

# Veggie News

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PrairieFire BioFuels (608)441-5454

## PrairieFire BioFuels has a new Mission Statement

In April, the Board of Directors decided to alter PrairieFire BioFuels' mission statement.

The decision was made because we recognize that biofuels are a stepping-stone to, and just one option in, the move to energy independence and truly sustainable fuels.

We felt it was important for the coop to openly state we are willing to explore a variety of

options in the alternative fuel realm.

For example, one board member is looking into Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicle conversions that we could install on cars such as the Prius. Luke has also been talking to someone about propane-assisted engines to increase efficiency.

For the coop to thrive, we must be proactive and look to the future advances that will offer

the next stepping stone in sustainable fuels.

With that, I give you the new and improved PrairieFire BioFuels Mission Statement:

*PFBF is a member-owned cooperative creating access and building infrastructure to support viable, sustainable alternative fuels sources and usage.*

## Update from the PFBF Board President and CEO

Hello members – there are many things to tell you about this month:

Fuel: A reminder that we are offering fuel in 5 gallon containers. Simply drop them off at the coop and email me. We will get them filled and ready for pickup in a couple of days!

Signage: PrairieFire officially has signs! Drive by and see them lit up at night. Within two weeks the awning will be completed as well!

Kamp Kenwood: This camp is affiliated with the

Farmer's Union Cooperative, who has been a huge supporter of PFBF. This is an excellent opportunity for children to learn what the cooperative model is. See below for more details.

Interns: PFBF has been lucky to have an intern this semester from the UW; his name is Ethan Kellogg. A big thanks goes out to him for his hard work this semester. Additionally, we will take on a new intern this week, named Nathaniel Javid. Welcome!

Lift: Two generous donations were made to the coop recently to help us buy a lift. Thank you to Landmark Fuels and an anonymous donor for their donations! Additionally, the Willy St. Coop is making us the recipient of the Greener Weiner fundraiser this Saturday. Thank You!

Plaque: A plaque has been made to honor those that donated to the coop this winter. It is on display at the coop.

## MREA Energy Fair - June 19-21st in Custer, Wisconsin

By: Kurt Reinhold




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*"If you haven't been,  
GO!"*

If you haven't been, GO! If you have been, why not go again? This year, the Midwest Renewable Energy Association celebrates the 20th year of the summer energy fair, this time with 219 separate workshops being offered from Friday through Sunday.

There are workshops on every topic imaginable under the sun having to do with energy efficiency, green building, alternative transportation options, solar, wind, geothermal, biomass, gardening, and yes-- even YOGA.

Come out to camp, visit vendors, eat delicious food, imbibe good spirits, and even listen to some good music.

This year's fair features the following key-note speakers over the lunch hours: Friday at 1pm is Antonia Juhasz (author and political activist). Saturday at 1pm is Alan Weisman (author of *The World Without Us*, and journalist). And Sunday at 1pm is Wendy Williams (author of *Cape Wind: Money, Celebrity, Class, Politics, and the Battle for Our Energy Future on Nantucket Sound*).

On the transportation front, PFBF has the following speakers: Mike Clark and Mary Eberle will present on "Starting a Biofuels and Biodiesel Co-op" (Sunday at 11); Kurt Reinhold will talk Friday on "Biofuels 101" and

"Solar as a Viable (and Sustainable) Transportation Fuel"; and on Saturday morning John Sheffy & Holly Petrillo will talk about their year venturing into the grease car lifestyle in "The Good, the Bad, and the Filthy".

There are dozens more transportation and fuel-related topics. And Sara Wrzesinski will be featuring her Elsbett-outfitted Mercedes on display outside the Transportation Tent. For more information about these workshops, download the schedule of events from [www.the-mrea.org](http://www.the-mrea.org) under Energy Fair – Fair workshop. Hope to see you there!

### Fueling, pt 3.



Fueling is coming... I know you've heard this for some time now and have not seen progress, but please let me assure you we are doing everything in our power to make it happen.

There are circumstances beyond our control that have popped up. Before moving we had no idea this process would be so involved and difficult.

Easily explained, many of the issues have dealt with building materials, proximity to the property line, and proximity to other businesses.

We have developed a plan that addresses all these issues and possibly sets us up for 24/7 fueling at our location in the future.

Now we are simply waiting for final approval from the fire department powers

that be, and then installation will begin!

The new plan will greatly increase our storage capacity, which means a lower price for fuel. It also means never having to worry about the coop being out of fuel!

I know I have asked for your patience, and I continue to do so. Stay tuned for updates, and trust that fueling will be back better than ever!

## Kamp Kenwood

Since the 1930s, WFU Cooperative Summer Youth Camps have delivered cooperative philosophy, leadership development, community awareness and social justice education to rural and urban kids.

Sessions of 4 or 5 days at WFU's Kamp Kenwood on Lake Wissota near Chippewa Falls include workshops, hikes, campfires, sports, the arts and swimming, as well as the creation of a co-op store run by the campers for their own benefit.

Through the sponsorship of the CHS Foundation, WFU Camps are coordinated by the WFU Foundation, whose projects and programs for all ages foster family farming, rural life and public education on the important role of cooperatives and agriculture in society.

For more information, contact WFU at 800-272-5531 or [cstatz@wisconsinfarmersunion.com](mailto:cstatz@wisconsinfarmersunion.com) or go to [www.wisconsinfarmersunion.com](http://www.wisconsinfarmersunion.com) and click on "Kamp Kenwood".

### Junior Camps (Ages 8-12) \$75\*

June 22-25, August 4-7,  
August 16-19

### Junior High Camp (Ages 12-14)

\$80\*

August 9-13

### Senior Camp (Ages 14-18) \$85\*

June 28-July 2

### Family Camps

(prices vary, call for details\*)

June 25-26, August 7-8

\*Prices for Wisconsin Farmers Union members only. Anyone can be a member of Wisconsin Farmers Union.

Contact Wisconsin Farmers Union today for camp and membership information (800) 272-5531  
[www.wisconsinfarmersunion.com](http://www.wisconsinfarmersunion.com)  
[cstatz@wisconsinfarmersunion.com](mailto:cstatz@wisconsinfarmersunion.com)



## YOU Can help!

Are you planning to attend the MREA Fair this month?

Do you have a passion for biofuels?

Are willing to spend an hour or two spreading the good word in between speakers at the fair?

Sara Wrzesinski is displaying her Veggie Oil burning Benz on behalf of PFBF and the Education Foundation at MREA this year.

She would love your assistance in "manning" the car to answer questions and hand out info about PrairieFire.

Your help would be greatly appreciated!

If you are willing and able, please email Sara: [sara@pfbfef.org](mailto:sara@pfbfef.org)

## Letter from the PFEF President

Hello Coop Members, I expect you are as excited as I am to finally have access to biodiesel. Nothing says spring like filling up with home-grown fuel for the first time after the cold season. I would like to extend a personal thanks to Mike Clark for wading through all the red tape on behalf of our collective love of biofuels. Thanks Mike!!!!

Carolann Puster  
President, Board of Directors  
PrairieFire Biofuels  
Education Foundation

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*"Do you have a passion for biofuels?"*

**PrairieFire BioFuels  
&  
PrairieFire BioFuels  
Education Foundation**

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**We're on the Web!**

See us at:  
[www.pfbf.org](http://www.pfbf.org)  
&  
[www.pfbfef.org](http://www.pfbfef.org)

## Upcoming Events

**Greener Weiner**  
June 13<sup>th</sup> 11-3  
Willy St. Coop

*This fundraiser at the Willy St. Coop sells hot dogs, brats, and veggie dogs. We are the recipient of the funds this year. A giant thanks is owed to Willy St! Stop by and eat a dog for PrairieFire!*

**MREA**  
June 19-21  
Custer, WI

*This massive renewable energy fair is a plethora of knowledge. See above for more details and consider volunteering to man the display car!*

**Grand Re-opening Party**

*Coming as soon as fueling is up and running! There is sure to be meat and beer available for the masses, as well as soy and vegetables for us purists!*

## **Jatropha – Food-Free Fuel by Carolann Puster**

Have you heard about Jatropha? *Jatropha curcas* may be one of the best candidates in the world for biofuels feed stock. It is hardy, drought- and pest-resistant, and able to grow on marginal lands or wastelands. This perennial can grow in nearly 100 countries around the world, with climates varying from arid to tropical to temperate. In India alone, nearly 3 million hectares of wasteland will be converted to *Jatropha* plantations in the next 3 years. Studies are on-going to determine the best couple-crops to plant in tandem with *Jatropha*. The Center for *Jatropha* Promotion is

searching for the best partners for this fuel crop to provide its fertilizer needs, maintain or enrich nutrients in soil, and not compete for water.

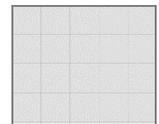
The seeds of this plant yield high amounts of oil – on average 35% of seed content is oil. Yield per hectare of *Jatropha* is ~ 25,000 gallons. This is up to 8 times the yield of soy! And, *Jatropha* is cheaper to grow and process (because it is NOT a food source, and can be grown on wastelands), so it costs less than 50% of soya oil per barrel.

In January, 2009, a Boeing

737 took a 2-hour test flight around Houston with one engine running on a B50 blend. A synthetic fuel was made with *Jatropha* (and a smidge of algae) then added to petroleum-based jet fuel. The bioblend has characteristics that out-perform petroleum-based jet fuel; it does not freeze at high-altitude temperatures, delivers the same or more power to the engines, and is lighter, as well. Air New Zealand and Japan Air are also testing 50:50 blends using *Jatropha* oil this year.

For more information about *Jatropha*, and biofuels in aircrafts, check out the links on the PFBF website.

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