

Item: ED Report

Presenter: Eric Young

Background Information:

Southern Region Bioenergy

A Southern Summit of Biofuels for Aviation is being planned for January 12 – 13, 2011 at a hotel near the Atlanta Airport. This Summit is pending approval of funding from the Air Force. If funded, the purpose of this Summit is to answer two basic questions:

1. For a given feedstock what is the price for Jet-8 fuel that is sufficient to draw the private sector into production (and when in the future could the production of Jet-8 be expected to occur (cents per gallon)?
2. What is the amount that the feedstock could be reasonably expected to yield (gallons per year)?

The planning committee has representatives from the National Center for Agricultural Policy, University of GA, GA Center of Innovation for Energy, GA Center of Innovation for Aerospace, and Southern Experiment Stations (Eric Young and Bob Avant, Texas AgriLife Research).

The Summit will investigate selected feedstocks in terms of production to develop a better estimate about price and quantity than is now available. Feedstocks selected by the planning committee are fats and oils, pine trees, and perennial grasses. Fats and oils are from both animals and plants indigenous to the Southern Region. Pine trees are abundant in the South and growing faster than the use level, implying an excess of this feedstock, and have a history of harvest methods that may be transferable to the biofuels industry. There are a variety of perennial grasses available and many of them can be grown in the Southern Region.

Presentations and discussions will explore technologies and costs within the production process, including size of the optimal processing system from the viewpoint of fuel cost and environmental considerations. Also there will as well be discussions of the efficiency of processing and whether or not processing toward one fuel is better than processing toward a mix of fuels. Finally the issue of delivery of the fuel to airports and air bases will be explored. Can the fuel move through the same pipelines as petroleum and what are the barriers to the movement of jet fuels made from biomass as compared to petroleum?

Gulf Coast Collaboration

At Dr. Mark Hussey's request, Ron Brown and I polled our directors in TX, LA, MS, AL, and FL to assess interest in discussing the idea of forming some type of collaboration dedicated to coastal studies in the Gulf of Mexico. There was unanimous interest in this idea so a conference call was held August 9 to begin the discussion. During that call Karl Havens, FL Sea Grant Director, describe the Gulf of Mexico Alliance (GOMA), which was initiated by the Gulf states' governors in 2006. We had a subsequent conference call with a few directors and Phil Bass of GOMA to learn more about the Alliance. The directors are currently exploring whether or not joining GOMA would provide the enhanced coordination, communication, and integration needed across the Gulf States for research and extension.

Advisory Committee Membership Updates

It is difficult to stay current on Advisory Committee members since department heads change frequently and we don't usually hear about changes. In order to assist SAC Administrative Advisors to maintain a reasonably up-to-date list of department heads in our region, we would like to try a different process for staying current on this information.

We have collected the most current lists of SAC members with their institution and email address from the AA's. Donna will compile this into a spreadsheet, sort it by institution and send it to the COO's administrative assistants in each institution asking them to make any changes to update the information. After Donna receives their revisions, she'll resort by SAC and link the spreadsheet to the Directory page on our web site.

Once or twice a year Donna will ask the administrative assistants to update this information so that it stays reasonably current, but of course it can be updated anytime with new information that AA's might send Donna. This will make current regional department head information easily available not only to the SAC AA's but also to any director who may have a need to contact a specific discipline-based group of heads or faculty.

SAAESD Assignments

NRSP-8, National Animal Genome Research Program, Administrative Advisor

S-1043, Economic Impacts of International Trade and Domestic Policies on Southern Agriculture, Administrative Advisor

SCC-83, Quantifying the Linkages between Soil Health and Organic Farming, Administrative Advisor

AC-6, Horticulture, Administrative Advisor

AC-13, Forestry, Administrative Advisor

SERA Review Committee

Joint Cotton Breeding Advisory Committee, Tecoman Winter Nursery Steering Committee, and Cotton Winter Nursery Executive Committee

Southern Region IPM Center Steering Committee

Southern Region Water Quality Program Advisory Committee

T-STAR Caribbean Basin Advisory Group

Liaison to the Association of Southern Region Extension Directors

Liaison to the Association of Research Directors (1890s)