

# **Energy and Agriculture Departments Award \$23 Million In Joint Biomass Research And Development Initiative**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) today announced the selection of 19 projects that will receive federal funding under a joint biomass solicitation. Proposals were requested for biomass research, development and demonstration projects earlier this year. Biomass is forest and agricultural crop residue and feedstocks that can be used as a renewable energy source.

The 2002 Farm Bill allocated \$75 million to USDA over six years to fund research, development and demonstration projects under the Biomass Research and Development Act of 2000. The legislation established a governing board co-chaired by USDA and DOE.

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service and DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy coordinated efforts to issue a joint solicitation that is awarding nearly \$16 million in USDA funding and more than \$7 million from DOE appropriations. About 400 proposals were received requesting more than \$370 million. All eligible proposals were competitively evaluated in a three-step process that included a joint USDA-DOE technical merit review, cost analysis and review.

Following is a list of the 19 selected projects:

## **DOE Projects**

Trustees of Dartmouth (Hanover, N.H.)—Integration of Leading Biomass Pretreatment Technologies with Enzymatic Digestion and Hydrolyzate Fermentation, Principal Investigator: Dr. Charles E. Wyman (603) 646-3193

University of Florida (Gainesville, Fla.)—Engineering Thermotolerant Biocatalysts for Biomass Conversion to Products, Principal Investigator: K.T. Shanmugam (352) 392-2490

PureVision Technology, Inc. (Ft. Lupton, Colo.)—Demonstration of PureVision Biorefinery, Principal Investigator: Ed Lehrburger (303) 857-4530

Cargill, Inc. (Minneapolis, Minn.)—Platform Chemicals from an Oilseed Biorefinery, Principal Investigator: Jim Millis (952) 742-3041

## **USDA Projects**

Metabolix, Inc. (Cambridge, Mass.)—Advanced Biorefinery Feedstocks, Principal Investigator: Dr. Oliver Peoples (617) 492-0505, ext. 212

Utah State University (Logan, Utah)—Research and Demonstration of Anaerobic System on a Large Dairy Farm, Principal Investigator: Dr. Conly Hansen (435) 797-2188

Earth Resources, Inc. (Carnesville, Ga.)—Animal Waste Management-Chicken Litter to Energy, Principal Investigator: Billy Jones (706) 384-4880

West Central Cooperative (Ralston, Iowa)—New Technologies for Production of Methyl Esters, Principal Investigator: Jeffrey Stroburg (712) 667-3321

Clemson University (Clemson S.C.)—Heterogeneous Catalyst Development for Biodiesel Synthesis, Principal Investigator: James G. Goodwin, Jr. (864) 656-6614

New Energy Solutions, Inc. (Pittsfield MA)—Design and Demonstration of a Commercial Prototype for Onsite Production of High Purity Hydrogen from Farm Animal Wastes, Principal Investigator: Valerie Maston (413) 822-1155

Archer Daniels Midland Company (Quincy IL, Decatur IN)—Biomass Research and Development for the Production of Fuels, Chemicals, and Improved Cattle Feed, Principal Investigator: Charles A. Abbas (217) 451-4220

GrainValue, LLC (St. Paul MN)—GrainValue Process: Pre-Commercialization Trials, Principal Investigator: Daniel W. Karl, Ph.D. (651) 690-9517

Pennsylvania State University (University Park PA)—Coupled Processes for Bioenergy Production: Biological Hydrogen Linked with Microbial Fuel Cells, Principal Investigator: John M. Regan (814) 865-9436

Iowa State University (Ames IA)—Biopolymers and Other Value-Added Products from Distillers' Dried Grains, Contact: Thane Peterson (515) 294-5225

Local Energy (Tesuque NM)—Biomass-Fired District Energy: A Source of Economic Development and Energy Security, Principal Investigator: Mark Sardella (505) 820-2312

Vermont's Alternative Energy Corporation (Willston VT)—Steps Towards a Biorefinery Industry in Vermont, Principal Investigator: Dr. T. Guy Roberts (802) 660-0440 ext. 108

Texas Agricultural Experiment Station (College Station TX)—Biomass for Tomorrow's Energy and Greenhouse Gas Management Needs: An Economic, Engineering and Environmental Appraisal of Opportunities and Policies, Principal Investigator: Mahmoud M. El-Halwagi (979) 845-3484

Sebesta, Blomberg & Associates, Inc. (Roseville, Minn.)—Biomass Cogeneration Demonstration Plant at Central Minnesota Ethanol Cooperative, Principal Investigator: Cecil T. Massie, PE (651) 634-7242

T.R. Miles Technical Consultants, Inc. (Portland, Ore.)—Feasibility of an Integrated System for Improving the Economic and Environmental Performance of Poultry and Ethanol Production in North Alabama, Principal Investigator: Thomas R. Miles (503) 292-0107