

## **Speaker Biographical Information**

### **Chengci Chen Ph.D.**

Chengci is an Assistant Professor of Cropping Systems at Montana State University. He received his Ph.D. degree in Soil Science from Oregon State University in 1998. His current research area focus on developing cropping systems to maximize plant biomass production and oilseed yield, and integrating agricultural systems for food, feed, and biofuel production. His work in screening cold tolerant oilseed cultivars and practicing early spring planting has greatly increased oilseed yield and yield stability in Montana.

### **Darrin L. Boss Ph.D.**

Darrin currently is an Assistant Professor of Animal Science in the Department of Research Centers at Montana State University. His current research topics include developing beef cattle feeding recommendations and research projects for the co-products from the developing oilseed industry. Projects include using the oilseed meal in the backgrounding, finishing and range cow supplementation sectors of the industry.

### **Gary Brester Ph.D.**

Gary is a Professor of Agricultural Economics and Economics at Montana State University. He received his B.S. degree in Agribusiness Management and a M.S. degree in Applied Economics from Montana State University and a Ph.D. in Economics from North Carolina State University. He has published more than 30 refereed journal articles, nearly 100 other research and outreach publications, 15 case studies and several book chapters. His research program is focused on risk management, livestock, international trade, agribusiness and farm management issues. Gary has been the recipient of numerous awards including Outstanding Alumnus Award from North Carolina State University Department of Agricultural Economics, and Outstanding Instructor Award from MSU College of Agriculture. He has also served in leadership roles with the Western Agricultural Economics Association.

### **Ted Dodge**

Ted has been the Executive Director for the National Carbon Offset Coalition (NCOC) since 2003. NCOC is a Montana based nonprofit corporation, working to develop a market based carbon offset program utilizing agricultural and forest lands. NCOC is now an aggregating member of the Chicago Climate Exchange (CCX) and is actively placing forestry, cropland, rangeland, and methane based carbon credit projects on the CCX. In 2003, he retired after 27 years with the USDA (NRCS). His involvement with carbon sequestration and the development of carbon credit trading projects dates to the mid 90's when he was instrumental in the creation of the NCOC. Ted is currently an advisor to the Montana Climate Change Advisory Committee, the co-leader for the

terrestrial portion of the Big Sky DOE Regional Partnership, and a member of the Chicago Climate Exchange Forestry Committee.

### **Brett Earl & Logan Fisher**

Earl Fisher BioFuels LLP is a partnership between Brett Earl and Logan Fisher. Brett and Logan are both fourth generation Montana farmers. They are concerned about the agriculture economy, but hopeful for their small communities and state. Brett and Logan have education and experience in: production agriculture, chemical engineering, sales, marketing, finance and management and have set out to use these skills for the betterment of their community in and around Chester. The mission at Earl Fisher BioFuels is to create economic growth and employment opportunities by building a biodiesel production facility. This will in turn create a self sustaining industry by creating a market for oilseed crops that can be grown locally, converted to fuel locally, and consumed locally. Their long term plan is to duplicate the process in other small communities throughout the state, making the Chester facility the benchmark and training facility for all future locations. Their production facility will produce 100,000 gallons the first year, but depending on market demand could produce up to 275,000 gallons. The final production goal for this location will be 1,000,000 gallons per year. They have acquired and installed biodiesel production and storage equipment and are in the process of acquiring oilseed crushing equipment which will be installed in Summer/Fall of 2007. Earl and Fisher are committed to producing a high quality, ASTM-6751 certified B100 to be used as a blending stock. In order to ensure quality control of their product they have just finished installation of an in house lab were Brett Earl (chemical engineer) will formulate and test fuel as well as conduct research and development trials for new products.

### **Duane Griffith**

Duane is an Extension Farm Management Specialist with Montana State University. His interests include production economics and financial analysis covering all aspects of farm and ranch business performance. His educational curriculum includes crop and livestock enterprise analysis, machinery management and complete farm and ranch financial analysis. Duane also develops on-farm decision aids for farmers and ranchers to analyze their operations. These decision aids are typically in the form of Excel spreadsheets and are available for download from at:

<http://www.montana.edu/extensionecon/softwaredownloads.html>

### **Kristen Gustad**

Kristin is currently the WIRED Project Director for Miles Community College in Miles City. Her education includes degrees from Northwest College (A.S. in Animal Science and Chemistry), Brigham Young University-Idaho (B.S. in Animal Science) and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (M.S. Animal Science). Much of her research, including her master's thesis, has focused on the use of ethanol by-products as a supplement to

cattle grazing. Kristen has also been involved in numerous agriculture related groups including the American Society of Animal Science.

### **Howard Haines**

Howard is the Montana Bioenergy Program Manager for the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (since 1982). His work with energy and chemical engineering extends over 31 years, with the last 25 years in state government working with biomass energy, fuel cells, hydrogen, and biofuels, especially biodiesel and ethanol. Howard has assisted development of small wood harvesting, commercial biomass enterprises including chipping and wood pellet operations, evaluating wood energy conversions, and conducting educational and instructional efforts on energy and the environment with nonprofit organizations, high schools, and local colleges. Most recent activities have focused on education and outreach to small agricultural and biodiesel producers regarding what is needed to produce biodiesel safely and legally. For his work with biofuels, he has received DOE Program Achievement Awards, an EPA Outstanding Achievement Award for Teamwork and Environmental Stewardship for the Truck in the Park and Snowmobile in the Park Projects, an Conoco President's Award for Environment, Top Honors DuPont President's Award for the Environment and Safety, a National Part Foundation Environmental Conservation Award, and the Outstanding Achievement from Society of Automotive Engineers' Award. He has assisted with or authored over 150 articles and publications.

### **George Haynes Ph.D.**

George is an Agricultural Policy Specialist with the Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics at Montana State University. Prior to his current position, George was a professor with the MSU Department of Health and Human Development. George earned a doctorate in consumer economics and housing from Cornell University in 1993. His contributions to the field of consumer finance and economics have been in the area of family business finance. These lines of research have produced over 35 refereed journal articles, five book chapters, over 50 presentations and over 45 other monographs. An important contribution of George's family business finance work has been examining the intermingling of family and business financial resources. This research has been supported by funding from the National Science Foundation, U.S. Small Business Administration, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Montana Agricultural Experiment Station.

### **Gregory D. Kegel**

Greg currently serves as the Dean for the College of Technical Science at Montana State University-Northern. Since his appointment, Dean Kegel has worked to expand Northern's technical programs including establishing 2-year associate programs in trades craft such as plumbing, carpentry, construction and electrical. He has also worked to strengthen the co-op student program for diesel and automotive students with summer internship programs with national and international businesses such as Kiewit,

Fairbanks Morse, Foundation Coal, General Electric, Toyota, and Ford. Greg's efforts helped secure over five million to build the new Applied Technology Center, which houses the Bio-Energy Innovation and Testing Center and has been successful in obtaining numerous federal appropriations and grants. Greg has worked to foster productive industry linkages that have proven beneficial to MSU-Northern and industry by providing contract training for Ford, Case New Holland, Toyota, Montana State Department of Transportation, and others. Prior to his current appointment, Greg served as a professor at Montana State University-Northern and a training specialist for Autodesk, Inc. Greg education includes a Masters of Sciences degree from Central Washington University.

### **Kent A. McVay Ph.D.**

Kent is an Extension Cropping Systems Specialist and an Assistant Professor of Cropping Systems at the MSU Southern Agricultural Research Center. His current research focuses on dry land production. Kent has published over 30 research papers, book chapters, and extension publications. His publications have included work on camelina production in Montana, soil management practices, fertilizer recommendations, and water quality issues. Prior to his present position, Kent worked for University of Georgia, Kansas State University, Ward Labs Inc. and the University of Missouri.

### **Vanessa Olson**

Vanessa is currently a Compliance Specialist - Supervisor with the Fuel Tax Management and Analysis Bureau (FTMA) at the Department of Transportation (MDT). She has worked for the state for 12.5 years and has been working for the last 5 years for the FTMA Bureau at MDT. She received her bachelors degree in Natural Resource Management with emphasis in Range Conservation and Forest Management from the University of Nevada, Reno. In 2005, she has received the Governor's Excellence in Performance Award as part of the team responsible for building the new Motor Fuels System and Internet filling system for licensed gasoline/special fuels distributors.

### **Alice Pilgeram Ph.D.**

Alice is a Research Plant Pathologist in the Plant Science and Plant Pathology Department at Montana State University and Co-director of the Biobased Institute. The Biobased Institute supports research to develop new crops and value-added products for production in Montana. Alice's research interests include:

- Development of oil crops for culinary oil, biofuels and high value animal feeds
- Biocontrol of noxious weeds with plant pathogenic fungi and bacteria
- Development of gluten-free crops for Montana

### **Joel B. Schumacher**

Joel is an Extension Economics Specialist at Montana State University. He earned a master's degree in agricultural economics from Montana State University. His

research and outreach programs focuses on bioenergy production opportunities through the adoption of small, medium and large scale oilseed crushing and biodiesel facilities. He has also worked extensively with small business owners to find solutions to financial challenges through his previous experience as a pension analyst in the private sector.

**Vincent H. Smith Ph.D.**

Vince is a professor of agricultural economics and co-director of the Agricultural Marketing Policy Center at Montana State University. He is an internationally recognized expert on agricultural commodity markets and agricultural and small business risk management. He is the recipient of national awards for outstanding outreach education programs and for quality of research discovery. He has published over 150 books, book chapters, professional journal articles, and educational bulletins, and many additional articles for the popular press and non-specialist magazines. In addition, over the past six years he has collaborated extensively with Fort Peck Community College and other tribal colleges and reservation communities in Montana to deliver outreach education, undergraduate education, and research programs targeted to enhancing the economic status and quality of life of American Indians and rural communities.

**Wallace E. Tyner Ph.D.**

Wally is a professor with the Department of Agricultural Economics, Purdue University. He received his B.S. degree in chemistry (1966) from Texas Christian University, and his M.A. (1972) and Ph.D. (1977) degrees in economics from the University of Maryland. Professor Tyner's research interests are in the area of energy, agriculture, and natural resource policy analysis and structural and sectoral adjustment in developing economies. He has over 100 publications in these areas including three books and 48 refereed papers and abstracts. His past work in energy economics has encompassed oil, natural gas, coal, oil shale, biomass, ethanol from agricultural sources, and solar energy. His current research focuses on renewable energy policy issues.