

Keynote: Dr. Paul Dettloff has about done it all. He's been a veterinarian in private practice and worked for industry. He has worked in a five-person corporate clinic practice and solo dairy vet. He's been an organic natural vet and an organic bovine vet. He has pioneered the use of homeopathics and nosodes in the holistic treatment of dairy animals, and has written a book: *Alternative Treatments for Ruminant Animals*. He received his DVM degree from the University of Minnesota and followed a large animal practice in western Wisconsin for 34 years. He has focused on the whole system, from the soil to sustainable management. Well-known for his common sense approach to on-farm production, he has benefited thousands of farmers and will surely benefit you.

Keynote: Dr. John Ikerd is Professor Emeritus of Agricultural Economics at the University of Missouri. John was raised on a small dairy farm in southwest Missouri and he received his BS, MS and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Missouri. He worked in private industry for a time and spent 30 years in various professorial positions at four major state universities before retiring from the University of Missouri in early 2000. Since retiring, he spends most of his time writing and speaking on issues related to the sustainability of agriculture. Ikerd is author of *Sustainable Capitalism: Matter of Common Sense*, Kumarian Press Inc., <http://www.kpbooks.com>. Books forthcoming include *A Return to Common Sense: The New Economic, Social and Spiritual Revolution*, R. T. Edwards, Inc., in 2007, and *Crisis and Opportunity in American Agriculture; Essays on Sustainable Agriculture*, University of Nebraska Press, in early 2008. A complete vita and selected writings are available at www.ssu.missouri.edu/faculty/jikerd

Raymond Berry was raised on a cattle ranch near Norris, S.D. He obtained a BS degree in Mechanical Technology from LeTourneau College and went on to graduate from Multnomah School of the Bible. Ray and his new bride, Gayle, went as missionaries to the Republic of South Africa in 1970 where he was responsible for buildings and grounds of Mosvold Mission Hospital in Zululand. Ray built several clinics and helped establish several preaching points that became ministry centers. Noting the poor crops, he introduced two open pollinated corn varieties and also soybeans. Ray also helped establish a vaccination program and a better price for their local cattle. The growing family, with young sons Loren and Brent, returned state side 1980 and purchased their present farm. Having been introduced to organic practices in South Africa, Ray implemented them into the present farm and was certified organic in 1984. Currently he raises small grains and cattle for the organic market. Some of the boards he has served: Victory Center Bible Camp, Mellette County FSA, SARE Administrative Council, Mellette County JC's and, last but not least, Ray is the current President of NPSAS.

Brad Brummond is the NDSU Extension Agent for Walsh County, N.D. and NDSU organic crop production contact. Brad has worked extensively with sustainable and organic farmers. He has served on the Organic Crop Improvement Association's Education and Certification Committees and is a past board president and secretary of NPSAS. Brad currently serves on the NPSAS Board and chairs the Program Committee. He also serves as a member and President Elect of the North Central Region SARE Administrative Council. He also serves as the president of the North Dakota Department of Agriculture's Organic Advisory Council.

Gordon Haug brings 18 years work experience in Agricultural-related fields. He started out in 1988 with a dairy processing plant and then with the local elevator in his home town in eastern S.D. In 1994, he came to central South Dakota and began working in the agronomy department for a large cooperative. He became a S.D. Certified Crop Advisor in 1998. Gordon began working for the S.D. Dept. of Agriculture in 2001, and worked in pesticide recycling and disposal. In 2004, he became the Enforcement Specialist for the Office of Agronomy Services. With these duties, he has been trained in hazardous materials handling, the Incident Command System and holds S.D. Agriculture Inspector credentials.

Gary Holthaus grew up in Eastern Iowa and has lived in New England, Montana, Alaska, Colorado and Minnesota before moving to LaMoure, N.D. last September. He has been a wheat packer for Quaker Oats, a commercial fisherman in Bristol Bay, an elementary, secondary school teacher and college professor, an itinerant program officer for the National Endowment for the Humanities, and executive director of several non-profit corporations. Gary became Administrative Director of NPSAS last September.

Anna Jacobson graduated from Concordia College in 2003 with a BA in Studio Arts with an emphasis in print-making. Currently she is attending the University of North Dakota. Coming from the flat plains of rural North Dakota, Anna learned the value of simple beauty. Her work is not filled with complex details or bright commercial colors, but the rich, full earth-tone colors and textured details of the great American Midwest. She grew up on a small family-owned organic farm. The family farm lifestyle and the fundamentals of organic farming have been ingrained in her by parents Terry and Janet and thus the basis of her work. Organic farming is a process that works with nature's cycles. Growing up in such an unconventional lifestyle found its voice in the color, texture and process of her work. Anna has been working with children in the art room at the NPSAS conference for many years.

Speaker Profiles

Janet Jacobson writes a weekly column, *Sustaining the Northern Plains*, for a rural weekly newspaper. Her column explores issues affecting the people who live in rural communities such as local food, economic development, quality of life and agricultural economics. Research for her column and for the NPSAS *Germinator* has led her to dig deeper into the implications of the mainstreaming of organics. Jacobson and husband, Terry, have farmed organically since before organic was a trend. Their farm, the North Outback, has been certified as organic since the early 1980's. They raise small grains, oil seeds and hay and rotationally graze beef cattle and sheep. Janet and her business partner, Diane Schill – better known as the North Dakota Woolly Girls – own and operate North Dakota's only wool processing mill. They produce wool felt vests, hats and mittens as well as a variety of other wool and wool felt products which they market at regional art fairs and galleries. Jacobson currently serves on the NPSAS Board of Directors.

Patty Kakac has been singing and writing music professionally since 1978. Guitar, harmonica and autoharp are her main instruments. Patty lives on a farm outside of Evansville, Minn., is a farmer and gardener, raises chickens, keeps a husband and is guiding a young daughter. She conveys her love of the land in her music, in her home, in her remodeled granary which becomes a summer kitchen and treasures the rising and setting sun. Many of her songs are born while she works in the garden turning the soil. Since 1998, Patty has been working and performing with music partner, Jodi Ritter, as part of the Granary Girls. Their music on CDs have been played and heard throughout the United States and in many countries around the world. Patty has produced and recorded five albums, two on her own, and three with her singing partner, Jodi Ritter.

Fred Kirschenmann, a longtime leader in national and international sustainable agriculture, is currently a Distinguished Fellow for the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture at Iowa State University. He served as Director of the Leopold Center from 2000 to 2005 following a nationwide search. He also manages his family's 3,500 acre certified organic farm in south central North Dakota. Fred helped found Farm Verified Organic, Inc., a private certification agency, and was a founding father of Northern Plains Sustainable Agriculture. He has served numerous national/international appointments, including USDA's National Organic Standards Board, the North Central Region's Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) administrative council, Henry A. Wallace Institute for Alternative Agriculture board of directors. He earned degrees from Yankton College in S.D., Hartford Theological Seminary in Conn., and Ph.D. in philosophy from the University of Chicago. Fred is the author of

numerous articles and book chapters dealing with ethics and agriculture.

Frank Kutka began his duties at the Dickinson Research Extension Center in July, 2005. Frank's primary responsibility is acting as the coordinator for the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education program in North and South Dakota. This includes project management, promotion of a wider discussion of sustainability in the Dakotas, dissemination of information about sustainable agriculture, programming for extension educators, and promoting SARE grant programs for youth, students, farmers/ranchers and extension professionals.

Tom Larson, along with wife Deb, operate a diversified organic crop and livestock farm in north central Nebraska. They raise popcorn, soybeans, Ethiopian barley, forage turnips, wheat and alfalfa. Livestock graze the paddock system that has an agriforestry component. Tom has traveled domestically and abroad on agriculture issues.

Ralph Lentz is a rotational grazer from Lake City, Minnesota who was instrumental in getting the sustainable agriculture movement started in Minnesota. A long-time experimenter with stream management, rotational grazing, and prairie restoration, he is the holder of the first Lifetime Achievement Award from the Sustainable Farming Association of Minnesota.

Holly Mawby has a degree in General Horticulture with an emphasis in Landscape Design from the University of Minnesota, Waseca. She also has a B.S. degree in Career and Technical Education from Valley City State University. She has been employed in the field of Horticulture for over 28 years. In that time Holly has worked in Floral Design, Landscape Design, Landscape Maintenance, Horticultural Sales, Propagation and as a Horticulture teacher in Minnesota. Holly also worked on a cooperative project with the Minnesota DNR Myhre Big Island State Park for the restoration of the park's natural prairie regions. She has written articles for newspapers and newsletters regarding gardening and is the editor of the North Dakota State Horticultural Society newsletter. Holly, along with her husband Barry, is currently co-owner of Gardendwellers Farm located in Churchs Ferry, N.D. Gardendwellers Farm is a unique blend of public gardens, educational programs, therapy and healing gardens and production of specialty crops. The Mawbys' company provides access to all individuals who wish to enjoy the benefits of horticulture and gardening in a peaceful and chemical-free environment.

April Moyer is a new North Dakotan and misses the Minnesota trees and ice fishing very much. Winter is her favorite season and thankfully both North Dakota and Minnesota have great winters. The people she hangs out with during the day call her Miss Moyer and usually have art questions to ask. They paint, draw, color. They build things, imagine things, create things. Everyone has things that they love. Some of the things that she loves are being with her family and friends, exploring and caring for the great outdoors, drinking Ceylon mango tea with honey, and dreaming. She dreams about hiking trips that last for months and living in the arctic circle. She dreams about what her students will be when they grow up and dreams about what she will be when she grows up. There are many more dreams and much more information she could tell you about who she is. April encourages you to introduce yourself and share who you are and what it is that you love.

Martha Noble is a senior policy analyst with the Sustainable Agriculture Coalition in Washington, D.C. The Coalition is a nationwide alliance representing 31 sustainable agriculture and environmental organizations before Congress and federal administrative agencies on a wide array of federal farm policy issues. Ms. Noble is also the co-chair of the Clean Water Network's Feedlot Work Group and a vice-chair of the Agricultural Management Committee of the American Bar Association's Section of Environment, Energy and Resources. She received a law degree from the University of California at Berkeley and before coming to the Coalition was a research professor and staff attorney with National Center for Agricultural Law at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville.

Brenda Postels has a farm near Maple Lake, Minn. where she raises grass-fed St. Croix hair sheep, Boer meat goats and horses. She is an Extension Educator with the University of Minnesota and enjoys working with meat goat and sheep producers.

Dennis Schill, Diane and their sons, Daniel, Andrew and Luke operate Schill's Family Farm. They do custom livestock rotational grazing, raise sheep, hogs and chickens. Diane is a partner in the North Dakota Woolly Girls business that makes many kinds of wool products. Dennis does hardwood floor restoration and has the U-Gut Clucker Plucker mobile poultry processing facility.

Travis Sitter was raised in Aberdeen, S.D. and attended Northern State University in Aberdeen. He and his wife Lynae have two children, Michael and Megan and they currently reside in Watertown, S.D. Travis is a Commodities Analyst/Merchandiser for Hesco, Inc. in Watertown. He is a Series 3 licensed Commodities Broker for CBOT and CME.

Klint Stewart is the Niman Ranch Field Agent for Nebraska, South Dakota and Kansas. He works with nearly 70 Niman Ranch farmers in these states who are producing high-quality pork without the use of antibiotics and raising them outdoors or in deeply-bedded systems.

Rachel Stiegelmeier lives on an organic farm near Selby, S.D. She has two Jersey milk cows that keep the Stiegelmeier family more than supplied with milk. Rachel has been making cheese seriously for 1 1/2 years. She will be assisted in this session by her sisters Ruby Ann and Abby. Rachel is the daughter of Emily and the late Jim Stiegelmeier.

Jim Stordahl was raised on a farm near MacIntosh, Minn., where he and his family now graze sheep and cattle and maintain a small flock of chickens. Jim has been an Extension Educator with the University of Minnesota since 1996, working extensively with organic and conventional producers in northwest Minnesota. Jim is a familiar face at our convention and is being brought back by popular demand.

Ron Wiederholt, North Dakota State University Extension, Nutrient Management Specialist, Carrington Research Extension Center. Based out of Carrington, N.D., Ron is responsible for nutrient management education and research in the state of North Dakota. He has worked in the extension service in Wisc. and N.D. for over 12 years with a focus on integrating sustainable crop and livestock production systems. He grew up on a dairy farm in southwest Wisc. and received Agronomy and Soil Science degrees from the Univ of Wisc.

Since 1982 **Steve Zwinger** has lived in Carrington, N.D. where he works at North Dakota State University's Carrington Research Extension Center assisting and conducting research relative to crops and cropping systems in central North Dakota. His main focus of research has been in assisting NDSU and other plant breeders in varietal evaluation and development. Other research areas include alternative crops, cover crops, organic and a recent emphasis on annual forages for both grazing and haying. He has conducted organic research during the past six years in a certified organic environment with the expectations of future research tying NDSU and NPSAS in collaborative efforts to better serve the organic community. For the past seven years, Steve has been raising organic potatoes for local markets along with increasing and developing seed for sustainable and organic farming. He also owns and organically operates the original quarter section that his parents lived on and farmed. Steve is a member of NPSAS currently serving on the board as Vice President. Steve's main involvement with NPSAS is with the Farm Breeder Club. He has a strong belief in development of varieties with farmers and plant breeders working together in an organic environment.