are confirmed and prepared. We gave our speakers an overview of what we hoped to accomplish with the day. We suggested and encouraged them to tell their personal stories about what they did on their farms and why. We thought their stories would be powerful, tell the message well, and stimulate dialogue. They were and they did! Finally, envision how the day will unfold. Running through this in your mind will help to ensure that the event flows and that things run smoothly.

Tour information?

The tour attendees will ask for this. We prepared a tour program which included the day's agenda, information on the farms we were to visit, and the menu. We also put together a packet of materials that include information about tour sponsors, speakers, and outlines from presentations. If possible, put together a list of tour participants with contact information. This will enable people who meet on the tour to contact each other at a later date. (See Appendix D for Field Tour Program.)

Final Arrangements

How do we get feedback on our event from attendees?

It's important to get feedback from participants regarding the tour. This will help to improve future tours, and is often of interest to people who have provided funding for the event. Design an evaluation sheet to be given to all tour attendees. (See Appendix E)

The Field Tour Day

What are the last minute details?

- Make sure your meeting place is easy to find.
- Put up signs to direct traffic.
- Make sure you have adequate help for registration. This is a good time to get the names and addresses of attendees.
- Have name tags and pens available.
- If you are charging a registration fee, make sure you have a receipt book for those that need receipts, and an assortment of cash so that you can make change.
- Adequate breaks and access to bathrooms and water will make the day more comfortable and pleasant for people.
- Make sure you have necessary audio/video equipment. A portable microphone is often useful in the field, and overheads and slide projectors with extra light bulbs might be needed for inside presentations.

How do you document the event?

If possible, appoint someone to take video, photos and notes. If newspaper reporters are present, they may write articles for various communities. Or, you may want to assign someone to write an articles that can be published in various newsletters. Documentation will help you get the information to those not attending and provide you with information to reflect on for your next field tour.

After the Event

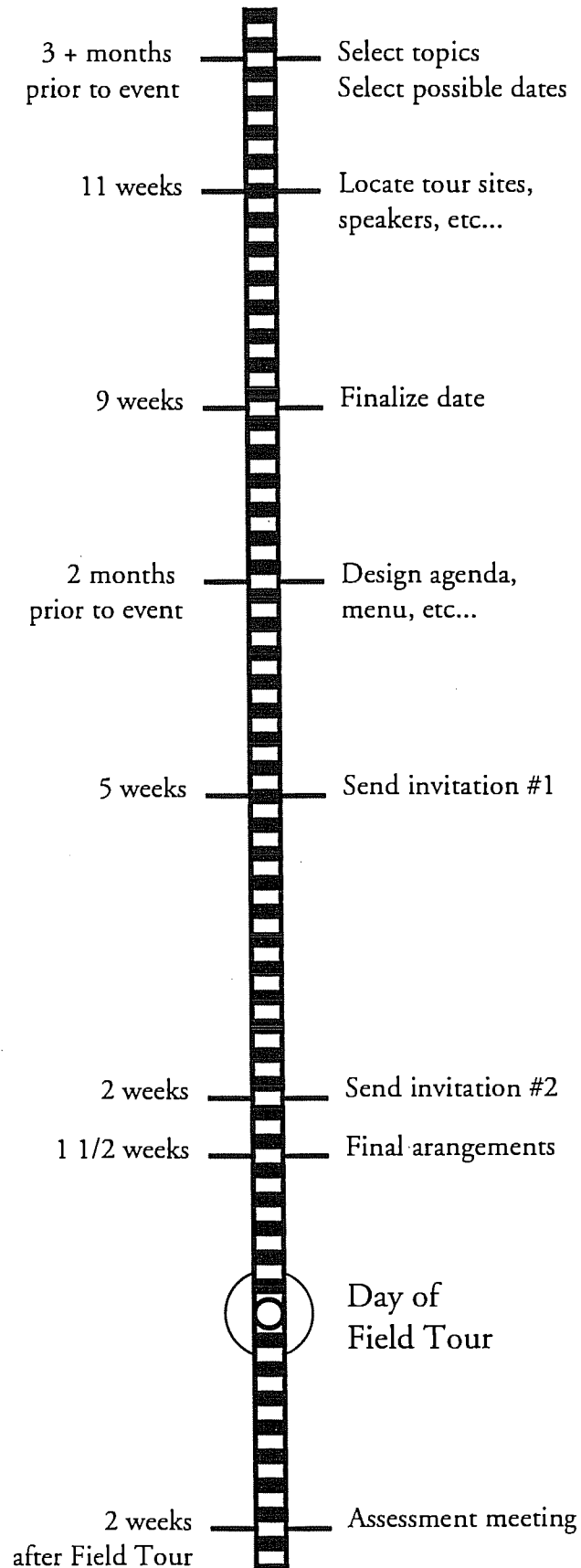
Evaluating the field tour?

The evaluation is a time for the planning committee to see what attendees said on the evaluation forms and to share their thoughts of the tour and planning process. Reflections from the planning committee will improve future tours.

Comments from the tour attendees will give you insight to their thoughts and may provide ideas for continuing a relationship with them. We received very positive feedback on our tour. Attendees from our tour thought there should have been an economic analysis of a rotational grazing dairy. This gave us a topic for another event and will allow us to continue sharing thoughts with these individuals and organizations.

Remember to thank the participants!

Our Suggested Field Tour Timeline



quietly off to one side was a pleasant-looking farmer with a beard, nodding and smiling.

I learned later that this was Ken Woodard. Carol and Ken were married. Now if you have ever handled a team of horses, you know that in order to keep an even pull the horses have to work together. If you had to



Ken Woodard and Carol Ekarius

rein in one that was overly energetic, you matched it with an even paced one, steadying the pair so that they could work longer without wearing themselves out. Strong as he is, I don't think that Ken was able to hold Carol back enough to keep her from wearing herself out working for sustainable agriculture. Like warriors who fought too hard, too long, they are unwillingly

taking a rest. The cattle are gone and so is their farm. While we are battling another bitter winter, Carol and Ken are going to be somewhere sitting in the sun discussing the next chapter in their book. We offer them our tribute and wish them God's blessing.

No more Ward Walks; their farm is gone and Doug and Twila are somewhere in Idaho. We will miss their strong, quiet leadership. They showed us that rotational grazing really works in this area and their chicken raising techniques were so easy to learn that several of our young operators are using them. For myself, I will miss most that lovely, tranquil water garden. They embodied the spirit of humane sustainable agriculture.

We must not lower the standard that they and so many people helped to raise. Even though I am a bit wistful I am still encouraged. Ray Eiswald sold his farm to a couple of new members and is still around for advice; it is encouraging to hear young members who say they want to farm like their parents. This brings me to a story to end the backward glance and turn us to the future. At Carol and Ken's auction the chickens sold quickly; real chickens are in great demand. There, sitting on a bench between his parents was

a very disappointed young gentleman, "I didn't get any of the chickens, I want to raise chickens", and that is the good news! I am sure that the young man will be raising his own very soon.

With all respect to the presentors at the events we participate in, the evaluation sheets highlighted our food. Everybody absolutely marvels at Gemini Guernseys Ice Cream. And they ask, "why can't we buy it in town? Who made this wonderful bread and the butter? You mean this is real butter!" I guess I take the quality of the food on my plate too much for granted and don't realize that most people don't get to experience such great flavor. Eat your heart out Big Mac, when it comes to satisfaction you aren't even in the running.

Our coordinator, DeEtta Bilek, expanded her responsibilities to include the position of Program Manager for the state SFA as of September 16th. There is an opportunity for us to co-sponsor a Holistic Resource Management Workshop sometime in March. The fee per person for the three day event will be very reasonable because we have Sustainable Ag Research and Education (SARE) program funding to offset some of the costs. Anyone either interested in attending or participating as a co-sponsor must contact DeEtta Bilek *before* January 15th.

See you all at the Central Chapter Annual Meeting. The proposed date is January 24th from 10:00 to 3:00. The theme will be on marketing. We will be serving a meal produced by the member growers. After the morning meeting, and long lunch for socializing, we will have some interesting presentations. If you have suggestions or issues that need to appear on the agenda, contact Chairperson Roy Perish at 320-594-6490. Remember this is a family event for your chapter. We are successful because of the support you give through your participation. ■



Exploring Agricultural Opportunities in Central Minnesota

by Tomas Hansmeyer and Jan Joannides of CINRAM

If a local dairy farmer with 200 acres were to ask a banker or extension agent about his future options, would the individual reply: a) Farm profit margins are decreasing, you must increase your production or b) Maintain herd size and convert your corn fields into pastures? If Rick Scherping, a dairy farmer of 22 years, had known about rotational grazing before building expensive barns and silos, he would have converted his corn fields into pastures long ago. But few farmers knew of rotational grazing in the early 80's and some agricultural agency employees hear little of the alternative opportunities in agriculture today.

On September 18, 1997, agricultural educators and lenders, personnel from county, state, and federal agencies, and policy makers, listened to farmers speak about farming alternatives during a field tour and discussion in Central, MN. This event, "Exploring Agricultural Opportunities in Central Minnesota," was the first in a wider effort to increase awareness of alternative farming systems and to provide a forum for discussion of these systems. With funding from the Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture and USDA's SARE program, the Central Chapter of the SFA teamed up with the University of Minnesota's Center for Integrated Natural Resources and Agricultural Management to put together this event.

The day began at Camphill Village where Chris Barnier, a Credit Manager for the Farm Services Agency in Morrison County presented an overview of the current situation ag professionals face: 1) ag professionals (and farmers) constantly hear "get big or get out" as the only option, 2) lenders profit most in the short-term from time spent with larger operations, 3) most ag professionals don't have time to look for alternatives to the conventional model of agriculture, 4) expected profit is calculated by simply multiplying "acres times yields" in a cash flow plan which assumes that you can keep increasing production indefinitely--an attitude which doesn't take into account the risk of monoculture farming,

consider soil and animal health, or family and community well-being.

Chris went on to explain that alternative systems can work because they reduce risk through 1) diversity of more and complementary enterprises, 2) diversity of varied markets, including non-commodity markets, 3) cost reduction of operating expenses like fertilizer, pesticides, fuel and feed, and 4) cost community for lender's other customers, such as local businesses, and a larger base of farmer customers. In the end, this reduces the lender's own diversification risk and increases sustainability by not having too much money lent to a few very large farming operations.

After grabbing a few more great cookies made by Camphill Village Bakery, we boarded the big yellow school bus and headed off to visit several local farms. Arriving at the Scherping Farm we could see alfalfa and timothy pastures parceled into paddocks of green. As the cows finish one paddock, Travis and Jeremy (Rick & June Scherping's sons) removed a wire and the group watched as the cows eagerly headed into the taller grass.

We stood out in the field to hear Rick Scherping's story. Rick was joined by fellow rotational grazers Dan Middendorf and Joe Molitor, pioneers of this method in Minnesota. Rick and his family have not always farmed this way. Life was busy. Harvesting pushed the family into high gear. The barn had to be filled with bales and the silos filled with silage. On such a day, Rick discovered where his farming system was leading him. "My hired hand fell asleep during harvest," Rick said. "What if he had fallen asleep on the tractor pulling the silage boxes? My ditches are very steep. I didn't want that on my hands."

A majority of the harvesting and manure spreading are now completed by the cows. Allowing the cows to forage outside decreased overhead and improved herd health. The vet bill went from \$1,500 down to \$300, since twisted stomachs and pneumonia are no longer problems. "It is odd to think about it this way, but pneumonia is caused by a roof," said Dan Middendorf. Rotational grazing has also allowed Rick more time with his family and with his farm. Everyday includes a farmwalk to move animals and check water. These walks include time with his boys--a benefit that Rick values highly.

Into the yellow bus and off to the Marv and Deb Freiborg farm near Sauk Centre. Marv recently began experimenting with strip cropping. Fifteen foot wide strips of corn, soybeans, oats, and alfalfa stretched into the background. "My neighbor in Renville, Brad Link, grew strips of corn and soybeans. More sun reached the corn plants and the soybeans did better some years as well. I've had mixed results," said Marv. Herbicide drift and the long trips down strips to recover hay bales are some frustrations of Marv's farming system. But the strips do increase wildlife, decrease erosion and reduce some costs. Three years of alfalfa provide sufficient nitrogen for the farming system with P and K coming from ruminant manure.

Tom Frantzen, a farmer from Northeast Iowa, was also on hand to talk about his experiences with strip cropping and to describe his farming system. Tom, at one time, had 100 acres of strip crops. A rotation of corn, amaranth, soybeans and oats. He now has strips of corn, oats and clover located closer to the farm. Since 1974, Tom's hogs have spent their summers grazing in this clover and fall foraging in the corn. It's all part of the Frantzen's five year, whole farm business plan. The Frantzen whole farm plan goes beyond pure economics, including farm landscape goals and goals concerning quality of life for their family and community. The Frantzen's are planting 60 foot wide tree belts of hazelnut trees to increase wildlife, reduce wind and increase farm diversity. Again, part of the whole farm plan.

At Camphill Village Michieli showed the tour participants a gravel knoll on a portion of the farm. Tillable but usually dry, the knoll produced low alfalfa and corn yields. During the summer of 1994, Angela planted 20 native species of grasses and forbes. The grasses are resistant to drought, some forbes are harvested for tea, and the knoll is grazed by the beef cattle. Camphill Village's whole farm plan involved transforming this ecologically sensitive field into an economically productive and environmentally sound field.

Time for lunch. Organic beets, sweetcorn, salad and bread all produced at Camphill Village. Grass-fed beef donated by J & J Januschka' Farm Fresh Meat, smoked chicken (pastured poultry) from Dan and Rosie Middendorf and ice cream from

MOM's dairy (Minnesota Organic Milk). Steve Potter described Camphill's goal to strengthen their relationship with the community. Local residents purchase shares from the garden and receive vegetables throughout the summer and fall. Local residents are also welcome to attend the celebrations at Camphill.

After lunch, Steve Simmons and Kristen Corselius, from the University of Minnesota, described the Klipple Farm story. Klipple isn't their real name. The story is actually a Decision Case, a scenario which involves some major decisions, that is used as a learning tool. Tom, Karen and Mike, Klipple's son, want to earn a living from the farm. Karen and Mike decided to rent 280 acres and produce corn to provide income for Tom. During the summer of 1996, yields were average and the dairy herd developed breeding problems. Cash was running low and the Klipples were uncertain about renting the land again. What should the Klipple's do? This story was presented to promote discussion on possible options for the farm presented in the Klipple Decision Case.

Should the Klipple's continue with a capital intensive agriculture? What are the other options?

Agriculture is continuously evolving. Each nail, seed and/or conversation effort effects a farm's evolution. Perspectives about the future of agriculture have possibly the most influence over a farm's evolution. Our culture happens to hold the perspective that it is the economics which we must focus on. But in doing so we may forget about the hopes and goals for our own community and landscape. As Greg Nolan so nicely put it, "We tend to place money as the goal. Money isn't a goal, it's a tool to arrive at the goal." Money and human perspective seem to drive many decisions. Each decision combining with the next to create the future of agriculture.

If you would like to borrow or purchase a videotape of the field day or for announcements of similar events in other areas throughout Minnesota, please contact DeEita Bilek at 218-445-5475; e-mail: deebilek@wcta.net ■



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Twin Cities Campus

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College of Agricultural, Food, and Environmental Sciences*

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August 25, 1997

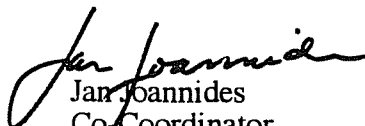
Please join us on September 18, 1997 for the Field Tour and Discussion: Exploring Agricultural Opportunities in Central Minnesota. We will tour three Central Minnesota farms implementing new farming practices and discuss issues and barriers that farmers face in diversifying and increasing their net farming income.

We will visit the Scherping farm near Freeport. The Scherpings have recently shifted from a conventional dairy operation to a rotational grazing system. Rick Scherping will share his experience and the pros and cons of this transition. At the Freiburg farm near Sauk Centre, we will learn about Marv Freiburg's decision to convert to a strip cropping system. Tom Frantzen will talk about his farm in Northern Iowa where he has successfully implemented a strip cropping system with hogs, corn, soybeans, and trees. Our final stop will be Camphill Farm which is producing several specialty crops and innovatively marketing their products.

This will be a valuable opportunity to learn about new options, discuss issues, and develop a network to help farmers struggling to keep their farms economically viable. With the new farm bill and the introduction of programs like the continuous CRP sign-up, EQIP and the Conservation Farm program, opportunities exist to proactively plan for the future of farms and communities in Central Minnesota.

We hope you will be able to join us for this event and share your experience and knowledge. Details are included on the enclosed flyer. Space will be limited to 50 individuals, so please either fax or call in your registration as soon as possible.

Warm regards,


Jan Joannides
Co-Coordinator
CINRAM


DeEtta Bilek
Central Chapter Coordinator
Sustainable Farming Association

Exploring Agricultural Opportunities in Central Minnesota

A Field Tour and Discussion
Thursday September 18, 1997

8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Camphill Village
Sauk Centre, MN

Visit three farms implementing new farming practices.
Join in a conversation about opportunities and
issues for farming in Central Minnesota.
Enjoy a wonderful meal with produce from local farms.

Attendance is free!* Tour limited to 50 participants!

Who will Attend:

- Agriculture and Natural Resource Professionals
- Local, State and Federal Gov't Representatives
- Educators
- Researchers
- Financial Officers

Schedule:

- 8:30 Registration (coffee and pastries)
- 9:00 Board buses and Orientation
- 9:40 Rotational grazing tour
- 11:00 Strip Crop and Agroforestry
- 12:30 Camphill Farm tour
- 1:15 Lunch
- 2:30 Group Discussion and Wrap-up

* Funding for this event is provided by Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture (MISA)
and the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program (SARE)

To register, fax this form to CINRAM (612) 625-5212 Attn: Jan Joannides
or call (612) 625-4299 by September 5th

Name _____ Organization _____

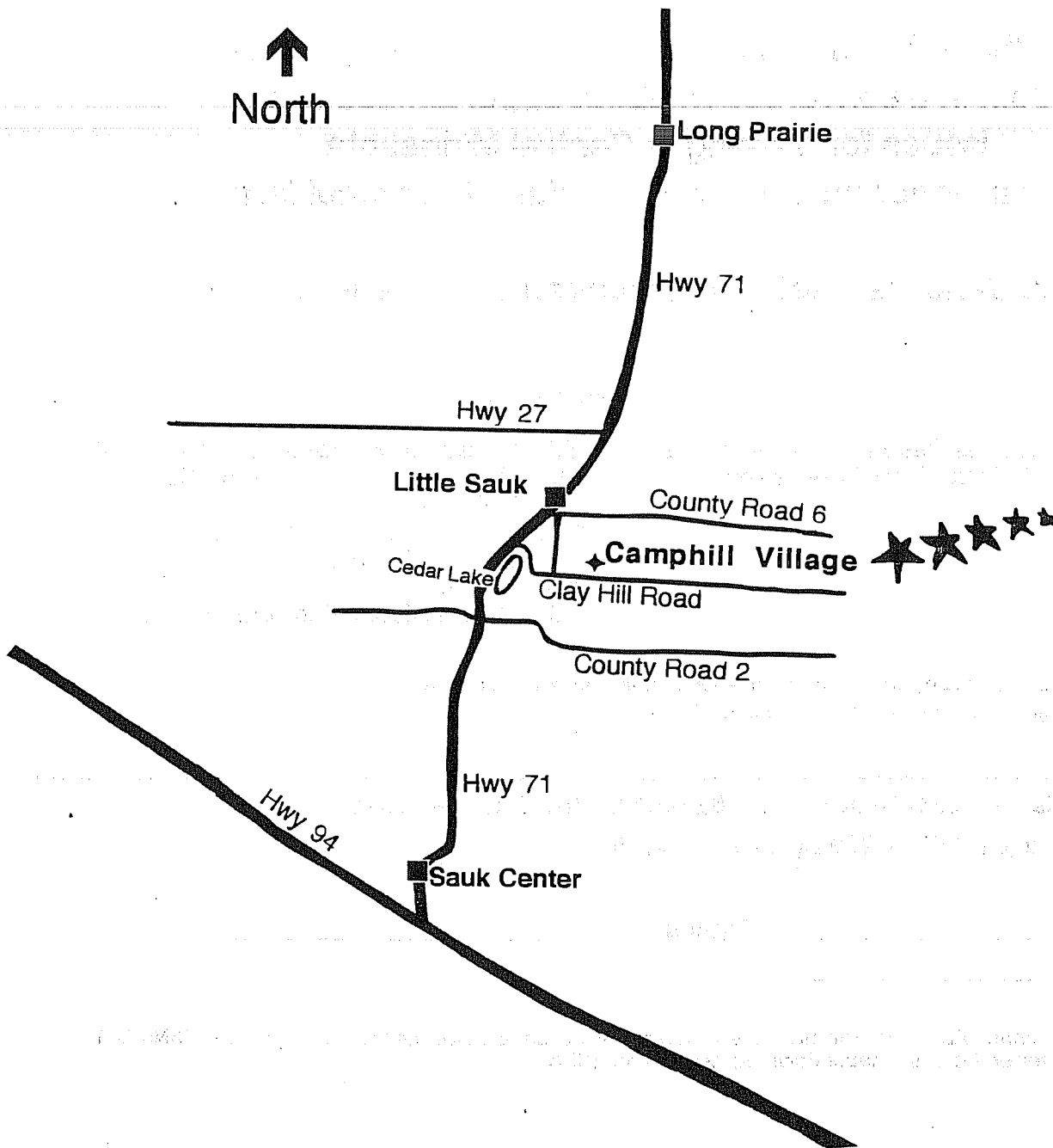
Phone _____

Sponsored by:

- University of Minnesota Center for Integrated Natural Resource and Agricultural Management (CINRAM)
- Central Chapter of the Sustainable Farming Association (SFA)

Please Arrive at Camphill Village by 8:30 to register and enjoy fresh pastries and coffee. Camphill is located 2 miles east of Hwy 71 on County Rd. 2. From Sauk Centre drive 9 miles north on Hwy 71, take a right on gravel North of Cedar Lake. From Long Prairie drive 8 miles South on Hwy 71 and turn left on gravel North of Cedar Lake. The gravel is located between County Rd. 2 and County Rd. 6. Follow gravel 1 1/2 miles miles and turn left into Camphill village. Signs will be posted.

MAP



Menu

Registration

Raisin Rolls
Made with Camphill organically grown ingredients

Coffee

Lunch

Salad Bar Beef

Donated by J & J Januschka's Farm Fresh Meat, Little Falls, Jerry or Jackie @ (320) 632-9787

Roasted by Ted and Jen's Barbecue, Aldrich (218) 445-8190

Smoked Chicken

"Pastured Poultry" from Dan and Rosie Middendorf, Osakis (320) 352-3397, Processed by Kade Jan, Inc., Glenwood (320) 634-3308, Smoked by Osakis Meats (320) 859-2128

Tabooley Salad

Camphill

Roasted Beets & Sweet Corn

Camphill

Milk and Ice Cream

MOM'S Dairy (Minnesota Organic Milk), Gaylord (507) 834-6308

Butter

Donated by Little Rock Creamery, Little Falls, contact Carol Schmidt (320) 632-9432

Strong local and direct markets are crucial to the continued success of these producers. The producers listed on today's menu are only a few of the many. For more listings, see the brochure in your packet.

Schedule & Menu

Exploring Agricltural Opportunities in Central Minnesota

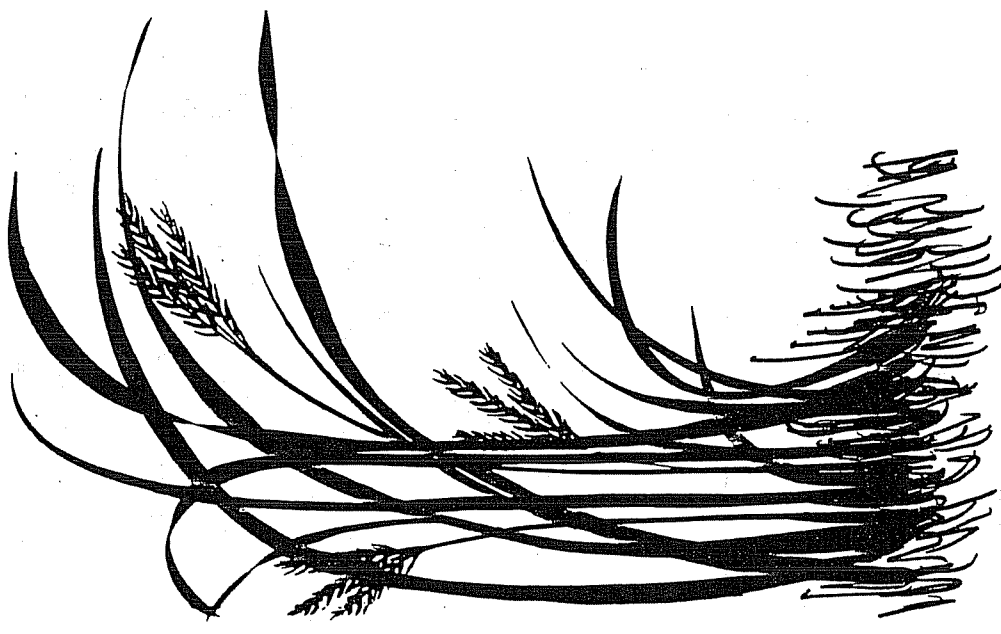
...A Field Tour
and Discussion

Thursday September 18, 1997

Camphill Village,
Sauk Center, MN

Schedule

8:30 Registration
9:00 Board Buses and Orientation
9:40 Rotational Grazing Tour
11:00 Strip Crop and Agroforestry
12:30 Camphill Farm Tour
1:15 Lunch
2:30 Group Discussion and Wrap-Up



For general information call DeEtta of the Sustainable Farming Association @ (218) 445-5475 or CINRAM @ (612) - 624-4299.

Sponsored by the Center for Integrated Natural Resource and Agricultural Management (CINRAM) at University of Minnesota and the Sustainable Farming Association (SFA) of Central Minnesota.

Funding for this event is provided by the Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture (MISA) and the Sustainable Agriculture Research Education Program (SARE).

Rotational Grazing

The Rick & June Scherping

Farm

(320) 836-2635

Farming Operation: Rick, June and their four children appreciate that rotational grazing allows them to work together more than conventional dairy methods allows. They have recently changed from feeding their dairy herd conventional silage to grazing. This 200 acre dairy farm supports a family of six. Anywhere from 60 - 80 cows are milking at any one time, depending on the season. The Scherpings raise their own young dairy stock and are integrating Holsteins, Brown Swiss, Dutch Belted, and Milky Short Horn dairy cows into their grazing dairy herd. They use interseeding as a forage management practice.

Economics: Grazing saves money -- Rick compared 6 months of grazing to 6 months of conventional farming and found vet, electric and fuel bill savings, lower feed costs, fewer machinery repairs, and less time spent handling feed and manure.

Strip Cropping and Agroforestry

Marv and Deb Freiborg

(320) 352-5792

Farming Operation: Marv and Deb Freiborg have three sons and two daughters. Marv is farming full - time; Deb is a part - time mail carrier. The Freiborgs moved to this 253 acre (200 for crops / 53 for pasture) farm in March 1995. They raise Holstein (dairy) steers for beef. They rent an additional 90 acres for crops. Because the land is hilly, Marv decided to use Tom Frantzen's strip inter-cropping model. This is their second year in transition from conventional cropping to a more sustainable land use model. They hope to decrease inputs of chemical herbicide and fertilizers.

Guest Speaker at the Freiburg

Farm: Tom Frantzen from New Hampton, Iowa (515) 364-6246

Farming Operation: Tom has been farming his 343 family farm since 1973. 85 of those acres are rented. He, Irene, and their three children raise approximately 1200 hogs/year farrow to finish, and have 43 grazing beef cows. Their operation is on a five year rotation. They have ridge tilled since 1983 and started an agroforestry project in 1992 which incorporates pasture farrowing. Recently

Tom and his family decided to raise their hogs in hoop houses.

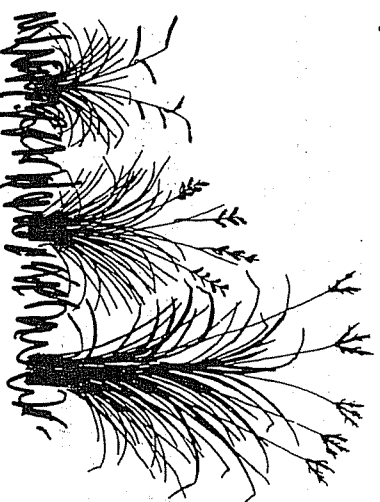
Campbill Village

Steve and Nancy Potter

(320)732-2336

The Village: Campbill Village is a farming community comprised of both disabled and non-disabled adults working together farming and in other operations.

Farming Operation: Campbill uses an organic production method that promotes an animal - based agriculture and a whole-farm perspective. The philosophy behind this particular method is called "biodynamics". Campbill is able to produce enough vegetables, dairy, and meat for 60 villagers. The Porters and other villagers operate a 4-acre garden which produces enough vegetables for the whole village as well as ten non-villagers who hold garden shares. Angela Michieli and villagers graze beef on native grain and harvest native herbs from the same pasture.



Field Tour Evaluation

Thursday September 18th, 1997

Name _____

Organization _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Was topic
familiar

Amount
learned ?

Useful to
your profession?

1 (low) to 5 (high)

Rotational Grazing

Y, N

1 2 3 4 5

1 2 3 4 5

Strip Crop and Agroforestry

Y, N

1 2 3 4 5

1 2 3 4 5

Multi-Harvest Pasture System

Y, N

1 2 3 4 5

1 2 3 4 5

Klipple Decision Case

Y, N

1 2 3 4 5

1 2 3 4 5

Lunch

Y, N

1 2 3 4 5

1 2 3 4 5

Would you recommend this tour to others Yes ____ No ____

Would you be interested in follow-up workshops and/or discussions Yes ____ No ____

Comments/Suggestions _____
