

Certified Biomass Procurement Specialist Program Switchgrass Unit

UNIT 1

- **Renewable sustainable energy – Steve Taylor** – Professor and head of the Auburn University Department of Biosystems Engineering and Director of the Center for Bioenergy and Bioproducts
Learning objective – Students gain a macro understanding of renewable, sustainable energy
- **Introduction to Switchgrass – Source of Energy or Folly? – Tomas Keene** – University of Kentucky agronomy specialist
Learning objective – For students to understand the agronomic and environmental advantages and disadvantages of switchgrass
- **Site selection, soils, drainage, fertility and varieties – Don Tyler** – University of Tennessee, Biosystems Engineering and Soil Science Department
Learning objective – For students to have adequate agronomic competence about site selection, soils, drainage, fertility and varieties to work with producers establishing switchgrass.

UNIT 2

- **Selecting growers – Ken Goddard** –University of Tennessee Extension Specialist
Learning objective – To give students a working knowledge of what attributes are needed for a switchgrass grower to be successful.
- **Contracts – Chris Clark** – University of Tennessee, Department Agriculture & Resource Economics Associate Professor
Learning objective – For students to have a macro understanding of grower/processor contracts.
- **Systems of Production – Ken Goddard** –University of Tennessee Extension Specialist
Learning objective – For students to have adequate agronomic competence about the different switchgrass systems of production that they can work with a new grower and successfully establish a stand.

UNIT 3

- **Drill calibration and seed placement – Jon Walton** – Genera Energy Feedstock Systems Analyst
Learning objective – For students to have adequate mechanical competence about drilling switchgrass seeds that they can work with a new grower and successfully establish a stand.
- **Weed Control and pesticide safety – Neil Rhodes** – University of Tennessee Professor of Weed Science
Learning objective – For students to have adequate agronomic, environmental and legal competence about switchgrass weed control that they can work with a new grower and successfully control weeds in a stand.
- **Switchgrass Hay and Grazing – Pat Keyser** – University of Tennessee, Professor and Director for the Center for Native Grasslands Management
Learning objective – For students to understand how and when to harvest hay and graze switchgrass then maximize yield nutrient quality and palatability.

UNIT 4

- **Precision Ag Technology – John Fulton** – Auburn University Associate Biosystems Engineering Professor and Extension Specialist
Learning objective – Students will gain a macro understanding of precision ag technology.
- **Harvesting – Jon Walton** – Genera Energy Feedstock Systems Analyst
Learning objective – For students to have adequate agronomic and mechanical competence about harvest timing and selecting harvesting equipment that they can work with a grower and successfully harvest a stand.
- **Looking beyond harvest – Sam Jackson** –Genera Energy Vice President for Feedstock Development and Supply
Learning objective – Students gain a macro understanding of what happens to switchgrass when it leaves the field.