

Agriculture Secretary Vilsack Announces BioPreferred Final Rule

*BioPreferredSM Program Designates Eight New Biobased Product Categories
More than 600 additional biobased products now eligible for preferred Federal purchasing*

WASHINGTON, Oct. 20, 2010 – Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced the designation of eight additional biobased product categories which are eligible for Federal procurement preference. With the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s BioPreferred Program’s Round 6 finalization, more than 600 additional biobased products will be offered for preferred purchasing consideration by all Federal government agencies and contractors.

“This is part of an ongoing effort to increase the use of agricultural commodities to make renewable, sustainable, biobased products that will enhance rural economic opportunities,” said Vilsack. “Including previously designated items, there are now more than 5,100 products qualifying for preferred procurement under the BioPreferred program.”

Today’s final rule, published in the *Federal Register*, is part of a series of rules to designate, or approve, biobased items. The new product categories designated under Round 6 include: disposable tableware, expanded polystyrene (EPS) foam recycling products, heat transfer fluids, ink removers and cleaners, mulch and compost materials, multipurpose lubricants, topical pain relief products and turbine drip oils.

Biobased products are composed wholly or significantly of biological ingredients – renewable plant, animal, marine or forestry materials. A BioPreferred designated item is one that meets or exceeds USDA-established minimum biobased content requirements.

The BioPreferred program was created by the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (2002 Farm Bill) as a preferred procurement program to increase the purchase and use of biobased products within the Federal government. The Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Farm Bill) expanded the program’s scope to promote the sale of biobased products in other sectors.

BioPreferred is comprised of a preferred procurement program for Federal agencies and a voluntary labeling program for the broad scale marketing of biobased products (under development). Please contact biopreferred@usda.gov for more information about the Round 6 final rule or the BioPreferred program.

A complete list and detailed description of each BioPreferred designated item, and items for future designation, can be found at www.biopreferred.gov; or follow BioPreferred at <http://twitter.com/BioPreferred>.

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