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## **USDA DESIGNATES 27 BIOBASED ITEMS FOR FEDERAL PROCUREMENT**

Washington, May 14, 2008 – Agriculture Chief Economist Joseph Glauber announced today that 27 new groupings of biobased products have been designated for procurement preference under the BioPreferred Program. This means that an additional 2,469 biobased products from 562 companies may now qualify for procurement preference by federal agencies and their contractors. Including products qualified in the first designation, there are now a total of 2,741 products from 659 companies that may qualify for preferred procurement under the BioPreferred Program.

“The BioPreferred Program has now reached a critical mass with these new products qualified for preferred procurement,” said Glauber. “I expect a marked increase in Federal purchases of qualifying biobased products by Federal agencies and their contractors. And, even more designations of biobased products are in process.

Manufacturers and vendors of biobased products that fall under the groupings designated by the final rule making are encouraged to post information about their biobased products on the BioPreferred electronic catalog located at <http://www.biopreferred.gov/Catalog.aspx>. Federal agencies are invited to go to the same Web site to view product and contact information on qualified biobased products.

The BioPreferred program was authorized by the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 and affects agencies and their contractors across the Federal government.

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