



Conference assesses risks, infrastructure of biofuels

OAK BROOK, IL March 31, 2008: The rapidly evolving U.S. biofuels industry is generating opportunities and challenges for energy producers, agriculture, rural communities and the food system. Risks, infrastructure issues and the evolution of the industry are the focus of the June 24-25, 2008, conference, *Transition to a Bioeconomy: Risk, Infrastructure and Industry Evolution*.

The conference, to convene at the Doubletree Marina, Berkeley, Calif., is a collaboration of Farm Foundation, and USDA's Office of Energy Policy and New Uses and Economic Research Service.

"Opportunities and risks are fundamental to any evolving industry. With biofuels, the opportunities, risks and challenges continue to unfold as the industry grows," says Farm Foundation Vice President Steve Halbrook. "This conference will help build understanding of the risks and ways to manage it, as well as options for addressing infrastructure issues and industry's continuing evolution."

Conference sessions will explore market relationships and risk management strategies. Business, legal, transportation and financial infrastructure issues will be examined, as well as potential policy questions. Conference program details are available at the Farm Foundation Web site, www.farmfoundation.org. Registration fee is \$225 if paid by June 9, after which it will be \$250.

This is the second of four conferences in the *Transition to a Bioeconomy* series. Sponsored by Farm Foundation and USDA, the series is designed to inventory current knowledge of key issues of the bioeconomy, highlight lessons learned, identify future possibilities and determine information and research 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.

Scheduled for October 2008, the third conference in the series will address environmental and economic development impacts. The first conference in the series examined the integration of agricultural and energy systems. The last conference in the series, slated for early 2009, will focus on the implications of a global bioeconomy.

Farm Foundation has been a catalyst on bioenergy issues since June 2004, when it led the conference *Agriculture as a Consumer and Producer of Energy*. For information on this and the other energy conferences Farm Foundation has presented—*Biofuel, Food and Feed Tradeoff*, *Energy in Agriculture: Managing the Risk*, *Energy from Agriculture: New Technologies*, *Innovations and Success Stories*—visit the Farm Foundation Web site, www.farmfoundation.org.

Farm Foundation works as a catalyst, bringing stakeholders of all ideologies together to examine economic and public policy issues impacting agriculture, the food system and rural communities. Farm Foundation does not lobby or advocate. Its primary product is comprehensive, objective information on economic and policy issues.

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