

Certified Biomass Procurement Specialist
Switchgrass Unit
Teacher Profiles

Dr. Christopher Clark is an Associate Professor in the Department of Agricultural & Resource Economics at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Dr. Clark performs research on a variety of topics in environmental and natural resource economics. He teaches graduate and undergraduate courses in natural resource economics and an undergraduate course in agricultural and environmental law. He earned a J.D. from Tulane University and a Ph.D. in Economics from Vanderbilt University. Dr. Clark has been involved in a number of studies of – and published-and-presented a number of papers on – legal and economic considerations related to the production of bio-fuel feedstock. The material he presents is largely drawn from this work.

Dr. John Fulton is Associate Biosystems Engineering Professor and Extension Specialist at Auburn University. He is the leader of the Extension Agronomy team. His work includes:

- Use of Precision Agriculture Technologies for Natural Resource Management in Alabama
- A Systems Approach to Sustain and Stimulate the Agricultural Economy of Alabama
- Environmental and Economic Impacts of Biomass Production

Dr. Fulton is a graduate of Wittenberg University and holds a Ph.D. from the University of Kentucky.

Ken Goddard works for the University of Tennessee Extension Service. He is the go-to guy for all things switchgrass. Ken has served Tennessee farmers for the past 40 years; 32, years as Henry County Extension Director and, since 2008, Ken has been a bio-fuels specialist. He has more than 60 switchgrass producers in ten East Tennessee counties growing over 5,000 acres.

Mark Hall is the Sustainable Energy Specialist for the Alabama Cooperative Extension System. He coordinates and provides leadership for educational

programs pertaining to production and utilization of sustainable fuels and the production of feedstocks for renewable energy in Alabama.

Dr. Sam Jackson is Vice President for Feedstock Development & Supply at Genera Energy. He is nationally recognized for his work to develop biomass feedstock supply chains for bio-energy and bio-products, particularly working with researchers and farmers to pioneer the establishment and management of switchgrass as a bio-energy feedstock. As a faculty researcher at the University of Tennessee, his work has focused on developing sustainable, practical, and economical biomass supply chain solutions. Dr. Jackson is a founding Board Member of the Council on Sustainable Biomass Production. He has a B.S., an M.S. and a Ph.D. from the University of Tennessee.

Tom Keene works for the University of Kentucky as an Agronomy Specialist. He works closely with agents and producers to help establish, harvest, package, store, test, transport and sell switchgrass on 30 different farms in 12 northeastern Kentucky counties. He also works with farmers on hay production and marketing throughout Kentucky.

Tom worked as an agricultural manager for both Spendthrift Farm and North Ridge Farm in Lexington, Kentucky for nine years. His primary responsibilities were maintaining and improving forage quality for all horse pastures. Tom was also responsible for the procurement of all hay and straw needs for those thoroughbred operations. For 16 years, he was a hay and straw broker with Charles T. Creech, Inc. in Lexington, Kentucky. He is also past President of the American Forage and Grassland Council and is currently President of the National Forage Testing Association.

Dr. G. Neil Rhodes, Jr., is Professor of Weed Science and has served as the Extension Weed Management Specialist at the University of Tennessee since 1985. He has been responsible for the statewide educational program for weed management in all row crops, forages and aquatics. He also maintains an active applied research and Extension program in weed management in forages, biofuels, tobacco and aquatics. He is a Past- President of both the Tennessee Agricultural Chemical Association and the Tennessee Agricultural Production Association. Dr. Rhodes has been named the Outstanding Extension Weed Scientist by the Weed

Science Society of America, and has received the Distinguished Service Award from the Tennessee Turfgrass Association. Neil and his wife Becky Eure Rhodes were named as co-winners of the Outstanding Alumnus Award from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at North Carolina State University.

Dr. Steve Taylor is Professor and head of the Department of Biosystems Engineering and he is the director of Auburn's Center for Bioenergy and Bioproducts. He is a registered professional engineer.

He graduated from the University of Florida and has a Ph.D. from Texas A& M. More importantly, both his mama and his daddy were Extension Agents. He has conducted research on forest harvesting and transportation systems including forest roads, stream crossings and portable bridge systems.

Dr. Don Tyler was raised on a tobacco and beef cattle farm near Lowes, Kentucky. He graduated from Murray State University with a B.S. degree in Agriculture and Chemistry. He received his M.S. degree and Ph.D. in soil chemistry from the University of Kentucky. Since graduating he has been employed by the University of Tennessee in the Biosystems Engineering and Soil Science Department. He is stationed at the West Tennessee Research and Education Center at Jackson, Tennessee. His research has emphasized no-tillage cropping systems, soil erosion, and cover crops. He is presently involved with a large team investigating biomass cropping systems, mainly switchgrass, for energy production.

Jon Walton is a feedstock systems analyst at Genera Energy. He studied under Burt English at the University of Tennessee and has worked closely with Ken Goddard. He has experience working with farmers growing switchgrass.