



# Agricultural Tour 2009 Indiana and Illinois

## August 24-28, 2009

### BIO-TOWN & WIND FARM

**BioTown** – See a small Indiana farming town making great strides towards its goal of total energy self sufficiency from biorenewable resources. Biotown's plans include converting biomass into energy, using agricultural and municipal wastes for electricity, and the Technology Suite which uses three complimentary systems: an anaerobic digester, gasifier and biodiesel generation package. [www.in.gov/biotownusa](http://www.in.gov/biotownusa)

**Wind Farm** – Jimmy Bricker of Perdue Extension Services will speak on farmer rights when dealing with wind turbine firms. With nearly 650 wind turbines approved and under construction in his county, Jimmy has loads of experience and will share his knowledge of land owner contracts for windmill installations. [www.windpoweringamerica.gov/filter\\_detail.asp?itemid=2123](http://www.windpoweringamerica.gov/filter_detail.asp?itemid=2123)

### MONSANTO TEST PLOT FARM

See what is coming to your farm today, tomorrow and ten years from now at the largest Monsanto test plot and research farm location.

- 3 greenhouses on site allow year round trials,
- population and nitrogen fixation rate research,
- regulated and replicated strip trials,
- 480 contiguous acres committed to applied research (lease an additional ~2000 acres).

### COMBINED FISH & HYDROPONIC VEGETABLE PRODUCTION OPERATION

This fascinating operation involves raising fish in captivity for human consumption and then using the fish waste products to fertilize hydroponically grown organic vegetables. The basic process is that the fish provide fertilizer for the plants which then clean the water for the fish. [www.aquaranch.com/article](http://www.aquaranch.com/article)

### FAMILY CHEESE PRODUCTION OPERATION

Ropp Jersey Cheese is a family dairy operation (60 Jerseys) producing specialty cheeses marketed around the world. This self contained cheese processing facility offers a wall of windows for viewing and educational tour purposes. Facility and process is USDA and Health Department certified and approved.

### NO-TIL SPECIALTY SOYBEAN PRODUCTION

This stop will feature grass research for biofuel. Host has the latest GPS toys, does custom work and works with North American producer groups.

### NO-TIL SPECIALTY CROPS (FRITO-LAY CORN)

This host offers tours to visiting Brazilian and Argentinean farmers and may have a group of 50 Brazilian farmers to share experiences and visit with.

### GRASS-FED BEEF BUSINESS

Host has done extensive cover crop, pasture management and genetic research on adapting cattle to thrive on solely grass-fed diets. Has own retail store for grass-fed beef.

### WABASH & ERIE CANAL

See the conservation and restoration of this historic site.

### TWO-STAGE DITCH PROJECT

Ditch designed for less management (self-cleaning) and ability to capture runoff of soil and nutrients. Has capacity both for 1" rainfall and heavy rain deluges.

### PRECISION PLANTING ON-FARM MANUFACTURING COMPANY

On-farm manufacturer designs and tests precision planter add-ons. Will include tour of test plots demonstrating improved seed spacing, depth and seedling management. Also has a dairy operation. [www.precisionplanting.com](http://www.precisionplanting.com)

Cost: IFAO Members – \$500.00 Non-members – \$575.00 – no GST  
Price includes coach & accommodations.

All accommodation includes breakfast. All other meals not included.

Deadline to register is July 31, 2009, if not filled before that date.

**For more information, contact Jim & Lorraine House**

Phone 519-769-2443, Fax 519-769-2777, 6650 Boxall Rd, RR 2, Port Stanley, ON N5L 1J2

***A PASSPORT IS REQUIRED TO CROSS THE BORDER INTO USA***

***Pick up points – Woodstock, London, Reece's Corners***

IFAO reserves the right to make changes to the tour as necessary. If time permits, we may make additional stops.  
This tour was arranged by the Innovative Farmers Association of Ontario.