

USDA Update on the Expanding Bioeconomy



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MAY 20TH, 2015



USDA Update

- **Farm Bill Programs**
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- **New Investment Funds in Rural America**
- **Building Blocks for Climate Smart Agriculture**
- **President's 2016 Budget Proposal on Manufacturing Innovation Institutes**



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.
- Loan Guarantees being accepted, reviewed and awarded monthly on a rolling basis with some restrictions



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.
- Funding will be at \$23M for FY2015
- The full program will resume on May 28, 2015.
- Eligible materials for matching payments too run through fall will be:
 - Agriculture residues, e.g. corn stover or orchard waste
 - Forest residues from the National Forest System for fuel reduction and disease & insect infestation contamination and prevention
- RFP for NEW project areas will be solicited mid-summer
- Visit <http://www.regulations.gov> for program details.



Nanotechnology Research funded under Agriculture and Food Research Initiative

- \$3.8 million in funding to support grants focused on using nanotechnology
- Variety of award focuses to find solutions to societal challenges such as food security, nutrition, food safety, and environmental protection
- A complete list of awardees can be found at:
<http://nifa.usda.gov/sites/default/files/resource/AFRI%20Nanotech%20Release%202015%20Fact%20Sheet%20P1.pdf>



Other Farm Bill Programs

- **Biobased Markets Program (9002 BioPreferred)**
- **Biorefinery, Renewable Chemical, and Biobased Product Manufacturing Program(9003)**
- Repowering Assistance Program (9004)
- Bioenergy Program for Advanced Biofuels (9005)
- Biodiesel Fuel Education program (9006)
- **Rural Energy for America Program (REAP - 9007)**
- **Biomass Research and Development (9008)**
- Feedstock Flexibility Program (9009)
- **Biomass Crop Assistance Program (9010)**
- Community Wood Energy Program (9012)



Forest Service Wood Innovation Grants

- Awarded funds of over \$9 million to expand and accelerate wood energy and other wood product markets.
- The federal funds will leverage \$22 million in investments from partners, resulting in a total investment of \$31 million in 23 states.
- The awarded funds will stimulate the use of hazardous fuels from National Forest System lands and other forested lands to promote forest health while simultaneously generating rural jobs.
- A complete list of awardees can be found at:
<http://www.na.fs.fed.us/werc/wip/wood.pdf>



New Private Funds to Make Investments in Rural America

- Secretary Vilsack announced two new private funds, known as Rural Business Investment Companies (RBICs), which make equity investments in rural businesses, helping them grow and create jobs.
- Meritus Kirchner Capital has set a goal of raising \$100 million, while Innova Memphis has set a goal of raising \$25 million for their respective funds.
- USDA intends to accept RBIC applications through 2016, detailed information including application materials and instructions can be found at:
<http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rural-business-investment-program>.



President's 2016 Budget Proposal on USDA funded Manufacturing Innovation Institutes

- President's 2016 Budget includes \$80 million for USDA public-private partnerships to establish two Innovation Institutes which engage industry, leverage funding, and facilitate tech transfer.

BioManufacturing

Building the scientific foundation, processes, and workforce capacity to move bioenergy and biobased product 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 report by the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology.



Building Blocks for Climate Smart Agriculture

- Includes focus on 10 priority areas including Energy Generation and Efficiency, livestock partnership
- USDA expects voluntary actions to reduce net emissions and enhance carbon sequestration by over 120 million metric tons of CO₂ equivalent (MMTCO₂e) per year – about 2 percent of economy-wide net greenhouse emissions – by 2025
- Builds on the creation of USDA's Climate Hubs
- More at <http://www.usda.gov/documents/climate-smart-fact-sheet.pdf>



Thank you!

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

www.usda.gov/energy