

USDA



Rural Development

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**Biomass *R&D* Technical Advisory
Committee Meeting
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Farm Bill Update

- Federal Procurement of Biomass Products
 - Federal Agencies purchase biobased products and authorizes voluntary biobased labeling
 - Reauthorized until 2012
 - Funding Authority
 - * House – \$2 million mandatory
 - * Senate – \$3 million mandatory

Farm Bill Update – (Continuation)

- Biorefineries/Biofuel Production Plants/Repowering Assistance
 - Provides loans guarantees (House) and loan guaranteed and grants (Senate) for the financing of Biorefineries/Biofuel Production Plants (House) and Biorefineries and Repowering assistance (Senate)
 - Guaranteed Loan Limitations:
 - * Up to \$250 million for Biorefineries (House and Senate)
 - * Up to \$10 million for Repowering Assistance (Senate)
 - Grant Limitations:
 - * Pilot/Demonstration Scale – Up to 50% of project costs
 - * Repowering Assistance – Up to 20% of project costs
 - Funding Authority:
 - * \$800 million – Total for fiscal years (FY) 2008-2012 (House)
 - * \$300 million – To remain available until expended (Senate)

Farm Bill Update – (Continuation)

- Rural Energy for America Program
 - Amends current Section 9006 Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvement Program
 - Loan Guarantee Limits:
 - * \$25 million Cap
 - * Cap Federal share at 75% of project costs
 - Other Provisions:
 - * Cost share grants for energy audits and feasibility studies (Senate)
 - * Production incentive program in lieu of grants
 - Funding – mandatory:
 - * \$500 million over 5 years (House)
 - * \$230 million available until expended (Senate)

Farm Bill Update – (Continuation)

- Biomass Research and Development
 - Repeals Title III of Agriculture Risk Protection Act of 2000 (P.L. 106-224) and reauthorizes it through 2012 under Farm Bill
 - Senate provides some flexibility on distribution of funds between technical areas
- Funding
 - \$420 million over 5 years (House – mandatory)
 - \$75 million (FYs 08–10) – (Senate – mandatory)
 - \$85 million annually (FY 08–12) – (Senate–discretionary)

Farm Bill Update – (Continuation)

- Community Wood Energy Program:
 - Grant program to assist with community wood energy feasibility studies and plans and acquire and upgrade community wood energy system
 - Funding:
 - * \$5 million per year (FY 08–12) – (Senate–discretionary)
 - * \$75 million over 5 years (House – mandatory)

QUESTIONS



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