NEWBio Annual Meeting
Marks Launch of Fifth Project Year

NEWBio contributors and advisors met last month for an annual meeting conference to discuss project progress, new findings, and next steps, concluding year 4 of the NEWBio project.

Last week, the entire community of contributors and advisors working together in the NEWBio Consortium, funded by USDA NIFA AFRI grant no. 2012-68005-19703, met in State College, PA, to discuss progress toward project objectives, review new findings, and set goals for the fifth year of work within this consortium. The event was kicked off with a series of field tours highlighting biomass crop trials on reclaimed mine land, a nearby ethanol plant, the Rockview willow plantation site, riparian buffers, and a vegetative “living filter” used for water treatment. The meeting featured not only project updates, work sessions, and planning, but also talks by invited guests from the project advisory board, related research fields, and relevant industry interests. After a great conference, we in NEWBio are energized and focused in taking on the next year of work ahead!

If you would like to review the major outcomes and status of the NEWBio project so far, you can read our public reports. You can also get in touch with us for a closer look.
"Bioenergy in the Clean Power Plan" Webinar Series Concludes This Month

This month's topic: Litigation

Co-sponsored by the USDA NIFA AFRI Regional Bioenergy System Coordinated Agricultural Projects.

Since January, our webinar series has focused on the complex question of incorporating bioenergy into state implementation plans designed to meet Clean Power Plan (CPP) objectives. During that time, many policy and legal developments have complicated that issue. The speakers in our series so far have provided timely reflections on those developments, but what's really going on in terms of the legal landscape? In our upcoming session, the last in this series, Lara Fowler--senior lecturer, Penn State Law--weighs in with her presentation:

"The Legal Landscape for the Clean Power Plan."
1pm Eastern Time, Thursday, August 11

This webinar will provide a brief recap of the U.S. Clean Power Plan and what has happened since it was released. The webinar will provide an update on current status and legal challenges, as well as efforts by some states to implement the plan regardless of a stay issued by the U.S. Supreme Court. More Info/Connect.

This presentation was rescheduled from July 19 due to a program scheduling conflict.

As we look ahead to future work around the CPP, it's useful to take stock of where these past months have taken us. Catch up on the conversation here, on the CPP Webinar Series Homepage, to find the full list of recorded presentation links, all available for free. So far, Laura Small and Jessie Stolark offered policy context and an excellent overview of biomass opportunities in the CPP, Peter Woodbury and Emily McGlynn gave takes on the process of carbon accounting, Greg Latta talked us through potential market interactions with increased bioenergy use, Carrie Annand offered a biopower industry perspective, and Chuck Hersey and Marcus Kauffman talked through on-the-ground, state-level plans in Washington and Oregon where biomass utilization in context of the CPP is a real priority.

Don't Miss These August Events

Empire Farm Days
August 9-11, 2016, in Seneca Falls, NY

Empire Farm Days is the largest outdoor trade show in the Northeast, showcasing the region's agricultural sector. Once again, NEWBio will be there, offering the full suite of NEWBio resources at a table display that also features videos and root chambers. This display heavily features information on developments in shrub willow crops. We'll see you there!

Ag Progress Days
August 16-18, 2016, in Pennsylvania Furnace, PA

Ag Progress Days is another large agricultural expo featuring advancements in agricultural technologies and research. You'll find NEWBio here, too, offering our full suite of resources as well as several tours focusing on the management of biomass feedstocks in the region. As an added bonus this year, we'll
Find information, demonstrations, equipment, and tours relating to biomass at Ag Progress Days (Photo: Wurzbacher).

This short course explores ecosystem services, including those related to water quality, afforded by perennial biomass crop plantings. (Photo: ARS Image Gallery - S. Bauer)

**Save the (New) Date: Ecosystem Services Short Course**

**Designing Sustainable, Working Landscapes with Perennial Crops for Bioenergy and Ecosystem Services (Rescheduled)**

**Now October 26-27, 2016, in State College, PA**

In addition to economic opportunities, perennial biomass crops provide important ecosystem services to the region. This short course provides an in-depth look at opportunities for the use of perennial biomass crops, including grasses and short-rotation woody crops, in accomplishing conservation and rehabilitation goals on a landscape scale. Presentations, panels, and discussion sessions feature leading researchers, agency representatives, and industry professionals in the field. The schedule also includes time for networking as well as a tour to nearby sites where perennial crops are being used for mineland reclamation, water quality improvement, wastewater treatment, and other applications. **Online registration page forthcoming.**

**Reminder: USDA BCAP Enrollment Resumes**

From a USDA press release (read the full release [here](#)):  

*"In fiscal year 2016, there is $3 million available for the Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP). A portion of the funds will be provided to two existing BCAP projects in New York and Ohio/Pennsylvania to expand acres planted to shrub willow and giant miscanthus. Farmers and forest landowners may enroll for biomass establishment and maintenance payments for these two projects between June 15 and Sept. 13, 2016.*

Also, between June 15 and Aug. 4, 2016, USDA will accept applications from foresters and farmers seeking incentives to remove biomass residues from fields or national forests for delivery to energy generation facilities. The retrieval payments are provided at match of $1 for $1, up to $20 per dry ton. Eligible crops include corn residue, diseased or insect-infested wood materials, or orchard waste.

To learn more about BCAP or to enroll in updates, visit [www.fsa.usda.gov/bcap](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/bcap) or contact your local FSA county office. To find your local county office, visit [http://offices.usda.gov/](http://offices.usda.gov/)."

*If you are a producer interested in opportunities in the New York BCAP area, please contact*
DOE Announces $7 million in Funding to Accelerate Fuel and Engine Co-Optimization Technologies
The US DOE EERE Bioenergy Technologies Office (BETO) and Vehicle Technologies Office have announced a first-of-its-kind initiative to provide up to $7 million in funding for the Co-Optimization of Fuels and Engines (Co-Optima) Initiative. Co-optimized fuels and engines offer the opportunity to build on decades of advancements in both fuels and engines. Groundbreaking research in the last 10 years has identified combustion engine strategies that especially if optimized to run on new fuels would offer significantly higher efficiency and produce fewer engine-out pollutants than current engines. Full applications must be submitted September 18, 2016. Find the FOA [here](#). An informational [webinar](#) on this FOA will be offered August 8, 2016, at 2pm Eastern Time.

DOE Requests Information on Cellulosic Sugar and Lignin Production Capabilities
The US DOE EERE BETO seeks input from industry, academia, national laboratories, and other biofuels and bioproducts stakeholders to identify existing capabilities to produce lignocellulosic sugars and lignin for use by the research community. Read the full RFI [here](#). Responses must be submitted by 5pm Eastern Time, August 24, 2016.

10 Regional Events on Grass Pellet Production Announced for July-October 2016
From July through October this year, Pocono Northeast Resource Conservation & Development Council (PNERCD) expects to hold ten events across its region consisting of 1) an indoor presentation on how grass pellets are made, the types of equipment needed, costs, expected results, and potential government support for equipment acquisition, and 2) an outdoor demonstration of pellet making using equipment which can be purchased locally. [More](#).

NY Bioenergy and Bioproducts Teacher Training Program in August Still Open
How can you grow your own knowledge and skills to inspire your students? What new opportunities are developing for science-based careers in the region? Learn about this and more at a USDA-sponsored Teacher Training Program August 15-17 at the Wings of Eagles Discovery Center in Horseheads, NY. The schedule will include talks from national experts, hands-on laboratory activities, and site visits to research and/or industrial sites. [More](#).

ITA Seeks Nominations for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Committee
The U.S. Department of Commerce’s International Trade Administration (ITA) has declared intent to reestablish its Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Committee; nominations for inclusion in the membership of 35 people are currently being accepted until August 15. Additional information on the committee and how to nominate members can be found [here](#).

To keep up with funding announcements from the Department of Energy, [click here](#).

**UPCOMING CONFERENCES, EXHIBITIONS**

- **5th Pan-American Congress on Plants and BioEnergy**
  August 4-7, 2016; Santa Fe, NM

- **Rural Sociological Society Annual Meeting**
  August 6-9, 2016; Toronto, Canada

- **Biochar 2016: The Synergy of Science and Industry: Biochar's Connection to Ecology, Soil, Food, and Energy**
  August 22-25, 2016; Corvallis, OR

- **3rd International Conference and Exhibition on Biopolymers and Bioplastics**
  September 12-14, 2016; San Antonio, TX

- **2016 Ag Innovation Showcase**
  September 12-14, 2016; St. Louis, MO
DOE BETO Alternative Aviation Fuel Workshop  
September 14-15, 2016; Macon, GA

OPIS 8th Annual RFS2, RINs, & Biodiesel Forum  
September 29-30, 2016; Chicago, IL

Short Rotation Woody Crops Operations Working Group 11th Biennial Conference  
October 11-13, 2016; Fort Pierce, FL

ABLC Next: What’s next in the advanced bioeconomy?  
November 2-4, 2016; San Francisco, CA

Frontiers in Biorefining: Chemical and Products from Renewable Carbon  
November 8-11, 2016; St. Simons Island, GA

Don’t wait for the newsletter!

STAY CONNECTED

ARCHIVED RESOURCES

View available Bioenergy Webinars
View available Bioenergy Short Course presentations

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NEWBio is supported by an Agriculture and Food Research Initiative Competitive Grant No. 2012-68005-19703 from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

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