

Sunflower day promotes crop, education

By Kathryn Burke

The Goodland Star-News
Goodland, the "Sunflower Capital of the High Plains," will be holding the seventh annual Sunflower Celebration Field Day and Ag Show on Friday.

Lynn Hoelting, general manager at Mueller Grain, said the show will give farmers a chance to learn more about growing sunflowers. He said it is a chance to spur some growth in sunflower production here.

"In the industry right now," he said, "we've got more demand than we have producers for sunflowers."

The show starts at 7 a.m. on Friday, Aug. 12, at the Sherman County Fairgrounds 4-H building, 417 North Main. Hoelting said the program is free and open to all farmers.

"Come one, come all," he said. The day will start with coffee and rolls during registration. Next they will make introductions and presentations.

At 8 a.m., buses will leave to take participants to the High Plains Research and Technology Center dryland sunflower plot, next to the Northern Sun Archer Daniels Midland sunflower oil processing plant at Caruso.

The group will take a tour of the research and the yield trials plots. The center plants dryland NuSun, traditional oil, high oleic oil and confection sunflower varieties. The research trials include herbicide, fertility, tillage practices and water usage, insecticide, plant population, date of planting, compaction



and sunflower insect plots. "It will give them an idea of what works and what doesn't," Hoelting said. "It'll be a real good source of

information." At 9 a.m., the group will move to Ken Palmgren's irrigated sunflowers, located about two miles north

of Edson on Road 28 and one-half mile west, to check to research and yield trials pots there.

Participants will get to see rota-

tional studies where sunflowers have been initiated in the various plots simulating farm production practices here.

At 11 a.m., lunch will be served back at the 4-H building.

Hoelting said sunflowers have the most potential to grow in this area. The plants tolerate drought well and will use nutrients in the soil that others can't reach.

"If you can grow corn," he said, "you can grow sunflowers."

Hoelting said the show has been put together by the National Sunflower Association, Kansas State University Research and Extension, Colorado State University Extension, the federal Agriculture Research Service, area sunflower processors and industry supporters. He said the day will focus on promotion and education for farmers and business people.

He said the turnout normally is from 150 to 200 people. Last year, he said, they did not have a festival because dry weather hit the sunflower crop.

Sponsors also include the Kemp Sugar Co.; Red River Commodities; SIGCO Sun Products; Goodland Greenline; the Goodland School District; the City of Goodland; the Goodland Chamber of Commerce; the *High Plains Journal*; S & T Telephone Cooperative; Goodland Coca-Cola; Scheopner's Water Conditioning; Servi-Tech, Inc.; Goodland Wal-Mart Supercenter; Dorman Brothers LLC; Eagle Cable TV; KBSL TV; KLOE, KKCI and KWGB Radio; *The Goodland Star-News*; Bankwest; First National Bank; Western State Bank; Croplan Genetics; Fontanelle Hybrids; Garst/Interstate Seeds; Kaystar Seeds; Monsanto; Mycogen Seeds; Pioneer Hi-Bred International; SEEDS 2000; and Triumph Seed Co.

Questions about the tour can be directed to the association at 888-718-7033, www.sunflowernsa.com, the Goodland Chamber of Commerce at 785-899-7130, gdlchmbr@eaglecom.net, or Hoelting at Mueller Grain, 890-3639.

Sunflower Celebration Field Day/Ag Show
Friday, August 12, 2005
7 a.m. M.D.T.

Sherman County Fairgrounds
 4-H Building

For more information contact:
 Lynn Hoelting, Mueller Grain (800) 356-1130
 Sunflower research and variety plot tours. Transportation provided.

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