

USDA Update on the Expanding Bioeconomy



Todd Campbell

Policy Advisor, Energy and Bioeconomy

BIOMASS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MARCH 5TH, 2015



USDA Update

- **Farm Bill Programs**
 - BCAP
 - REAP
 - BRDI
 - And more!
- **New Search Engine for USDA Research**
- **President's 2016 Budget Proposal on Manufacturing Innovation Institutes**



Advanced Biofuel Payment Program

- \$5.6 million in grants to 220 producers across the nation to support the production of advanced biofuels.
- Payments are made to eligible producers based on the amount of advanced biofuel produced from renewable biomass, other than corn kernel starch.
- Examples of eligible feedstocks include but are not limited to: crop residue; animal, food and yard waste; vegetable oil; and animal fat.
- View the [list of producers](#) receiving payments here.



Biodiesel Fuel Education Program

- The National Biodiesel Board and Regents of the University of Idaho received \$768,000 and \$192,000.
- Program established to stimulate biodiesel consumption and development of biodiesel infrastructure.
- The funded education and outreach activities will raise awareness of biodiesel fuel use among governmental and private entities that operate vehicle fleets and the public.
- Funded projects also focus on educational programs supporting advances in infrastructure, technology transfer, fuel quality, fuel safety and increasing feedstock production.



Sun Grant Initiative

- South Dakota State University (SDSU) received \$2.3 million through the Sun Grant Program.
- This program encourages bioenergy and biomass research collaboration between government agencies, land-grant colleges and universities, and the private sector.
- SDSU will lead a consortium of five regional grant centers and one subcenter that makes competitive grants to projects that contribute to research, education and outreach for the regional production and sustainability of possible biobased feedstocks.
- The project period will not exceed five years.
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Critical Agricultural Materials Program

- Iowa State University received \$1 million to develop new paint, coating, and adhesive products derived from acrylated glycerol, a co-product of biodiesel.
- The program supports the development of products manufactured from domestically-produced agricultural materials and are of strategic and industrial importance to benefit the economy, defense, and general well-being of the nation.
- Many such products replace petroleum-based products and offer opportunities to create new businesses and new markets for agricultural materials.



Rural Energy for America Program

- More than \$280 million available to eligible applicants.
- Application deadlines vary by project type and the type of assistance requested. Details on how to apply are on [page 78029 of the December 29, 2014 Federal Register](#) or by contacting [state Rural Development offices](#).
- Grants for up to 25 percent (max \$500,000 for RES, \$250,000 for EE) and loan guarantees up to 75 percent (max \$25M) of total project costs for renewable energy systems and energy efficiency improvements.
- The REAP application window expanded, will accept and review loan and grant applications year-round.
- Energy Audit/Renewable Energy Development Assistance portion closed on February 12th.



Biomass Crop Assistance Program

- Provides up to \$25 million each year in financial assistance to owners and operators of agricultural and non-industrial private forest land who establish, produce, and deliver biomass to a qualifying facility for heat, power, biobased products, research, or advanced biofuels.
- The rule includes modifications to cost sharing, eligible types of biomass and other definitions.
- Stakeholders are encouraged to visit <http://www.regulations.gov> to review program details and comments during a 60-day public comment period.
- Comments are due by April 28, 2015. The full program will resume in 90 days on May 28, 2015.
- Additional information on dates announced this spring.



Biomass Research and Development Initiative

- Up to \$8.7 million in funding available to support research and demonstration efforts
- Made available in a joint program through USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture's Biomass Research and the U.S. Energy Department.
- A description of the solicitation, eligibility requirements, and application instructions for the BRDI program can be found at <http://www.grants.gov/> under Reference Number USDA-NIFA-9008-004957.
- Concept papers are due by March 27, 2015 and full applications are by July 27, 2015.



National Agricultural Library Search Engine for USDA Research

- The National Agricultural Library, part of USDA's Agricultural Research Service unveiled PubAg, a user-friendly search engine that gives the public enhanced access to research published by USDA scientists.
- www.PubAg.nal.usda.gov is portal for literature searches and full-text access of more than 40,000 scientific journal articles by USDA researchers, additional articles will be added almost daily.
- There is no access fee for PubAg.



President's 2016 Budget Proposal on USDA-led Manufacturing Innovation Institutes

- **\$80 million to support public-private partnerships to establish two Innovation Institutes engaging industry, leveraging funding, and facilitating technology transfer.**
 - **Biomanufacturing**
Building the scientific foundation, processes, and workforce capacity to move bioenergy and biobased research from development to deployment and commercialization.
 - **Nanocellulosics**
Focused on utilization of cellulose to be turned into a renewable supply of industrial materials. ensuring that the United States is the leading global source of commercial cellulosic nanomaterials research, innovation, production, and commercialization.
- **In line with the December 2012 report by the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology.**



Thank you!

For more information on USDA Energy
and Bioeconomy Programs, visit:

www.usda.gov/energy