

For Immediate Release  
Coon Rapids – Whiterock Conservancy Planning To Commemorate Historic  
Khrushchev Visit and Celebrate 50 Years of Agricultural Progress

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The Coon Rapids Development Group, working with planners from Des Moines, Whiterock Conservancy, and local organizations is planning a full day of activities as part of the state's 3-day "Khrushchev In Iowa" celebration. This August 27 – 29 event commemorates the 50 year anniversary of Russian Premier Nikita Khrushchev's visit to Iowa. August 28 there will be a conference and banquet at Hotel Fort Des Moines, and the next day, Saturday, August 29, will be an all-day Agricultural Progress Day in Coon Rapids (70 miles NW of Des Moines).

Activities in the town of Coon Rapids are being coordinated with activities at the Garst Farm, now part of Whiterock Conservancy. Events at the farm will include its dedication as a national historic site and presentations on both historical and current day significance of positive Iowa-Russia relations.

City activities will celebrate fifty years of agricultural progress. The event will kick off with an "Agricultural Progress Parade," providing equipment owners and manufactures with an opportunity show off restored and new equipment.

The interchange between Iowans and USSR agricultural managers that began in 1959, led to years of profitable sales of seed and agricultural equipment. In fact, quite a few Coon Rapids residents traveled to Russia and other Iron Curtain countries to set up and provide training on tractors and planting and harvesting equipment.

"Russian leaders were impressed with our technology in 1959. They will be more impressed today seeing 50 years of advances in seed, chemical, and equipment and product production technology," says Doug Carpenter, CRDG President. "Parade participants are encouraged to show off both historical and modern equipment. Prizes will be award to outstanding parade participants."

Space will be available on Main Street for companies to demonstrate and provide information on their services and products. The Committee will soon be defining costs associated with those spaces."

In addition to the parade and demonstrations, downtown events will include speeches by dignitaries as well as educational exhibits, a family fun area on Main Street, and tours of the Syngenta test plot. This year the plot will include a planting demonstrating the history of corn from early maize varieties to modern hybrids. Planners are also working with local organizations to provide food and entertainment including an original two-person play and an evening street dance.

Many national, state, and Russian dignitaries are expected to participate in the Khrushchev in Iowa commemoration, as well as news media. It is likely that the Coon Rapids day will draw quite a crowd. Anyone interested should sign up for updates from the CRDG, or check out the background information and plans for the state-wide event that are available on Whiterock Conservancy's website: [www.whiterockconservancy.org](http://www.whiterockconservancy.org).

Organizations or individuals considering participating in the parade, product or technology demonstrations, or food and Iowa-made products sales should email [CRDG@crmu.net](mailto:CRDG@crmu.net) or call Martha Sibbel at 712-999-7658 to get on the group's mailing list. Questions regarding the overall statewide commemoration should be referred to Rachel Garst at 712-999-7031.

**KHRUSHCHEV IN IOWA:  
CELEBRATING AGRICULTURE'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO INTERNATIONAL  
UNDERSTANDING**

**Tentative Schedule: August 27–29, 2009**

**Wednesday, August 26<sup>th</sup> 2009**

**Russian delegation arrives**

**Thursday, August 27, 2009**

**Agricultural tours for visiting dignitaries and reporters**

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|-------------|---|
| 8:30–9:30   | Bus trip to Iowa State  |
| 9:30–11:30  | Tour of <b>Iowa State University's Bio-Century Research Farm</b> —an integrated biomass production, processing, and utilization facility that is used to research and teach about sustainable production, harvesting, storage, and transportation of biomass that is used for biofuels and bioproducts. |
| 11:30-12:00 | Travel to private farm  |
| 12:00-2:30  | Tour of private farm, Lincoln Way Energy, and a steak fry by area cattlemen   |
| 4:00–4:45   | Travel to Hotel Fort Des Moines   |

**Evening event: “Khrushchev in Iowa” inaugural event at Drake University, Des Moines**

Presenter: David Maxwell, President of Drake University

Featured speaker: William Taubman, prize-winning author of *Khrushchev: The Man and His Era*

Other panelists to be determined

Private dinner before, public reception afterward

(Events hosted by Drake University, the Des Moines Public Library, Simpson College, and the Iowa Council for International Understanding)

**Friday, Aug 28<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

**Friday morning agricultural tours for visiting dignitaries and reporters**

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|-------------|--|
| 8:00–8:30   | Travel to Pioneer Hi-Bred, a DuPont Business |
| 8:30–11:30  | Tour and meal at Pioneer's Research Facility |
| 11:30–12:00 | Return to Hotel Fort Des Moines              |

12:00–1:00 Private Lunch

**Friday afternoon “Khrushchev in Iowa” Conference, Hotel Fort Des Moines**  
**“Celebrating Agriculture’s Contributions to International Understanding”**  
**“Two Countries Meet: Agricultural Innovation and Citizen Diplomacy”**

Welcome and introductions

Concurrent Sessions

*Feeding a Hungry World: Agricultural Progress, Productivity, and Sustainability*

*Iowa’s Traditions of Citizen Diplomacy in the Context of US-Russia Relations*

**Friday evening “Khrushchev in Iowa” Public Banquet, Hotel Fort Des Moines**  
**Speakers: Sergei Khrushchev and high-ranking US, Russia, and Iowa officials.**  
**(This banquet will recreate the menu served to Premier Khrushchev in 1959)**

**Saturday, August 29, 2009**

8:00–10:30 Travel from Des Moines to Coon Rapids

**Coon Rapids “Agricultural Progress Day”**

10:30–12:00	Parade of farm machinery throughout the years
12:00-1:00	Commemorative speeches on Main Street
1:00–2:00	Private luncheon under the tent at the Garst Farmhouse
2:00-3:00	Garst Farmstead commemoration, with speeches by visiting dignitaries and dedication of the Garst Farmhouse for its listing on the National Register of Historic Places
3:00-4:00	Performance of original play on Garst-Khrushchev friendship
5:00-6:00	Private reception at Garst River House
All afternoon	Main Street equipment displays and demonstrations, family fun, and food and Iowa products sales
Evening	Rock-and-Roll on Main Street sponsored by the Coon Rapids Fire and Ambulance departments.