



Biomass Crop Assistance Program --The BCAP--



USDA Farm Service Agency
Conservation and Environmental Programs
Division (CEPD)

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Section 9011, 2008 Farm Bill

Purpose of the BCAP is to support the establishment and production of eligible crops for the conversion to bio-energy in selected BCAP project areas and assist agricultural and forest land owners and operators with collection, harvest, storage and transportation of eligible material for use in a biomass conversion facility.

Section 9011, 2008 Farm Bill

2008 Farm Bill outlined the following program components:

- BCAP Project Areas
- Eligible Crop
- Eligible Land
- Eligible Materials
- Project Sponsors
- Payments
- Producers
- Biomass Conversion Facilities

BCAP Project Areas

An area with specified boundaries that are submitted by project sponsors and then approved by the Secretary.

Secretary has a prescribed set of criteria to review when approving the BCAP project area.

Producers of eligible crops in the BCAP project area can receive financial assistance.

Eligible Crop

Eligible crop means “a crop of renewable biomass.”

Exclusions include:

- Any crop eligible to receive a payment under Title 1, 2008 Farm Bill such as Peanuts, Wheat, Corn, Grain Sorghum, Barley, Oats, and oil seeds.
- Plant that is or has potential to be invasive or noxious, as determined by the Secretary in consultation with other appropriate Federal and State departments and agencies.

Eligible Land

Includes agricultural and nonindustrial private forest lands and other lands

Excludes:

- Native sods
- Enrolled lands in Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Wetland Reserve Program (WRP), and Grassland Reserve Program (GRP).

Eligible Materials

Eligible materials means “renewable biomass”

Exclusions include:

- Any crop eligible to receive a payment under Title 1, 2008 Farm Bill such as Peanuts, Wheat, Corn, Grain Sorghum, Barley, Oats, and oil seeds.
- Animal waste and byproducts (including fats, oils, greases, and manure)
- Food waste and yard waste
- Algae

Project Sponsors

- A group of producers; or
- A Biomass Conversion Facility

Project sponsors submit proposed specified boundaries for BCAP project areas to the Secretary for approval.

Producer Payments

Annual payments are authorized.

Directly to the producers

Eligible costs include 75 percent of costs to:

- Establish eligible perennial crops such as cost of seeds and stock and planting as determined by the Secretary;
- Cost of site preparation and tree planting on nonindustrial private forestlands

Collection, Harvest Storage and Transportation Assistance

Payment for the delivery for eligible material to a biomass conversion facility to a producer of an eligible crop that is produced on BCAP contract acreage or to a person with the right to collect or harvest eligible material.

- Matching payments for a rate of \$1 for each \$1 per ton provided by the biomass conversion facility, in an amount equal to not more than \$45 per ton for a period of two years.
- Reductions are given when the producer also receives payment under eligible crop production contracts.

Producers

An owner or operator of contract acreage that is physically located in the BCAP project area.

Contract terms:

- Five years for annual and perennial
- 15 years for woody biomass
- compliant with highly erodible land conservation requirements
- implement a conservation plan or forest stewardship plan or equivalent and any additional requirements considered appropriate by the Secretary

Biomass Conversion Facility

No definition given

- A project sponsor which can submit specific boundaries for BCAP project area to the Secretary for consideration and approval.
- Receives the eligible materials for conversion to bioenergy

Program Funds

Source: Commodity Credit Corporation

“Secretary shall use to carry out this section such sums as are necessary for each fiscal years 2008 through 2012.”



Program Development

Implementation will begin in FY 2009.

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