

Kernza® CAP

For Immediate Release

Media Contact: Sienna Nesser, nesse059@umn.edu

2023 Kernza® Field Days Announced

Throughout the summer, farmers and research partners are hosting in-person field days across Minnesota, Wisconsin, North Dakota, Colorado and New Mexico in the United States, and in Sweden. Kernza, the first commercially available perennial grain in the US, prevents erosion, encourages water retention, and increases organic matter on farms. Supply chain partners are cleaning and processing Kernza and food companies across the country are turning Kernza into tasty products for consumers, including pasta, beer, bread, and baked goods. The following schedule of field days covers a range of topics, including Kernza breeding, production, processing, economics, ecosystem services and market development. An updated list will be released later in the summer.

Midwest

May 24 - Verona, WI

The Organic Cereals field day at West Madison Ag Research Station will include tours of wheat, barley, oat, and Kernza® plots and talks with the breeding teams. There will also be product samples crafted by local bakers. More info [here](#).

June 27 - Langdon, ND

The Langdon Research Extension Center is hosting a Soil Health Field Day that includes tours of Kernza demonstration plots as well as many other soil health topics. Organized by Naeem Kalwar and Clair Keene. More info [here](#). Event runs 8:45am - 3:30pm.

July 10 - St. Peter, MN

Great River Greening will host a Kernza focused field day from 5-8pm. More details available [here](#).

July 12 - Williston, ND

The Williston Research Extension Center Annual Field Day, organized by Clair Keene will take place from 4:00-7:00 pm, with a free supper served at 7:00. Clair will be presenting on Kernza and will be joined by Drs. Lindsay Malone and Kelsey Grisham, new soil scientists in the NDSU School of Natural Resource Sciences. More information [here](#).

July 13 - Madison, MN

A-Frame Farm is hosting a field tour for growers, processors, businesses, and policymakers to gain firsthand knowledge and connect with experienced Kernza stakeholders who will provide insight on best practices for harvesting, post-harvest handling, cleaning and marketing the nation's first perennial grain. Register [here](#).

July 14 - Morris, MN

The Sustainable Farming Association and West Central Research and Outreach Center will host a field day focused on Kernza grazing. More information and registration available [here](#).

July 29 - Stockholm, WI

The Lake Pepin Legacy Alliance will host Kernza Fest in conjunction with their annual benefit concert. This family-friendly event will focus on Wisconsin farmers and water issues. More information and registration to come [here](#).

August 5 - Walworth County, WI (near East Troy)

This [Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin](#) members-only field trip brings guests to a farm where they will tour a production field of Kernza, sample Kernza products, and walk adjacent pollinator strips to see how multiple conservation practices can fit together. Led by Nicole Tautges, Kata Young, and Steffen Mirsky. Registration closed.

August 9 - East Troy, WI

The Michael Fields Agricultural Institute (MFAI) is hosting a field day featuring the Institute's production field of third-year Kernza interplanted with clovers, as well as alternative crops for grain rotations, including hemp, millet, dry beans, and more. Lunch will be provided and will include dishes made with the alternative crops you will see in the field! Register and find more info [here](#).

August 17 - Westport, MN

Pope County SWCD is hosting a field day focused on Kernza and water quality at Rosholt Research Farm. The event will run from 9am to 1 pm. Register and find more information [here](#).

September 6 - Charles City, IA

Jóia Food and Fiber Farm will host a diversified agriculture systems field day including grazing, agroforestry, and Kernza from 12-2pm. Field day and complementary meal for farmers, landowners, and conservation professionals. Please RSVP by August 31 to ILF@iastate.edu or (515) 294-5429.

September 30 - St. Peter, MN

Great River Greening will host a water quality and conservation focused event at 7 Mile Creek Park in St. Peter, Minnesota, from 4:30-7:30pm. This family friendly event will feature Kernza and continuous living cover crops, local farm-to-table foods, and fun activities. Find more information and RSVP [here](#).

October 11 - Kellogg, MN

Clean River Partners will host a field day at White Barn Acres that will demonstrate fall grazing on a Kernza field. This field day will also include a presentation about the MN Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program (MAWQCP). More information will be available soon [here](#).

Intermountain West**July 20 - Fruita, CO**

Colorado State University's Western Colorado Research Center field day will feature Kernza and its potential in the low-precipitation environments of the Western Slope with limited irrigation. More information will be available [here](#).

August 17 - Farmington, New Mexico

New Mexico Agricultural Science Center at Farmington will include Kernza in the annual field day. More info will be available [here](#).

August 25 - Yellow Jacket, CO

Southwestern Colorado Research Center annual field day will include Kernza research plots. It will start at 5pm and there will be more information [here](#).

International Field Days

June 9 – Alnarp, Sweden

Kernza field day for members of the VIKING project (Validating the Introduction of Kernza In the Nordic-Baltic reGion), hosted by Swedish Agricultural University (SLU).

June 19 – Alnarp, Sweden

Kernza field day hosted by SITES (Long term research infrastructure) of SLU.

June 21 – Mariedal Castle farm, Lundsbrunn, Sweden

Kernza field day for farmers and advisors, showing Kernza fields in first and second production years.

We encourage the public to register for a Kernza field day this summer to see this new crop, try products featuring Kernza, and see what growers, industry, and researchers are doing to expand this new perennial grain on the landscape.

“Field Days are a unique opportunity for learning, exploring and connecting, especially for a new crop like Kernza,” says Dr. Nicole Tautges of the Michael Fields Agricultural Institute in Wisconsin, “Researchers, growers, millers, bakers, brewers, chefs, and processors are rapidly expanding their Kernza knowledge every year and these field days are a dynamic and immediate way to exchange that knowledge. We encourage anyone who is interested to come out and learn more about the economic, environmental and community benefits of Kernza.”

Al Kraus of Clean River Partners in Northfield, Minnesota, says, “I’ve been working with Kernza growers from across Southeast Minnesota for over five years. They are seeing the soil health and economic value that Kernza brings to their rotations. These field days are an excellent opportunity for growers to learn how Kernza adds farm profitability, while it also improves soil and protects water. This is extremely important where groundwater is at risk.”

The Kernza®CAP project is supported by AFRI Sustainable Agricultural Systems Coordinated Agricultural Program (SAS-CAP) grant no. 2020-68012-31934 from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture. The project supports over 80 researchers, students, business leaders, nonprofit professionals, and farmers across the country to demonstrate the viability of new perennial cropping systems. More information can be found at kernza.org/kernzacap.