



## **Risk, Infrastructure and Industry Evolution**

*A conference sponsored by  
Farm Foundation,  
USDA Office of Energy Policy and New Uses  
and USDA Economic Research Service*

June 24-25, 2008  
Doubletree Marina Hotel, Berkeley, California

### ***Call for Papers***

The nation's rapid transition to a bioeconomy has significant implications for agriculture, the food system, rural communities and the global economy. Farm Foundation and USDA are sponsoring a series of conferences to inventory current knowledge, highlight lessons learned to date, identify future possibilities and determine what we information needs for the future. These conferences and the products produced from them will provide government, industry, academic and community leaders with objective information and analysis they can use to make more informed decisions related to the bioeconomy in the next decade.

The first conference examined the integration of agriculture and energy systems. This second conference focuses on risk, infrastructure and the evolution of the biofuels industry. It will explore market relationships, risk management strategies, infrastructure issues, distributional impacts and business structures. The conference will also examine how biofuels produced from cellulosic feedstocks—a technology forecast to be commercially viable within the next decade—will impact businesses, market relationships and the economy overall.

The conference program will feature presentations by industry and government experts and invited academic papers. Of specific interest are reports of research highlighting four topics of significant importance to understanding of the bioeconomy and issues associated with risk management and infrastructure:

#### **Risk management strategies, including contracting, at the farm and processor level**

The ethanol industry has changed many market relationships in agriculture. Producers and processors are employing new grain marketing strategies, different contracts and other non-traditional risk management strategies. There is much discussion about biomass crops, such as switchgrass, that do not have established markets or risk management tools. We seek papers that explore risk management tools and strategies, including contracting, in this evolving market environment

#### **Ownership/business structure and financing issues**

The bioeconomy may require new ownership and business structures. Many early ethanol plants were organized and capitalized as cooperatives. Other equity arrangements have emerged in recent years. Will cooperatives continue to play a role in the bioeconomy? Are there advantages to "local" ownership of biorefineries? What debt and equity instruments are needed by this industry? What business structures should we expect to see in the future? We seek papers exploring these and other ownership/business structure and financing issues for the bioeconomy.

#### Infrastructure Issues for the bioeconomy

The corn ethanol industry has generated demand for new transportation services for grain, ethanol, distiller's grain and other coproducts. Local communities have been asked to provide utility and other infrastructures. As this industry matures and the biomass ethanol industry evolves, other infrastructure issues will arise. We seek papers that explore these and other infrastructure issues in the bioeconomy.

#### Development of the second-generation industry

During the next decade, the corn ethanol industry is expected to mature and the biomass ethanol industry to become commercially viable. Many technologies are being explored. Some of these technologies will simply enhance current industry productivity. Others may require radically new business structures, risk management tools and infrastructure. We seek papers that provide applied economic analysis of these technologies and their potential impacts on the bioeconomy.

Submissions are not limited to economic analysis, but can report on research that examines different facets of these challenges for the bioeconomy. Preference will be given to papers that frame critical issues and provide research-based information on the consequences of different approaches to these challenges. Selected papers will be presented in concurrent sessions.

**Submission Guidelines:** Papers must be submitted **via e-mail no later than Monday, April 28, 2008**. E-mail should be addressed to Dr. Burton English at [Spfarmfoundation@utk.edu](mailto:Spfarmfoundation@utk.edu). **The e-mail body serves as the cover page for the proposal** and must include the name, affiliation, address, phone number and e-mail address of corresponding author, the title of the paper, the subject area (from list above), the name of the attached file containing the proposal and the attachment file type (Word or WordPerfect). **The paper must be attached to the e-mail** as a Word or WordPerfect file and follow the submission format below. Please do not include the authors' names in the attached proposal file. Papers are limited to 15 pages in total length (including the cover page) double spaced on 8 1/2" x 11" paper with 1-inch margins on all sides, 12 point font. **Authors will receive an automated e-mail confirmation of receipt of their submission.**

**Selection and Presentation:** Acceptance decisions, based on two reviewer evaluations, will be communicated to authors by **May 23, 2008**. For accepted paper papers, paper and electronic copies of your final paper must be sent to Dr. Burton English, Department of Agricultural Economics, 2621 Morgan Circle, Knoxville, TN 37996-4518 (phone: 865-974-3717), with a postmark no later than **June 10, 2008**. Final manuscripts should not exceed 20 pages in total length (including figures, tables and references) and must be double spaced on 8 1/2" x 11" paper. Authors will be expected to develop a PowerPoint (or equivalent) electronic file to be used when presenting the paper at the conference. Presentations will be limited to 15 minutes. Presentation files must be submitted to the conference editor by **June 19, 2008**.

**Publication:** Material from all conference papers will provide background for a conference executive summary publication to be developed by Farm Foundation for broad public distribution.

Conference planners are negotiating several options for an academic proceedings volume. Authors of papers selected for presentation will be given the option of participating in this academic publication. However, only papers identified by the reviewers as making a substantial contribution to the literature in this area will be published in the conference proceedings volume.

**Questions** may be directed to Dr. Steve A. Halbrook (630-571-9393 or [steve@farmfoundation.org](mailto:steve@farmfoundation.org)) or Dr. Burton English (865-974-3716 or [benglish@utk.edu](mailto:benglish@utk.edu))

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