

NEWS RELEASE

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USDA PUBLISHED ROUND 5 PROPOSED RULE DESIGNATING NINE ADDITIONAL BIOBASED ITEMS FOR FEDERAL PROCUREMENT

WASHINGTON, October 23, 2008 –Assistant Secretary Boyd Rutherford announced today a fifth proposed rule designating nine additional biobased items (product categories) for Federal procurement preference under USDA’s BioPreferredSM program. When finalized, the rule potentially provides 1,000 additional biobased products preferred purchasing consideration by all Federal government agencies and their contractors. Including previously designated items, there are now more than 3,700 products that may qualify for preferred procurement under BioPreferred.

Today’s proposed rule, published in the Federal Register, is part of a series of rules to designate biobased items. The new items include: chain and cable lubricants, corrosion preventives, food cleaners, forming lubricants, gear lubricants, general purpose household cleaners, industrial cleaners, multipurpose cleaners, and parts wash solutions.

BioPreferred encourages interested parties to submit comments on the proposed rule through December 22, 2008. Instructions on how to submit comments are located in the Federal Register notice, published at www.biopreferred.gov.

Additionally, BioPreferred is working to establish a voluntary labeling program. Under the labeling program, biobased products that meet the program requirements will soon carry a distinctive label for easier identification by government procurement officials, businesses, and consumers.

BioPreferred was created and authorized by the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (2002 Farm Bill), and expanded by the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Farm Bill) to increase the purchase and use of biobased products.

For more information on the proposed rule or the BioPreferred program, visit www.biopreferred.gov or contact Shana Love, USDA BioPreferred, Departmental Administration, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250 Room 209A or by email to: BioPreferred@usda.gov.

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