BCAP Renews Activity with Short Enrollment Window; with New Processing Facility, Aloterra Targets Expansion

NEWBio Industry Partners Aloterra Energy LLC, based in northeastern Ohio, and ReEnergy Holdings LLC in upstate New York are among the project area sponsors who qualify for the $7.7 million allocation toward the establishment of new acreage in existing project areas. The enrollment incentive targets the establishment of an additional 10,500 acres of shrub willow, giant miscanthus, and switchgrass for energy. Landowners may enroll for biomass establishment and maintenance payments for these four sites through September 25.

Biomass energy facilities or groups of producers may also submit proposals for new BCAP project areas. Proposals will be accepted on grants.gov through November 6. Read more about recent BCAP funding opportunities here.

Aloterra is actively recruiting new landowners to join its project, hoping to plant 3,000 more acres to supplement its existing 4,000. In its invitation to landowners, Aloterra emphasizes that "(1) your acres help us to create more local jobs, and (2) we are confident we can increase the profitability of your land." More information on this call for new land enrollments including how to contact Aloterra can be found here.

Certainly, some of Aloterra's interest in expansion is driven by the recent completion of a new manufacturing plant in Ashtabula, OH where miscanthus will be processed into fiber packaging products. Along with an existing factory producing absorbent materials, these facilities will employ 60 full time jobs in the region by the end of 2015. This project has been supported by the Ashtabula County 503 Program, JobsOhio, and the Small Business Administration. Funding has included $22 million from private sources in addition to $5 million from the USDA that supports and expands miscanthus acreage in the region.

Tune in to one of two informational webinars (more below) on September 9, 2015 (noon to 1 p.m., and again from 7 to 8 pm). This will be an opportunity for landowners, farmers and those in the bioenergy industry to learn more from the Farm Services Agency, Aloterra and ReEnergy Holdings about enrollment procedures and each company's objectives and activities. To access the webinar, visit http://www.newbio.psu.edu/Extension/Webinars.asp
2015 New York Willow Biomass Outlook

Willow biomass harvesting is once again underway in northern New York State. The Celtic Energy Farm is planning to harvest about 200 acres of mature willow crops this season, with the biomass being delivered to two biopower facilities in the region owned and operated by ReEnergy Holdings LLC. The partnership between Celtic Energy and ReEnergy was formed in 2012 under the USDA Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP), project area 10. The program currently spans three counties and about 1,200 acres of willow crops in northern New York, with expansion on the horizon. Like its sister BCAP project Aloterra, ReEnergy is looking to expand biomass crop acreage in New York, with willow as the featured crop.

Over the past two harvest seasons, Celtic Energy has harvested and delivered over 3,000 tons of willow biomass to ReEnergy, who has tested and successfully incorporated the willow into their feedstock supply and plant operations, which primarily utilizes other sources of renewable woody biomass such as forest residues. The willow harvesting operations have been made possible by new technology developed by SUNY-ESF in partnership with New Holland Agriculture, the U.S. Department of Energy, NYSERDA and others. The woody crops cutting header developed and now being used to cut willow has been made available to producers with assistance from the willow equipment access program administered by NEWBio. Later this fall, this new harvesting technology will also be used to harvest about 50 acres of a willow bioremediation project and about 100 acres of research and other willow plantings in New York and Pennsylvania. Additionally, it is being used in the Pacific Northwest to harvest short-rotation poplar, another woody bioenergy crop. Read more.

NEWBio 2015 Annual Meeting

Research, Education and Extension Spotlight on Commercialization

Over 90 NEWBio project team members, industry stakeholders and invited guests met on the campus of West Virginia University in Morgantown on August 3-5 to connect all eight project thrusts, discuss NEWBio's third year of effort, and interact with corporate partners and sister research projects. Highlights of the meeting included field tours to feedstock trials and a biomass pelleting facility, an industry panel discussion on barriers to scale-up for bioenergy in the Northeast U.S., and a student/faculty poster session. Read more and share in NEWBio’s accomplishments on our website.
Tom Foust, Director of NREL's National Bioenergy Center and Chair of NEWBio's Advisory Board reports to the team.

Lara Fowler, Research Fellow at Penn State (r) moderates the commercialization panel discussion. Panelists (l-r) included: Kevin Smith, CNH Industrial; Tim Rials-University of Tennessee, SE-IBSS; Tom Foust, NREL; Kevin Comer, Antares Group; Manuk Colakyan, Rentamix Inc.

**BIOMASS FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

**DOE: $10M for Innovative Technologies**

**USDA: Small Business Research Grants**

DOE's Bioenergy Technologies Office will hold an information webinar on the $10 million funding opportunity to advance the production of advanced biofuels, substitutes for petroleum-based feedstocks and bioproducts made from renewable, non-food-based biomass, such as algae, agricultural residues, and woody biomass. The webinar will take place on September 2, 2015 at 1:00 pm EDT. [Register for the webinar.](#)

USDA Accepting Applications for Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Grant - Projects dealing with agriculturally-related manufacturing and alternative renewable energy technologies are encouraged across all SBIR topic areas. The USDA SBIR program has awarded more than 2,000 research and development projects since 1983. [Learn more about the current opportunity and submit an application.](#)

**News, Events, and Deadlines from Around the Web**

$9M Awarded to Antares Group to Improve Cellulosic Bioenergy System Sustainability

The Energy Department has awarded $9 million to the Antares Group, Inc. to design advanced bioenergy systems that promote the environmental and socio-economic sustainability of cellulosic bioenergy. The project will aim to enable more stable and diverse future feedstock supplies (corn stover, switchgrass, and other warm season grasses) for three cellulosic biorefineries in Iowa and Kansas, while increasing both profitability and ecological benefits in those areas. [More.](#)

USDA Invests $63M to support 264 Nationwide Energy Projects with REAP Program

On August 7, $63 million was issued in the form of loans and grants for 264 renewable energy and energy efficiency projects nationwide that the USDA is supporting through its Rural Energy for America program (REAP). These REAP projects are expected to generate and/or save 207.8 million kilowatt hours (KWh) of energy - enough to power more than 13,600 homes for a year. [Click here](#) for more on the announcement and to read about real examples of specific impacts stemming from REAP-supported projects.

Final Clean Power Plan Issued Last Month with Implications for Biomass Energy

Last month, the U.S. EPA released the final version of its Clean Power Plan rules. The proposed
rule, which aimed to reduce carbon emissions by 30 percent in 2030 when compared to 2005 emissions, was released in June 2014. It calls on each state to craft its own plan based on policy and resources of its choosing, and is designed to provide flexibility in meeting goals set by the EPA, which vary by state. Slightly raising the average carbon pollution reduction goal, the final rule requires existing power plants to reduce carbon pollution by an average of 32 percent by 2030, a 9 percent target increase from the proposed 30 percent. Some uncertainty remains as to the specific role of biomass, though it was noted as an important tool in reaching proposed objectives. More.

EPA Solicits comments on Agricultural Science Committee nominees
The U.S. EPA is inviting public comments on the list of candidates being considered for appointment to its Science Advisory Board Agricultural Science Committee, which provides advice to the board on matters that will have a significant direct impact on farming and agriculture-related industries. Comments are due Sept. 9.... Read more.

Senior Research Support Specialist Position Announced at SUNY-ESF
The successful candidate will be actively involved with willow crop planting and management related to the implementation of field research and demonstration aspects of the willow and woody biomass project. Read more here, and apply!

Call for Abstracts: European Biomass Conference and Exhibition, 2016
The 24th European Biomass Conference and Exhibition (aka EUBCE, June 6-9, 2016, Amsterdam), has released a call for abstracts. By submitting an abstract and participating in the conference, participants also have the opportunity to apply for Peer Review and to be published in a special issue of the Biomass & Bioenergy journal of Elsevier. Submissions are due October 30, 2015.

To keep up with the many funding announcements from the Department of Energy, click here.

The NEWBio Webinar Series

Biomass Crop Assistance Program Informational Webinar
September 9, 2015
Two offerings: noon to 1 pm, 7 to 8 pm EDT
The USDA Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP) was reauthorized for new enrollment targets to establish shrub willow, giant miscanthus, and switchgrass for energy. Aloterra Energy LLC, based in northeastern Ohio, and ReEnergy Holdings LLC in upstate New York are among the project area sponsors who qualify for a recently announced $7.7 million allocation toward the establishment of new acreage in existing BCAP project areas. Both companies are looking for landowners interested in growing energy crops and receiving BCAP incentive payments. This webinar is an opportunity for landowners, famers and those in the bioenergy industry to hear about this new BCAP opportunity. The webinar will include presentations from Virginia Green (USDA Farm Services Agency), John Griswold and Courtney Spencer (Aloterra) and Mike Buckley and Sarah Boggess (ReEnergy) about enrollment procedures and their companies' objectives and activities. Landowners may enroll for biomass establishment and maintenance payments through September 25, 2015.

The webinar(s) are sponsored by NEWBio and will be held twice on Sept 9 from noon - 1pm and again from 7pm- 8pm. To access to the webinar, visit https://meeting.psu.edu/bioenergy and sign in as a guest. For more information on BCAP and NEWBio, visit http://www.newbio.psu.edu

OCTOBER SPECIAL! Multiple Webinars
First, you can attend the next installment of our second-Tuesday webinar series on October 13. At 1pm on that day, Geoff Bristow, Northwest Regional Energy Manager in the
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and PA Biomass Energy Association board member, will speak about the potential opportunities for biomass energy to be incorporated into state plans for meeting Clean Power Plan requirements.

Then, stay tuned in to our website to hear more about a special series of webinars taking place throughout National Bioenergy Week (October 19-23).

Can't wait for October? Review recordings of past webinars and watch our website for new announcements.

NEWBio Social Media Reminder

Why wait for the monthly newsletter? Connect with NEWBio on social media to take the pulse of the project in smaller sound bites and snippets. Read the NEWBio blog to gather some quick takeaways from the work we're doing, the newsworthy goings–on of our industry, our innovative research projects, and scenic peeks into field activities. Follow us on Twitter, re–tweet something interesting, or view our interaction with stakeholders, partners, and research groups. Like us on Facebook for great links, photos documenting our progress, and a announcements. Visit NEWBio on YouTube to see the results of NEWBio Bioenergy Scholar Research and our "Champions of Bioenergy" video series. Watch recordings of past webinars you may have missed. Finally, our website is a great source of information for upcoming events as well as newly published resources, relevant news, and other features. We’re adding to it all the time, so be sure to check it out from time to time to see what’s new.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES, EXHIBITIONS

Sustainable Chemicals & Plastics Adoption & Applications Summit
September 1-3, 2015; San Diego, CA

National Advanced Biofuels Conference & Expo
October 26-28, 2015; Omaha, NE

International Bioenergy & Bioproducts Conference (IBCC) 2015
October 28-30, 2015; Atlanta, GA

tcbiomass2015: The International Conference on Thermochemical Conversion Science
November 2-5, 2015; Chicago, IL

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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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