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Climbing Energy Costs

(0:25)

Energy costs will continue to rise and probably at a greater rate than general living costs.

University of Minnesota forester Robert Erickson says a cutoff date for importation of natural gas from Canada to the United States is not too far in the future. This cutoff probably affects Minnesota as much or more than any state along the Canadian border.

It's probably unlikely that individual homes will be cut off from natural gas, but a redistribution of the supply will probably occur.

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Rough Fish

(0:48)

Rough fish can be an economic boon for some Minnesotans, says University of Minnesota Food Scientist Eugene Sander.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources estimates that 17 million pounds of carp, sheepshead, suckers, buffalo, tulupec and burbot can be harvested annually. Add to this a sustained supply generated by fish agriculture in marginal walleye lakes and farm ponds and we have generated a new source of revenue for rural Minnesota.

University researchers are adapting fish processing techniques, de-boning and extrusion shaping, for the use of minced rough fish in recognized consumer products, such as cakes and sticks. Sander says the resulting products are tasty and palatable in every respect.

The Minnesota scientists are also experimenting with ways to combine extrusion with other shape-setting and texture-improving techniques such as product contact with steam, microwaves or freezing liquified gases. * * * *

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