

Curt Burns

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Curt Burns is a 1992 University of Minnesota graduate with a B.S. degree in Agronomy. He has worked as a certified crop advisor since 1994. Curt owns and operates a corn and soybean farm in Sibley County, MN, as well as an independent crop consulting business.

Dr. Dan Froehlich

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Director of Agronomy

Mosaic

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Dr. Dan Froehlich serves as Director of Agronomy for North America and Technical Marketing Lead for Mosaic. He is responsible for field technical support and the introduction and training of new product and service technologies, with special interest in high yield cropping systems.

Froehlich joined Cargill in 1990 as Agronomy Services Manager for Cargill's Seed Division. He joined Cargill Crop Nutrition, now The Mosaic Company, in 2001 as Worldwide Research and Development Manager.

Froehlich has B.S. and M.S. degrees from Iowa State University and earned a Ph. D. from the University of Minnesota.

Dennis R. Frame

Co-Director

Discovery Farms

University of Wisconsin – Extension

Dennis Frame was born and raised in Pleasant Prairie Wisconsin, milking cows, raising steers and growing crops in an area changing from agriculture to residential development. He attended the University of Wisconsin Farm and Industry Short Course in 1975 and switched to the degree program in 1976. Dennis received degrees from the University of Wisconsin – Madison in dairy science and animal science, minoring in agriculture economics. He did his masters in ruminant nutrition under the direction of Neil Jorgenson on the feeding of ultra filtration permeate as a replacement for corn in the diet.

Dennis left college and farmed in partnership on a dairy operation in northwestern Wisconsin in 1980. He joined UW – Extension in 1982 as the dairy and livestock agent in Wood County. After three years, he transferred to Green Bay and became the agriculture agent for Brown County. After two years, he was given the opportunity to become the agriculture agent in Trempealeau County. This area has a rich conservation history. Dennis became active in soil and water conservation education. When the nutrient management standard was being proposed, Dennis and a group of producers looked at the impacts of these rules and regulations on this part of the state. That study led to a new focus on environmental rules and regulations and the development of a statewide nutrient management-training program. Dennis became the co-director of the Discovery Farms program, a program designed to conduct environmental research on commercial operations.

The Discovery Farms Program is a producer lead research program that evaluates the impacts of varying farming systems on the environment. Once baseline information has identified practices that are negatively impacting the environment, the program invites agency personnel, farmers and researchers to identify alternative management practices. The farm is studied through the implementation phase to determine the effectiveness of these best management practices and to evaluate the affects on profitability. Dennis is involved in data collection, determining the economics of environmental regulations and maintaining the partnerships of this important program.

Dennis and his family live on a small farm in northern Trempealeau County. They maintain a herd of beef cattle and spend time fishing in western Wisconsin.

Dr. Brad C Joern

Professor of Agronomy
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Brad Joern specializes in soil chemistry, plant nutrition, and nutrient management planning. He is a national leader in comprehensive nutrient management planning, and the primary contact for the land application of livestock manures and industrial/municipal bio-solids in Indiana.

His research areas include evaluating how source water, drainage, P source rate and placement, and animal diet manipulations impact P loss from soil to water. Joern works with animal scientists to determine how diet manipulations impact the excretion of specific manure P compounds and how these compounds are absorbed by soil. He also works with plant physiologists to determine the physiological and molecular response(s) of plants to N, P and K nutrition.

Dr. John Lamb

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John Lamb is Professor and Extension Soil Scientist with the University of Minnesota. He has been with the University of Minnesota working in Nutrient Management for 25 years. Dr. Lamb has an appointment with teaching, research, and extension responsibilities. He teaches Basic Soil Science and co-teaches Nutrients in the Environment. He research and extension program is in nutrient management with sugar beets and crop that are grown in rotation with sugar beets.

Dr. Lamb received his Ph.D. in Soil Fertility and Soil Management at the University of Nebraska in 1984. He received his M.S. in Agronomy from Iowa State University in 1980 and his B.S. in Agronomy and Agricultural Economics from the University of Nebraska in 1978.

Dr. Dave Mengel

Department of Agronomy

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Dave Mengel was raised in the country near Crown Point, Indiana. He received his B.S. in Ag Education in 1970 and M.S. in Agronomy in 1972 from Purdue University and Ph.D. in Soil Science from North Carolina State University in 1975. Before serving as Head, Dave worked at the LSU Rice Experiment Station from 1975-1979 in rice production and fertilization, and at Purdue University from 1979-1998 in soil fertility and crop production extension, teaching and research.

During his tenure as Head, the Agronomy Farm Ashland Unit more than doubled in size, the Sorghum Improvement Center, Distance Masters program and crop variety licensing were initiated, and a cooperative agreement was developed with Oklahoma State University to jointly fund a canola production and breeding program for the two states.

Dave is an active member of the American Society of Agronomy and Soil Science Society of America. He served as Chair of Division A-4, Extension Education and S-8, Nutrient Management and Soil and Plant Analysis. A strong supporter of the CCA program and practicing agronomist's role in ASA, he was actively involved in the creation of Division A-9, Professional Practitioners, serving as the initial division past-chair, and represented the N.C. Region on the ASA Board of Directors.

Dave has received several awards, including the National Fertilizer Solutions Association Honorary Member Award in 1985, ASA Agronomic Achievement Award-Soils, in 1992 and Extension Education Award in 2003, and The Wagner Award from the Potash and Phosphate Institute in 2002. He was elected Fellow of ASA and SSSA in 1997.

John Moncrief

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Moncrief grew up on a 50-acre farm in New Jersey. With this agricultural upbringing, the Midwest was a natural place for John to migrate. He began his college education in forestry at the University of Wisconsin-Steven's Point but soon switched to soil science.

During his college years John discovered that he enjoyed the Midwest and wanted to stay. After earning a Master's in soil physics at Montana State University, he returned to Wisconsin to receive a Ph.D. at Madison. This path led to his current position as a professor in the University of Minnesota's Department of Soil, Water, and Climate.

Today John's research centers on conservation tillage and residue cover, looking specifically at how tillage management affects farmland and the environment.

Dr. Gary R. Sands

Associate Professor and Extension Engineer
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Dr. Sands earned a B.S. degree in 1980 from the University of Delaware; an M.S. degree in 1984 from the University of Kentucky; and a Ph.D. in 1995 from Colorado State University. He is a member of the American Society of Agricultural Engineers.

Sands' interests include land and water resources including: environmental impacts and sustainability of agricultural systems; measuring and modeling the impacts of water management systems; nutrient losses from artificially drained lands; water resource utilization; GIS applications in water resources; and water quality.

Brandon Schafer

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Brandon operates the pork enterprise at Schafer Farms, Inc. of Goodhue, MN. The farm consists of 1,600 sows, marketing 38,000 pigs per year. He is a partner in this 6th generation business with his brother and father. Brandon and his father operate the beef cow calf and seed stock enterprise of the business.

Brandon received his Animal Science Meat Animal Production Degree from the University of Wisconsin, River Falls, in 1994. He is a graduate of the MN Agriculture and Rural Leadership Program, and past president and current board director of the Minnesota Pork Producers Association. In this role he advocates on behalf of the MN and US pork industry in legislative, public policy, and industry image.

Schafer Farms has been recognized by the National Pork Board as the National Environmental Stewards for 2009. Also in 2009, Brandon was recognized as one of the top ten finalists for National Outstanding Young Farmer 2010 by the John Deere Corporation and the National Junior Chamber.

Dr. Albert L. Sims

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Dr. Sims earned a B.S. degree in 1983 from the University of Nebraska; a M.S. in 1987 from the University of Nebraska; and a Ph.D in 1992 from North Carolina State University.

He conducts research and extends research information dealing with fertility and fertilizer management as it pertains to the cropping systems in Northwest Minnesota. His primary focus has been nitrogen and phosphorus management associated with sugar beet production and the sugar beet industry. Sims also works in fertility management in spring wheat production.

Dr. Cliff Snyder

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Dr. Clifford S. (Cliff) Snyder is the Nitrogen Program Director for the International Plant Nutrition Institute (IPNI). He was named to this position in January of 2007, when IPNI was officially established. His responsibilities include coordinating efforts of the Institute dealing with environmental issues related to agricultural use of nitrogen fertilizers, in North America and internationally. He was formerly the Southeast Director (2002-2006) and the Mid-south Director (1995-2001) of the Potash & Phosphate Institute; and state soils specialist for the University of Arkansas (1984-1995).

Dr. Snyder received his Ph.D. in Soil Science and Forestry at North Carolina State University in 1984, after completing his M.S. in Agronomy in 1980 and B.S. in Agriculture in 1978, both at the University of Arkansas. He is based at Conway, Arkansas, USA.

Dr. Snyder was elected Fellow in the Soil Science Society of America (SSSA) in 2009 and Fellow in the American Society of Agronomy (ASA) in 2002. He was the 2000 Chair of the Soil Science Society of America (SSSA) Division S-8 (Nutrient Management and Soil and Plant Analysis) and 2006 Chair of ASA Division A-9 (Professional Practitioners). He served on the International Certified Crop Adviser Board from 2004 to 2007 and holds membership in the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Soil and Water Conservation Society, the International Fertilizer Society, the Council for Agricultural Science and Technology, and several other scientific organizations and honoraries. He was appointed to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Science Advisory Board (SAB) Hypoxia Advisory Panel in August 2006 and was involved in producing a 2007 report titled "Hypoxia in the Northern Gulf of Mexico." In March 2008, he was appointed to the U.S. EPA Farm, Ranch and Rural Communities Advisory.

Dr. Jeffrey S. Strock

Associate Professor

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Jeff Strock, Soil Scientist, conducts research in the areas of soil and water management and conservation. The public is becoming increasingly aware of environmental issues and placing higher

priority on improving environmental quality. One of the pivotal challenges to agricultural production is how to maintain profitability while at the same time preserving clean air and water.

Dr. Strock's research program, focused on nitrogen, provides valuable information to agricultural and non-agricultural stakeholders and policy makers about the associated risks, benefits, and costs of various management practices on agricultural production, profitability, and environmental quality. Agricultural production and environmental concerns related to nitrogen will continue to be the emphasis of applied research at the SWROC in order to provide practical, cost-effective solutions to environmental problems while maintaining farm profitability. In the future, this program will be positioned to address emerging issues as they relate to nitrogen, agricultural production, and environmental quality.

Lawrence Sukalski

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Lawrence Sukalski started farming in 1977. He lives in Martin County, on the Iowa border, with his wife Diane and 5 children. Part of the farm is the ground that his great grandfather purchased in 1885. The Sukalskis grow mostly corn and soybeans with conservation tillage practices. They have employed CRP (Conservation Reserve Program), RIM (Reinvest in Minnesota), CREP (Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program) and CSP (Conservation Security Program) practices on the farm.

The family has received several conservation awards including a National Award from Corn and Soybean Digest, American Soybean Growers, and Monsanto. Sukalski was appointed to Minnesota Governor Pawlenty's Conservation Legacy Council in 2006.