



Committed to the future of rural communities.

**2009 Farm to Fuel Summit
Orlando, Florida
July 30, 2009**



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"So we have a choice to make. We can remain one of the world's leading importers of foreign oil, or we can make the investments that would allow us to become the world's leading exporter of renewable energy. We can let climate change continue to go unchecked, or we can help stop it. We can let the jobs of tomorrow be created abroad, or we can create those jobs right here in America and lay the foundation for lasting prosperity." -**President Obama, March 19, 2009**



Benefits of Biofuels

Farm

- Post-digestion product leftover, both liquid and solid
- Improves quality of life
- Avoided electricity purchases

Rural America

- Electricity for farms and local communities

Environment

- Improves air quality
- Prohibits waste from entering groundwater
- Prohibits surface runoff into streams

Economy

- Increases energy independence
- Sell biofuels to Utilities
- Carbon credits



USDA Agencies Working on Biofuels

- Natural Resources and Conservation Service
- Forest Service
- Agricultural Research Service
- Rural Development



Bioenergy Business Creation

How: Constantly conducting feasibility studies, researching, developing and investing in new businesses

Why: To thoroughly review and understand businesses we are financing to create long-term economic and community growth

Goal: Create jobs through continuous formation and capitalization of new businesses

Recent USDA Efforts

- USDA and Department of Energy announced \$6.3 million for biofuels research - 643,000 for the University of Florida, Gainesville
- USDA announced \$50 million in funding availability for bioenergy development and production
- USDA released a study showing the economic benefits to farmers and ranchers from climate change legislation

2008 Farm Bill - Energy Provisions

Biorefinery Assistance - Loan guarantees for development, construction and retrofitting of commercial-scale biorefineries, and grants to pay for development and construction of demonstration-scale biorefineries

Repowering Assistance - Payments to biorefineries to replace fossil fuels used to produce heat or power to operate the biorefineries with renewable biomass

Bioenergy Program For Advanced Biofuels - Payments to eligible agricultural producers to support and ensure an expanding production of advanced biofuels

2008 Farm Bill Continued

Rural Energy for America Program - Grants and loan guarantees for energy audits, feasibility studies and project development of renewable energy systems and energy efficiency improvements

Biomass Research and Development - Competitive grants, contracts and financial assistance for research and development and demonstration of biofuels and biobased products, and the methods, practices and technologies for their production

Rural Energy Self-Sufficiency Initiative - Grants to enable eligible rural communities to increase energy self-sufficiency

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act



Highlights:

\$11 billion for a smarter grid to move renewable energy from rural areas where it's produced to cities where it's mostly used

\$6.3 billion for state and local renewable energy and energy efficiency efforts

\$600 million in green job training programs – \$100 million to expand line worker training programs and \$500 million for green workforce training





Thank You

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