Energy and Agriculture Departments Award \$23 Million In Joint Biomass Research And Development Initiative

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) today announced the selection of 19 projects that will receive federal funding under a joint biomass solicitation. Proposals were requested for biomass research, development and demonstration projects earlier this year. Biomass is forest and agricultural crop residue and feedstocks that can be used as a renewable energy source.

The 2002 Farm Bill allocated \$75 million to USDA over six years to fund research, development and demonstration projects under the Biomass Research and Development Act of 2000. The legislation established a governing board co-chaired by USDA and DOE.

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service and DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy coordinated efforts to issue a joint solicitation that is awarding nearly \$16 million in USDA funding and more than \$7 million from DOE appropriations. About 400 proposals were received requesting more than \$370 million. All eligible proposals were competitively evaluated in a three-step process that included a joint USDA-DOE technical merit review, cost analysis and review.

Following is a list of the 19 selected projects:

DOE Projects

Trustees of Dartmouth (Hanover, N.H.)—Integration of Leading Biomass Pretreatment Technologies with Enzymatic Digestion and Hydrolyzate Fermentation, Principal Investigator: Dr. Charles E. Wyman (603) 646-3193

University of Florida (Gainesville, Fla.)—Engineering Thermotolerant Biocatalysts for Biomass Conversion to Products, Principal Investigator: K.T. Shanmugam (352) 392-2490

PureVision Technology, Inc. (Ft. Lupton, Colo.)—Demonstration of PureVision Biorefinery, Principal Investigator: Ed Lehrburger (303) 857-4530

Cargill, Inc. (Minneapolis, Minn.)—Platform Chemicals from an Oilseed Biorefinery, Principal Investigator: Jim Millis (952) 742-3041

USDA Projects

Metabolix, Inc. (Cambridge, Mass.)—Advanced Biorefinery Feedstocks, Principal Investigator: Dr. Oliver Peoples (617) 492-0505, ext. 212

Utah State University (Logan, Utah)—Research and Demonstration of Anaerobic System on a Large Dairy Farm, Principal Investigator: Dr. Conly Hansen (435) 797-2188

Earth Resources, Inc. (Carnesville, Ga.)—Animal Waste Management-Chicken Litter to Energy, Principal Investigator: Billy Jones (706) 384-4880

West Central Cooperative (Ralston, Iowa)—New Technologies for Production of Methyl Esters, Principal Investigator: Jeffry Stroburg (712) 667-3321

Clemson University (Clemson S.C.)—Heterogeneous Catalyst Development for Biodiesel Synthesis, Principal Investigator: James G. Goodwin, Jr. (864) 656-6614

New Energy Solutions, Inc. (Pittsfield MA)—Design and Demonstration of a Commercial Prototype for Onsite Production of High Purity Hydrogen from Farm Animal Wastes, Principal Investigator: Valerie Maston (413) 822-1155

Archer Daniels Midland Company (Quincy IL, Decatur IN)—Biomass Research and Development for the Production of Fuels, Chemicals, and Improved Cattle Feed, Principal Investigator: Charles A. Abbas (217) 451-4220

GrainValue, LLC (St. Paul MN)—GrainValue Process: Pre-Commercialization Trials, Principal Investigator: Daniel W. Karl, Ph.D. (651) 690-9517

Pennsylvania State University (University Park PA)—Coupled Processes for Bioenergy Production: Biological Hydrogen Linked with Microbial Fuel Cells, Principal Investigator: John M. Regan (814) 865-9436

Iowa State University (Ames IA)—Biopolymers and Other Value-Added Products from Distillers' Dried Grains, Contact: Thane Peterson (515) 294-5225

Local Energy (Tesuque NM)—Biomass-Fired District Energy: A Source of Economic Development and Energy Security, Principal Investigator: Mark Sardella (505) 820-2312

Vermont's Alternative Energy Corporation (Willston VT)—Steps Towards a Biorefinery Industry in Vermont, Principal Investigator: Dr. T. Guy Roberts (802) 660-0440 ext. 108

Texas Agricultural Experiment Station (College Station TX)—Biomass for Tomorrow's Energy and Greenhouse Gas Management Needs: An Economic, Engineering and Environmental Appraisal of Opportunities and Policies, Principal Investigator: Mahmoud M. El-Halwagi (979) 845-3484

Sebesta, Blomberg & Associates, Inc. (Roseville, Minn.)—Biomass Cogeneration Demonstration Plant at Central Minnesota Ethanol Cooperative, Principal Investigator: Cecil T. Massie, PE (651) 634-7242 T.R. Miles Technical Consultants, Inc. (Portland, Ore.)—Feasibility of an Integrated System for Improving the Economic and Environmental Performance of Poultry and Ethanol Production in North Alabama, Principal Investigator: Thomas R. Miles (503) 292-0107