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## **Secretary Vilsack Announces BioPreferred® Final Rule Designating Additional 14 Biobased Categories for Preferred Federal Purchasing**

*More than 8,900 biobased products now eligible for preferred Federal purchasing*

WASHINGTON, July 25, 2011—Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced the designation of 14 additional biobased product categories which are eligible for federal procurement preference. The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s BioPreferred program’s Round 7 finalization adds 2,500 biobased products for a total of more than 8,900 products now offered for preferred purchasing consideration by federal government agencies and contractors.

“This is an important milestone as increasing bioproduct demand and use helps create jobs in rural communities and adds value to agricultural commodities,” said Vilsack. “According to a recent [Iowa State University](#) study, survey respondents from the biobased product industry reported more than 100,000 jobs—largely domestic—associated with their biobased product lines.”

The final rule, published in the *Federal Register* on Friday, July 22, is part of a series of rules to designate biobased items. The new product categories designated under Round 7 include: animal repellent; bath products; bioremediation materials; compost activators and accelerators; concrete and asphalt cleaners; cuts, burns and abrasions ointments; dishwashing products; erosion control materials; floor cleaners and protectors; hair care products such as conditioners and shampoos; interior paints and coatings such as latex and waterborne alkyd and oil-based and solvent-born alkyd; oven and grill cleaners; slide way lubricants; and thermal shipping containers—durable and thermal shipping containers as well as non-durable.

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 for federal agencies and a voluntary labeling program for broad scale marketing of biobased products.

Please visit [www.biopreferred.gov](http://www.biopreferred.gov) for more information on Round 7 and a complete list and description of each BioPreferred designated item or follow BioPreferred at <http://twitter.com/BioPreferred>.

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