

Group 3. Suggestions for Heartland on serving the theme of “Bioenergy and Water Resources” regionally. Currently we propose to address:

- Nutrient management for ecological intensive production systems in 2010
- Optimization of irrigation and precipitation use in ecological intensive production systems in 2011
- Current and evolving issues in biomass production for bioenergy in 2012

Suggestions from the participants in Group 3:

- 1) Add biomass conversion/ bio-based product production to the discussion in 2012 (Tom has indicated that the bullet point for 2012 was originally intended to cover this suggestion as Heartland is going to be taking a more holistic view of biomass production and utilization).
- 2) Cover the current and evolving issues in biomass production in 2010 and update in 2012. Several of the participants felt that an accurate, up-to-date snapshot of current production practices, yield potentials, and production issues for biomass crops would be very useful at the start of the theme. Much of this would tie into the discussions from Groups 4 and 5.
- 3) Breakout a discussion of conservation practices for ecological intensive production systems. Several participants indicated that conservation issues need to be addressed as agricultural production may shift to encompass biomass production from more environmentally sensitive lands (such as CRP acreage).
- 4) Address bio-refinery location and feedstock flexibility. Participants had questions about the impacts of water quality/quantity from bioenergy production (from the crop to the product) and the marginal impacts of feedstocks shifts (moving from one feedstock to another).

List of potential members for the steering committee (as suggested by participants in Group 3):

- 1) Rick Wozniak – Lower Elkhorn NRD (Rick was at the meeting)
- 2) John Hay – UNL Extension
- 3) Paul Harte – USDA/FSA (Paul is helping set-up the Biomass Crop Assistance Program from the Farm Bill).
- 4) Emily Heaton – ISU Extension (Emily is a new assistant professor in agronomy for ISU; one of her specialties is Miscanthus).
- 5) A representative from Missouri DNR or the Missouri Energy Center (Colleen Meredith is checking on who would be the best fit from these organizations).