

CALL FOR SELECTED PAPER PROPOSALS

Agriculture as a Producer and Consumer of Energy

*A conference sponsored by Farm Foundation and
USDA's Office of Energy Policy and New Uses*

June 24 - 25, 2004
Hyatt Regency Crystal City
Arlington, Virginia

This conference is designed to establish a baseline of information on the current status of agriculture as a producer and consumer of energy. Commissioned papers will provide a survey of current knowledge. Selected papers will complement and supplement commissioned papers by focusing on topics that cannot be covered adequately in survey papers.

Selected papers will be organized in two tracks:

Track 1) Agriculture's Role as an Energy Producer: U.S. agriculture has the resources to produce many forms of bioenergy, including liquid fuels like ethanol and biodiesel, electricity produced from energy crops and crop residues, and methane gas produced from anaerobic digestion. We are calling for papers on energy feedstock production and bioenergy manufacturing, distribution, and marketing. Topics of specific interest include, but not limited to:

- C Resource base and potential growth of bioenergy
- C Economics of producing bioenergy, including data and trends on costs and effects on farm commodity and bioenergy prices, economic growth, balance of trade, farm income, etc.
- C Environmental costs and benefits and related issues of using agricultural resources for energy
- C Technology, including biotechnology, feedstock conversion innovations, and energy efficiency
- C Marketing of bioenergy and related co-products
- C Life cycle analysis
- C The effects of government policies on bioenergy development

Track 2) Agriculture's Role as an Energy Consumer: U.S. agriculture relies on many forms of energy, including diesel fuel, gasoline, natural gas, liquid petroleum and electricity. Farmers also use significant amounts of energy indirectly through their use of energy intensive farm inputs, such as commercial fertilizers and pesticides. We are calling for papers on energy used on farms, livestock and poultry operations, nurseries, greenhouses and other agricultural operations. We are also interested in the energy used to manufacture farm inputs, and the energy used in food manufacturing, packaging and transportation. Topics of specific interest include, but not limited to:

- C Baseline energy consumption and energy use data and trends in the agricultural sector
- C Increasing the efficiency of energy using activities, such as irrigation, crop drying, tilling practices, fertilizer and pesticide application, heating and cooling livestock facilities, and climate control in greenhouses and dairies
- C Economic tradeoffs (e.g., profit maximization vs. energy conservation)
- C Adopting energy-saving technologies in manufacturing fertilizers and pesticides
- C Using alternative energy sources on agricultural operations, such as wind and solar power, and using animal or other wastes for methane gas
- C The effects of government policies on energy use

Eligibility Guidelines: Proposals on any aspect of agriculture as a consumer or producer of energy are welcome. However, papers that focus on the topics noted above are encouraged.

Submission Guidelines: Proposals must be submitted **via E-mail no later than Friday, January 16, 2004**. E-mail should be addressed to Dr. Joe Outlaw at energyconf@tamu.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 proposal 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. Proposals are limited to 2 pages in total length (including the cover page) and may be either single or double spaced on 8 ½" 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 **February 20, 2004**. For accepted paper proposals, a hard copy of your final paper must be sent to Dr. Joe Outlaw, 2124 TAMU, Department of Agricultural Economics, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843-2124 (phone: 979- 845-5913), with a postmark no later than **May 14, 2004**. Final manuscripts should not exceed 20 pages in total length (including figures, tables and references) and must be double spaced on 8 ½" 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 11, 2004**.

Publication: Accepted papers will be used as the basis for publication of a book and a lay-oriented conference summary. All material presented at the conference will serve as background for the conference summary to be written by the conference editor and targeted to congressional staff, executive agencies and industry leaders. However, selection of a paper for presentation at the conference does **NOT** guarantee publication in the proceedings book. **Only papers identified by the reviewers as making a substantial contribution to the literature in this area will be published in the conference proceedings to be published by USDA and Farm Foundation.**

Two page proposals should include:

- (a) Title
- (b) Abstract (50 words or less)
- (c) Objectives
- (d) Background
- (e) Data and Methods
- (f) Results/Expected Results
- (g) Discussion

Questions may be directed to Dr. Steve A. Halbrook (630-571-9393 or steve@farmfoundation.org) or Dr. Joe Outlaw (979-845-3062 or joutlaw@tamu.edu).