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HIGHLIGHTED TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER PRESENTATION

The Tallgrass Prairie Center at the University of Northern Iowa is comprised of 3 major program areas: the Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management (IRVM) Program, the Iowa Ecotype Project and the Prairie Institute. The mission of the Center is to develop research, techniques, education and source-identified seed for restoration and preservation of prairie vegetation in rights-of-way and other lands.

In June 2008, the Center was awarded the first Iowa Power Fund grant to determine the most efficient means of utilizing prairie plants for sustainable production of biomass for electrical generation while maintaining wildlife habitat and other prairie conservation. With the cooperation of the Cedar Falls Utilities, the biomass product of this applied research project will be "test burned" in their stoker-fired furnace. Tallgrass Prairie Center director, Dr. Daryl Smith, will provide a brief overview of the center and describe the biomass research project.