

Updates on USDA Programs Supporting the BioEconomy

Todd Campbell
USDA Rural Development

**Biomass Research and Development
Technical Advisory Committee Meeting**
May 22, 2012



USDA Biomass Activity Briefing

- **USDA 150th Anniversary**
- **Rural Energy for America Progress Report**
- **Updated BioPreferred Regulation**
- **Applications closed on REAP grants, BCAP, BRDI**
- **Questions and Discussion**

USDA Celebrates 150th Anniversary

- May 15, 1862- Law signed by President Lincoln creating a new Department of Agriculture with a mandate to “acquire and diffuse information on subjects connected to Agriculture in the most general and comprehensive sense of the word....”
- Morrill Act of 1862 established Federal Land Grant Colleges for the teaching of Agriculture and Engineering
- Homestead Act of 1862 granted land to settlers to improve and cultivate land west of Mississippi River, apply for deed

USDA Celebrates 150th Anniversary

- Presidential Proclamation recognizing agriculture and the men and women of USDA who have faithfully served our Nation for 150 years, “For their commitment, our fields grow richer, our abundance grows greater, and our country stands stronger”: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2012/05/14/presidential-proclamation-150th-anniversary-united-states-department-agr>
- For more information on 150 years of USDA, go to: <http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?navid=USDA150>



Rural Energy for America Progress Report

- The Impact of the Rural Energy for America Program on Promoting Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy
- During 2009-11 period for biomass projects:
 - 158 projects
 - \$29.1 million in grants
 - \$56.2 million in loan guarantees
 - Projects leveraged nearly \$235 million in matching funds

Rural Energy for America Progress Report

- During 2009-11 period for biomass projects:
 - Also during that same time an additional \$1.18 million was awarded to 55 biomass related feasibility study planning grants.
 - Anticipated to generate 2.5 million megawatt hours of renewable energy, enough power to meet the annual needs equivalent of around 230,000 households
- For the full report go to:
<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/Reports/rdREAPReportMarch2012.pdf>

Rural Energy for America Program

- For FY 2012 funding was limited to ~\$25M, nearly 60% reduction in mandatory funding
- March 30th grant application deadline
- June 30th deadline for loan guarantee applications

Updated BioPreferred Regulation

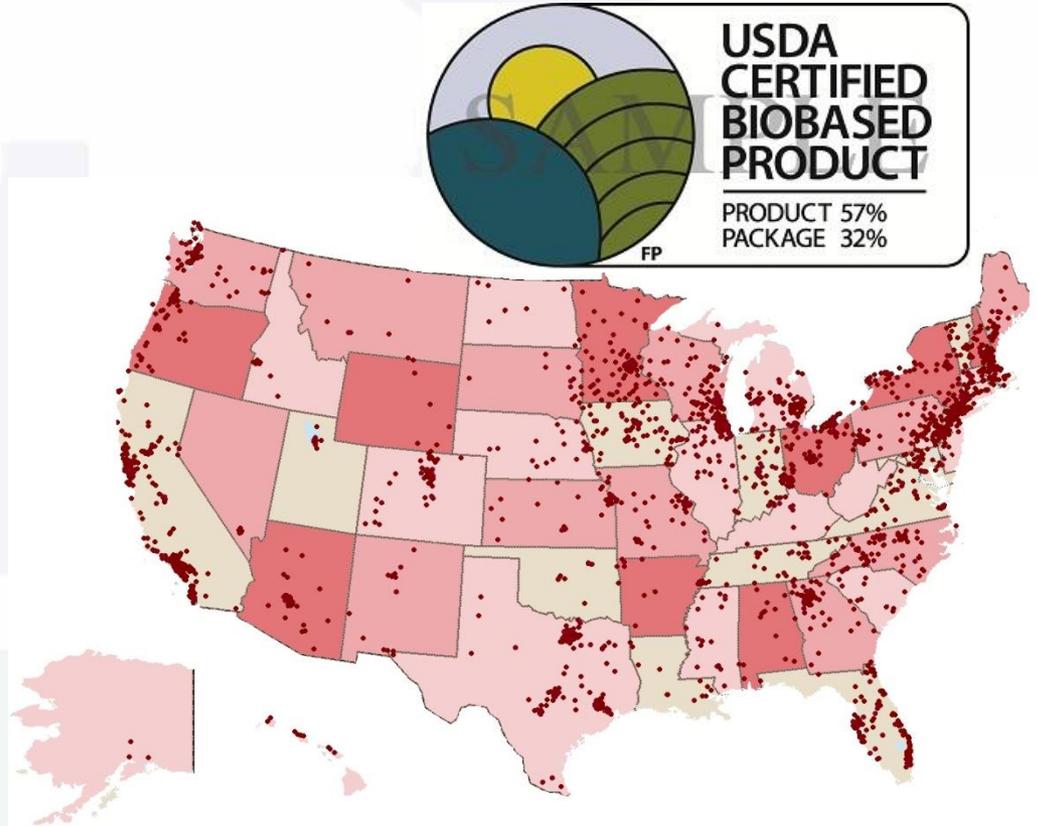
- New proposed guidelines for the USDA BioPreferred program to expand the ability of USDA to designate biobased products
- Proposing intermediate ingredients such as fibers, resins, and chemicals so that products made from them could more easily be designated for preferred Federal procurement

Updated BioPreferred Regulation

- USDA will accept public comments on these proposed rule amendments until July 2, 2012
- Email comments: biopREFERRED@usda.gov, Include 0503-AA40 and “Proposed amendments to BioPreferred Program Guidelines” in subject line.
- <https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2012/05/01/2012-10420/guidelines-for-designating-biobased-products-for-federal-procurement>

One Year of BioPreferred

- BioPreferred Program
- 3,100 companies,
100,000+ workers,
25,000 products
- Goal of doubling
products/ categories
- Procurement
performance goals for
new contract actions



Other USDA Biomass Programs

- Biomass Crop Assistance Program applications were due in April
 - Funding limited to \$17 million available, a reduction of 96 percent from funding levels available last spring
- Biomass Research and Development Grant pre-applications due in April
- Biorefinery Assistance Program not accepting applications at this time



Thank You!
Questions and Discussion

todd.campbell@osec.usda.gov



Committed to the future of rural communities.