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TURNING TODAY’S CROPS INTO TOMORROW’S FUEL

“Infrastructure Considerations for Biomass Harvest, Transportation, and Storage”
CAST Report, Convergence of Agriculture and Energy: IV

September 13, 2010
PROGRAM

Welcome and Introduction

DANA PETERSON
NATIONAL C-FAR REPRESENTATIVE

Introduction to CAST

DR. JOHN M. BONNER

Distinguished Speaker

DR. JERRY FRUIN
The University of Minnesota
St. Paul, Minnesota

Open Forum

Closing

DANA PETERSON

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ABSTRACT
Many believe that biomass energy sources will eventually replace fossil fuels, and with issues of the environment, economy, and national security at stake, all aspects of this effort are under consideration. This paper focuses on case studies that demonstrate new developments regarding the infrastructure needed for the harvest, transportation, and storage of cellulosic material. The sustainable amount of biomass that can be removed from the field is directly related to the amount of carbon in the soil, the amount of macronutrients removed in the biomass, and the mass left in the field to protect the soil from erosion. The authors believe the sustainable collection of biomass feedstocks is an important consideration for cellulosic ethanol production. The full text of CAST commentary QTA2010-1 is available at www.cast-science.org.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY
Jerry Fruin, Ph. D., is an Associate Professor in the Department of Applied Economics and a Center for Transportation Faculty Scholar at the University of Minnesota. His broad areas of expertise are reflected in his current research that centers on the national and international transportation and logistics requirements for agricultural commodities and biofuels and the adequacy of U.S. bulk commodity transportation infrastructure. He has also produced research regarding the management of rural road systems, the economics of biomass energy systems, and the economics of transportation on U.S. rivers and lakes. Dr. Fruin has written many published works including articles for the American Journal of Agricultural Economics and the Journal of the Transportation Research Forum. He serves as an External Peer Reviewer to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the Feasibility Study to rebuild locks on the Upper Ohio Navigation System. His activities include the North Central Regional Committee on Competitiveness and Value-Added in the U.S. Grain and Oilseed Industry.