

Biobased Solutions

Summer/Fall 2006

FOR GOVERNMENT



Pentagon Event Promotes Biobased Products to DoD

Biobased Products—Enhancing Department of Defense (DoD) Mission; Protecting the Environment was the theme of a Pentagon event to inform DoD's employees about the benefits of a wide variety of biobased products, including many made from soy. Held September 12 and 13 in the Pentagon, the program offered exhibits by more than 30 biobased manufacturers as well as panel discussions and remarks by government leaders. Participants learned how these products can help meet the Department's environmental goals and reduce dependence on foreign oil.

continued on page 2



From left, Deputy Secretary of Defense Gordon England, Secretary of Agriculture Mike Johanns, Senator Richard Lugar (R-IN), Representative Marcy Kaptur (D-OH) and Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) spoke at the Pentagon biobased event. All addressed multiple reasons, ranging from energy security to environmental attributes, on why the government supports use of biobased products.

USDA DESIGNATES 20 MORE BIOBASED ITEMS

ON AUGUST 17, in two separate notices in the Federal Register, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) proposed to designate 20 biobased items that would receive Federal purchasing preference under Section 9002 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002. These proposals are the second and third in a series of rules that USDA is planning to issue to designate items. The items proposed for designation are:

- Adhesive and Mastic Removers
- Insulating Foam for Wall Construction
- Hand Cleaners and Sanitizers
- Composite Panels
- Fluid-filled Transformers
- Biodegradable Containers
- Fertilizers
- Metalworking Fluids
- Sorbents
- Graffiti and Grease Removers
- Two-Cycle Engine Oils
- Biodegradable Films
- Stationary Equipment Hydraulic Fluids
- Biodegradable Cutlery
- Glass Cleaners
- Greases, including food-grade grease, multipurpose grease, rail-track grease, truck grease and greases not elsewhere specified
- Dust Suppressants
- Carpets
- Carpet and Upholstery Cleaner
- Lip Care Products

continued on page 3

USDA Amends and Updates Guidelines for Designating Biobased Products for Federal Procurement

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) issued an interim final rule amending the "Guidelines for Designating Biobased Products for Federal Procurement" in a July 27 notice of the Federal Register. The Guidelines were originally issued by USDA on January 11, 2005, to implement Section 9002 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (FSRIA).

continued on page 4



continued from page 1

Speakers included Deputy Secretary of Defense Gordon England, Secretary of Agriculture Mike Johanns, Senators Tom Harkin (D-IA) and Richard Lugar (R-IN), and Representative Marcy Kaptur (D-OH). Their remarks as well as one-on-one interviews and additional information from the event are available www.soybiobased.org. The website also provides a copy of the memorandum from DoD Under Secretary Kenneth J. Krieg, the department's acquisition chief, that states, "The DoD fully supports the efforts of the U.S. Department of Agriculture to promote the use of biobased products and has included biobased products as part of the overall DoD Green Procurement Program Strategy."

"USB was pleased to be a part of this important educational event which brought together representatives from the biobased products industry and DoD employees who buy, and/or use, commercial or industrial products," said USB Domestic Marketing Committee Chairman Chuck Friedrich. "We hope this event helped to answer Department employees' questions about how soy-based products can reduce the use of petroleum and protect the environment. At the same time, we hope it created a better understanding of the Pentagon's needs among biobased industry representatives."



Advanced Image Resources, L.L.C employees (front row) meet at the Pentagon event with USB Director Tom Brown (back row: left) and Ohio Soybean Council (OSC) Director Dale Profit regarding the company's new offering of a soy ink toner. The new soy-based toner can be used in copiers, printers and fax machines. OSC and Battelle partnered in development of the toner that offers outstanding image quality and has environmental benefits.



Deputy Secretary of Defense Gordon England told Pentagon event attendees that biobased products are an integral part of the Department of Defense's overall strategy. "Some people call it a green strategy," he said. "I just call it the Department's strategy—a very central part of our strategic approach to national security. Many of these products are substitutes for products based on nonrenewable natural resources like oil and natural gas."



Dear Reader:

On behalf of soybean growers, I want to applaud federal trailblazers who are institutionalizing the use of biobased products in their programs. Inside this issue, you will read how staff at USDA's Office of Operations made biobased products part of their five-year janitorial services contract.

You can also read about their overall use of biobased products in a new profile that is available at the United Soybean Board's (USB) website www.soybiobased.org.

USB is working hard to assist the government and the private sector on use of biobased products. I hope you will read this newsletter for information about how the Department of Energy and the Department of Veterans Affairs are cooperating with USB on biobased products demonstrations for carpet, lubricants, glass cleaners and more.

We also organized the Biobased Stakeholders' Workshop in June where biobased manufacturers from across the country and federal agency representatives met with agriculture groups in Washington, D.C. Together, we explored how to grow the federal market for biobased products.

Moving a federal program, like the biobased procurement program, out of the starting blocks takes a monumental team effort. Yet, the potential is great. Biobased products are right for America's energy security, our domestic economy and the environment. That's well worth all the effort and investment by soybean growers and federal employees.

*Sincerely,
Chuck Friedrich,
Domestic Marketing Committee Chair*

At Federal Agencies: USB Funds Three Pilot Projects

As part of its mission to expand the use of soybeans and soy products, the United Soybean Board (USB) funded three pilot projects at Federal agencies that started last fall and will continue through September 2006. The agencies/locations are the Department of Energy's (DOE) Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) and Idaho National Laboratory (INL) and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Fort Custer National Cemetery (FCNC) in Michigan.

Specifically, the PNNL pilot is testing the use of carpet with soy biobased backing in a conference room while both of the other facilities are testing biobased products used in automotive shops and various vehicles and equipment. Both INL and FCNC are using and testing a variety of automotive and shop products (See box for complete list of products used by each.) Several of these products, including mobile hydraulic fluids, penetrating lubricants and diesel fuel additives, were among the first group of biobased products that were officially listed as "Designated Items" for preferred purchasing by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, as required by the 2002 Farm Bill. *For a complete profile on biobased success at Fort Custer and INL, go to www.soybiobased.org*



photo credit: Foreman FCNC Kenneth Haines

One of the many jobs that must be done at a National Cemetery, of course, is preparing gravesites. Here backhoe operator Charlie Martin opens a grave using equipment running on biobased transdraulic oil and B20 biodiesel. Go to www.soybiobased.org for a detailed profile of biobased products used at Fort Custer.

Idaho National Laboratory

From Gemtek (www.gemtek.com):

- SAFE LUBE™ Bar Chain & General Penetrating Oil
- SAFE CARE™ Aircraft and Metal Cleaner
- SAFE CARE™ SC More Than Glass Cleaner

From Renewable Lubricants (www.renewablelube.com):

- Bio-Penetrating Lubricant

From Terresolve (www.terresolve.com):

- EnviroLogic31 Penetrating Lubricant

Fort Custer National Cemetery

From Renewable Lubricants:

- Bio - Bar & Chain Oil
- Bio - TC-W3 Two-Cycle Engine Oil
- Bio-Trans-Hydraulic (Universal Tractor) Fluid
- Bio-Hydrostatic Fluid
- Bio-Power Winter Diesel Fuel Conditioner



photo credit: Michael Crane for the DOE Idaho National Library

Frank Beltran wants his bus to look as good as possible as he drives INL employees and visitors to, from and between the lab's many facility spread over a 100 square miles. He uses biobased cleaners on bus wheels, windows, headlamps and tail lights. Go to www.soybiobased.org for a detailed profile of biobased products used at INL.

continued from page 1

USDA is proposing to give federal agencies one year from the date of publication of the final rule before requiring that the biobased purchasing preference for products within a designated item take effect. However, USDA acknowledges that not all agencies will need that much time and "encourages procuring agencies to implement the procurement preferences as early as practicable for procurement actions involving any of the designated items."

On March 16, USDA finalized the designation of the first six biobased items (mobile equipment hydraulic fluids; penetrating lubricants; diesel fuel additives; roof coatings; bedding, bed linens, and towels; and water tank coatings). According to USDA, the agency has "identified over 100 items for potential designation under the preferred procurement program."

For copies of the Federal Register notices, go to www.soybiobased.org



You Are Walking on Soybeans–

A poster informs visitors, that the carpet in this conference room at the Department of Energy's (DOE) Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) is made with biobased soy backing. The carpet, which is manufactured by Designweave, is part of a series of USB-sponsored pilot projects and was installed by a local carpet company. "After six months, everyone involved at PNNL is pleased with the carpeting," says Architectural

Designer Greg Kirk. It has met or exceeded all expectations, including our original specifications that it meet:

- A. *The Carpet and Rug Institute Green Label standards for carpet and adhesives;*
- B. *Green Seal requirements for adhesive (GS-36);*
- C. *ISO14020 and ISO14024; and*
- D. *Minimum density of 4500 oz/yard, according to Kirk.*

He adds that the new carpet is wearing well and that there were no problems with colorfastness, uneven wear or unraveling even after stain removal treatments with the lab's standard water-based cleaner. ■

References herein to any specific commercial product, process, or service by trade name, trademark, manufacturer, or otherwise, does not necessarily constitute or imply its endorsement, recommendation, or favoring by the U.S. Government, any agency thereof, or any company affiliated with the Idaho National Laboratory, the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory and Fort Custer National Cemetery.

Yellowstone National Park

and numerous other National Park Service (NPS) facilities have been innovators in adopting the use of many biobased products, including biodiesel for more than 10 years. On September 12, U.S. Department of Energy, NPS and industry groups recognized the decade of success at Yellowstone and Grand Teton Park.

The interim final rule takes three actions. First, it revises the Guidelines to include contractors of Federal agencies as well as Federal agencies, as required by changes to section 9002 of FSRIA that were included in the Energy Policy Act of 2005. It defines "procuring agency" as "any Federal agency that is using Federal funds for procurement or any person contracting with any Federal agency with respect to work performed under the contract."

Second, the rule removes "incidental and unrelated" purchases from the scope of the preferred purchasing program. The rule provides that incidental and unrelated purchases are ones that are "not the direct result of a contract or agreement with persons supplying items to a procuring agency or providing support services that include the supply or use of items."

Third, the rule clarifies existing USDA policy that biobased products from any "designated country", consistent with U.S. international trade obligations, would receive the same procurement preference as domestic biobased products. Designated countries are defined in the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR). Under the FAR, a "designated country" means a World Trade Organization Government Procurement Agreement country, a Free Trade Agreement country, a least developed country, or a Caribbean Basin country.

According to USDA, "because the interim final rule responds to a statutory amendment that became effective August 8, 2005, and because it codifies USDA policy as already stated in the first final rule designating biobased products, the interim final rule is effective immediately." ■



USDA Contract Language Requests Use of Biobased Products

The use of biobased products often depends upon getting contractors “on board” according to reports from various agencies throughout the Federal government. The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) new five-year contract for janitorial services expands the use of biobased products at two of USDA’s main headquarters buildings—the very large South Building and the Jamie L. Whitten Building in Washington, D.C.

“Just because a building is built ‘green’, does not mean it will remain ‘green,’” says USDA Acting Deputy Chief of Washington Area Service Center Edward B. Murtagh. “It is important to operate and maintain your ‘green’ building using sustainable practices and products such as those that are biobased.”



A SHINING FACILITY: Valerie Harris, who works for contractor York Building Services, keeps the front door and everything within sparkling with a variety of biobased products at USDA’s Washington Area Service Center in the South Building. At least six of the janitorial biobased products are made from soybeans. Additional products are made other from other agricultural and forestry feedstocks.

The following is the language USDA used in negotiating the contract:

In the contract section entitled, “Standards of Acceptable Performance”, Clause (3), Paragraph “d” it states:

“The successful Contractor will be required to meet or exceed the below-listed mandatory environmental-preferability criteria. The offered products must meet requirements as stated below:

It then lists specifics for disposable paper products, plastic trash bags, general purpose industrial wipes and finally:

“Cleaning Fluids: Cleaning products shall have highest percentage of biobased products practicable. The cleaning fluids must be in accordance with California Code of Regulations low VOC cleaning products OR Green Seal Standard GS-37 approved.”

In addition, one of the criteria USDA used as Standards for Evaluation read as follows:

“Evidence of a comprehensive, sound plan that ensures the cleaning products, including list of products and processes include, but are not limited to, products containing recycled content, environmentally preferable products and services, and the use of bio-based products.

“Has the contractor presented adequate information concerning the use of the appropriate cleaning products and processes to comply with the work statement requirement and to ensure a safe environment?”

The five-year janitorial services contract went to Olympus Building Services Inc. ■

“ It is important to operate and maintain your ‘green’ building using sustainable practices and products such as those that are biobased. ”

USB Convenes Stakeholders' Workshop on Federal Biobased Procurement

The Biobased Stakeholders' Workshop drew more than 60 representatives of biobased manufacturers, agricultural groups and federal employees responsible for biobased procurement on June 15 in Washington, D.C. USB organized the meeting to provide a forum to identify individual and collective opportunities to grow the federal market for biobased products.

Biobased manufacturers of all sizes asked questions of the federal agency representatives, ranging from U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to U.S. Department of Defense to the Office of the Federal Environmental Executive, who spoke on the program. USDA Under Secretary and Energy Chair Thomas Dorr and Deputy Assistant Secretary for Administration Peter Thomas spoke along with officials from USDA's Office of Energy Policy and New Uses.



USDA Director of Office of Energy Policy and New Uses Dr. Roger Conway (center) and Economist Dr. Marvin Duncan (at podium) provided attendees at USB's Biobased Stakeholders' Workshop with information about next steps on implementation of the federal biobased procurement program. Center for Industrial Research and Service Industrial Specialist at Iowa State Steven L. Devlin (right) also described the data collection efforts on biobased products that will provide government buyers with product information.



United Soybean Board Director Marty Ross helped kick off the Biobased Stakeholders' Workshop by describing why soybean growers are investing in biobased product research and education.

New Alliance for Biobased Economy Forms

Broad Membership Includes Ag, Consumer, Environmental & Energy Security Groups

To further use of biobased products, a new coalition formed in June to launch the new Alliance for a Biobased Economy (ABE). The alliance currently includes 38 members. Its broad ranks include biobased manufacturers and organizations such as the National Resources Defense Council, the Consumer Federation of America, the Set America Free Coalition along with agricultural associations.

ABE will collectively support biobased products and work to increase understanding in Congress of the issues facing biobased product procurement by the federal government. In addition, the coalition is urging more support for research into the technology of producing products made by renewable sources.

Senator Tom Harkin, who co-authored the biobased provisions of the 2002 Farm Bill, said "I'm thrilled to have widespread support to make increased purchase of biobased items a reality. This broad coalition shows the tangible and far reaching benefits using more biobased products will have for the United States. As biobased products gain momentum, we'll ensure these benefits become a reality for millions of farmers, consumers, and citizens around the country." ■

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Because of the potential for biobased products to create new markets for soybeans, U.S. soybean farmers have invested millions of dollars to research, test and promote biobased products. Much of this work was done through the United Soybean Board (USB), which is composed of 64 U.S. soybean farmers appointed by the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture to invest soybean checkoff funds. As stipulated in the Soybean Promotion, Research and Consumer Information Act, USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service has oversight responsibilities for the soybean checkoff.

