



USDA



Committed to the future of rural communities.

**2009 Farm to Fuel Summit  
Orlando, Florida  
July 30, 2009**



Committed to the future of rural communities.

*"So we have a choice to make. We can remain one of the world's leading importers of foreign oil, or we can make the investments that would allow us to become the world's leading exporter of renewable energy. We can let climate change continue to go unchecked, or we can help stop it. We can let the jobs of tomorrow be created abroad, or we can create those jobs right here in America and lay the foundation for lasting prosperity."* -**President Obama, March 19, 2009**



Committed to the future of rural communities.

# Benefits of Biofuels

## Farm

- Post-digestion product leftover, both liquid and solid
- Improves quality of life
- Avoided electricity purchases

## Rural America

- Electricity for farms and local communities

## Environment

- Improves air quality
- Prohibits waste from entering groundwater
- Prohibits surface runoff into streams

## Economy

- Increases energy independence
- Sell biofuels to Utilities
- Carbon credits



# USDA Agencies Working on Biofuels

- Natural Resources and Conservation Service
- Forest Service
- Agricultural Research Service
- Rural Development



Committed to the future of rural communities.

# Bioenergy Business Creation

**How:** Constantly conducting feasibility studies, researching, developing and investing in new businesses

**Why:** To thoroughly review and understand businesses we are financing to create long-term economic and community growth

**Goal:** Create jobs through continuous formation and capitalization of new businesses



Committed to the future of rural communities.

# Recent USDA Efforts

- USDA and Department of Energy announced \$6.3 million for biofuels research - 643,000 for the University of Florida, Gainesville
- USDA announced \$50 million in funding availability for bioenergy development and production
- USDA released a study showing the economic benefits to farmers and ranchers from climate change legislation



Committed to the future of rural communities.

# 2008 Farm Bill - Energy Provisions

**Biorefinery Assistance** - Loan guarantees for development, construction and retrofitting of commercial-scale biorefineries, and grants to pay for development and construction of demonstration-scale biorefineries

**Repowering Assistance** - Payments to biorefineries to replace fossil fuels used to produce heat or power to operate the biorefineries with renewable biomass

**Bioenergy Program For Advanced Biofuels** - Payments to eligible agricultural producers to support and ensure an expanding production of advanced biofuels



Committed to the future of rural communities.

# 2008 Farm Bill Continued

**Rural Energy for America Program** - Grants and loan guarantees for energy audits, feasibility studies and project development of renewable energy systems and energy efficiency improvements

**Biomass Research and Development** - Competitive grants, contracts and financial assistance for research and development and demonstration of biofuels and biobased products, and the methods, practices and technologies for their production

**Rural Energy Self-Sufficiency Initiative** - Grants to enable eligible rural communities to increase energy self-sufficiency



Committed to the future of rural communities.



# American Recovery and Reinvestment Act



## Highlights:

\$11 billion for a smarter grid to move renewable energy from rural areas where it's produced to cities where it's mostly used

\$6.3 billion for state and local renewable energy and energy efficiency efforts

\$600 million in green job training programs – \$100 million to expand line worker training programs and \$500 million for green workforce training



Committed to the future of rural communities.





# Thank You

**USDA:** [www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov)

**Rural Development:** [www.rurdev.usda.gov](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov)

**Email:** [CCO@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:CCO@wdc.usda.gov)



Committed to the future of rural communities.