

# THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES

*Advisers to the Nation on Science, Engineering, and Medicine*

BOARD ON AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
BOARD ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS

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## Economic and Environmental Impacts of Increasing Biofuels Production

### CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The Department of Treasury has commissioned the National Academies' Board on Agriculture and Natural Resources and Board on Energy and Environmental Systems to conduct a study of current and projected biofuel production, use and impacts. The study will

- Include a quantitative and qualitative description of biofuels currently produced and expected to be produced in the United States, with particular focus on the impacts of the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) and tax and tariff policies.
  - Evaluate how federally mandated levels of renewable fuels and other incentives affect the price and availability of animal feed, food, renewable fuels, and forest products.
  - Analyze the impact of current and projected future levels of biofuels production and use, and the incremental impact of additional production, on the environment and discuss the pros and cons of achieving legislated RFS levels and the barriers to achieving the RFS requirements.
  - Identify policy options, including those available under current legislation, to alleviate the adverse impacts of the RFS on the price and availability of animal feedstocks and food.

The study will be conducted by a committee of 20 members appointed by the National Academies. **We are seeking your nominations for potential committee members**, and they may include scientists and experts familiar with current basic and applied research on biofuels production, including research on feasible feedstocks, agronomic or biotechnological improvement to feedstocks, biomass conversion, and fuels synthesis; experts in energy, environmental, and agricultural economics, and regulatory and tax policies; experts in environmental science and impact analysis, including impacts of land use change; and experts in animal feed production, silviculture and forest products\*.

Potential committee members may be academics, government employees, and individuals from nongovernmental organizations or industry. Please suggest individuals who are broadly knowledgeable, distinguished within their respective communities, and are able to work well with others in analyzing information and developing consensus. The final committee will include a mixture of perspectives that will contribute to the study's ability to develop supportable conclusions about the economic and environmental effects of increasing biofuel production.

Please provide your suggestions for potential committee members by **October 31, 2009**. Contact Evonne Tang (202-334-3648, [etang@nas.edu](mailto:etang@nas.edu)) or Kara Laney (202-334-1954, [klaney@nas.edu](mailto:klaney@nas.edu)) for more information.

*\* To inform its analysis, the study committee will seek the input of feed grain producers; food animal producers; producers of other food products; energy producers (renewable and petroleum-based fuel producers, fuel blenders); forest owners and forest products manufacturers and users; individuals and entities interested in nutrition, or in the relationship of the environment to energy production; producers and users of renewable fuel feedstocks; users of renewable fuels; and experts in agricultural economics from land grant universities.*