



# SBIR

## Success Stories

Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR)

## SUPERIOR HYDROSEEDING MULCH

Pelletized Straw, LLC  
Company Contact: Edward Lee  
Manteno, IL  
[www.hydrostraw.com](http://www.hydrostraw.com)  
800.545.1755

### INNOVATION

Developed a formulated hydroseed, or enhanced mulch product, that uses renewable organic fibers, tackifiers, and other additives and provides an alternative to conventional seeding mulches.

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ▶ Developed a hydraulically applied mulch (HydroStraw™) that is superior in performance to standard wood and paper seeding mulches.
- ▶ Reduced the time needed to apply the mulch and attained better coverage than conventional blown straw.
- ▶ Achieved 30 percent increases in efficiency when compared to conventional hydraulically-applied mulches.



### COMMERCIALIZATION

- ▶ Distributed HydroStraw™ to 15 states where it used by landscape architects, municipalities, landscapers, roadside contractors, and government agencies.
- ▶ Reached capacity production with plans for plant expansion.
- ▶ Realized sales over \$1 million with over 4000 acres covered in 2005.

### IMPACTS

- ▶ Developed a viable option for erosion control that greatly reduces the amount of water and materials typically required for hydro seeding projects.
- ▶ Received approval by the Texas and California departments of transportation, other government agencies, and numerous municipalities for roadside seeding programs.
- ▶ Created a use for excess straw generated from Pacific North West seed production areas where straw burning is prohibited.

**SBIR COMPETITIVELY AWARDS SMALL BUSINESS GRANTS FOR INNOVATIVE RESEARCH THAT HAS THE POTENTIAL OF SOLVING IMPORTANT AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS.**

SBIR Program Contact • Dr. William Goldner • 202.401.1719 • [wgoldner@csrees.usda.gov](mailto:wgoldner@csrees.usda.gov)

[www.csrees.usda.gov/fo/sbir](http://www.csrees.usda.gov/fo/sbir)

**Success Story #016 (Winter 2006)**