

Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP)

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



Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP)

Overview

- Authorization: Section 9011 of the 2008 Farm Bill.
- Program Purpose: Support the establishment and production of crops for conversion to bio-energy in project areas and to assist with the collection, harvest, storage and transportation (CHST) of eligible material for use in biomass conversion facilities.



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Overview

Three Payments...

1. Establish perennial feedstock crop (*up to 75%*)
2. Land rental for perennial feedstock production (*level depends on local market conditions*)
3. Collect, harvest, store, and transport biomass crops for biorefining
 - **match biorefinery payment (\$1 for \$1)**
 - **up to \$45/(dry)ton**
 - **up to 2 years per eligible material provider**



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BCAP was expedited by the “Presidential Directive to USDA to Expand Access to Biofuels” (*May 5, 2009*)

- Directive’s purpose: make renewable energy financing opportunities available to the renewable fuels market



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Current status

- Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) published in the Federal Register (*June 11th, 2009*)
- NOFA provides policies and processes for
 - 1) providing payments for the collection, harvest, storage, and transportation of eligible material to qualified biomass conversion facilities
 - 2) qualifying CHST biomass conversion facilities
- Proposed rule should be published in Federal Register by September 30, 2009





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Implementation of CHST funding

- Website... www.fsa.usda.gov/bcap
 - qualified facilities posted
 - 2009 CHST-eligible materials list available on website
 - Programmatic Environmental Impact Study draft report published August 10, 2009 (*comments being accepted until September 24, 2009*)
 - Questions & Answers (Q&A) under development
- 19 biomass conversion facilities now qualified and have Agreements with CCC/FSA
 - Facility must utilize biomass for production of bioenergy and biobased products, document purchase of eligible materials and share data
- \$25 million apportionment towards matching payments
- Matching payment applications can now be received
 - eligible material owners apply at FSA County Offices



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Qualified biomass conversion facilities

Thermal Energy Development Partnership.....	Tracy, CA
DG Fairhaven Power.....	Samoa, CA
Collins Pine Company.....	Chester, CA
Wheelabrator Shasta Energy.....	Anderson, CA
Rio Bravo Fresno.....	Fresno, CA
Rio Bravo Rocklin.....	Lincoln, CA
Community Renewable Energy Services.....	Reedley, CA
Woodland Biomass power.....	Woodland, CA
Merced Power.....	El Nido, CA
Ampersand Chowchilla Biomass.....	Cowchilla, CA
Madera Power.....	Firebaugh, CA
Green Circle BioEnergy.....	Cottondale, FL
Sugar Cane Growers Cooperative of Florida.....	Belle Glade, FL
Agrielectric Power Partners.....	Lake charles, LA
Lincoln Paper and Tussue.....	Lincoln, ME
Show Me Energy Cooperative.....	Centerview, MO
Niagara Generation.....	Niagara Falls, NY
Norbord South Carolina.....	Kinards, SC
Indeck Ladysmith.....	Ladysmith, WI

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Technical assistance

- FSA working with NREL, NRCS and FS experts
- Full scale program implementation currently scheduled for 2010 crop year
- Technical Assistance apportionment request has been made for FY 2010



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Implementation timeline

- Draft PEIS comment period ends Sept. 24th
- Final PEIS will have 60 day comment period.
- Proposed rule anticipated for publishing in Federal Register in September 2009 with a 30 day comment period.
- Anticipated final PEIS pursuant to comment period – December 2009
- Anticipated Final BCAP Rule pursuant to comment periods – February 2010

