

2014 Farm Bill Energy Title Bioenergy Funding Programs and Levels

Legislation Background

H.R. 2642, the Federal Agriculture Reform and Risk Management Act of 2013, provides for the reform and continuation of agricultural and other programs of the U.S. Department of Agriculture through fiscal year 2018. A majority of the law's funding is allocated to nutritional programs; however the law also provides mandatory and to-be-appropriated funding for a variety of energy programs including advanced biofuels production, biomass research, and the deployment of renewable energy technologies like biomass thermal in rural and agricultural settings.

Relevant Provision Summaries

Sec. 9002 Biobased Markets Program

- Funding - Authorizes mandatory funding of \$3 million annually for FY2014 - FY2018 and authorizes \$2 million to be appropriated annually for FY2014 - FY2018.

Sec. 9004 Repowering Assistance Program

- Funding – Authorizes mandatory funding of \$12 million for fiscal year 2014, and additional funding of \$10 million for each of fiscal years 2014 through 2018.
- Important Program Details
 - Provides payments to bio-refineries to switch from fossil fuels to renewable biomass to produce heat and power.

Sec. 9005 Bioenergy Program for Advanced Biofuels

- Funding - Authorizes \$20 million to be appropriated annually for FY2014 - FY2018. Provides mandatory funding of \$15 million for each of fiscal years 2014 through 2018.
- Important Program Details
 - Biomass fuels like pellets qualify.

Sec. 9007 Rural Energy for America Program

- Funding - Mandatory funding of \$50 million is provided for fiscal year 2014 and each fiscal year thereafter. Authorizes to be appropriated \$20 million annually for FY2014 - FY2018.
- Important Program Details
 - Creates a three-tiered application process for loan guarantees and grants.
 - Repeals the use of REAP funds for feasibility studies.

Sec. 9008 Biomass Research and Development

- Provides mandatory funding of \$3 million for each of fiscal years 2014 through 2017, and discretionary funding of \$20 million for each of fiscal years 2014 through 2018.

Sec. 9010 Biomass Crop Assistance Program

- Funding - Provides mandatory funding of \$25 million for each of fiscal years 2014 through 2018.
- Important Program Details
 - CHST matching payments may not exceed \$20 per dry ton and available for a period of two years.
 - Not less than 10% or more than 50% of funding may be used for CHST.
 - Provides that funding under the subsection shall be available for technical assistance.
 - Rewrites Sec. 9011 of Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 – changes enrolled land eligibility; includes residue from crops receiving Title I payments as eligible material, but extends exclusion to any whole grain from a Title I crop, as well as bagasse and algae.
 - One-time establishment payments are limited to no more than 50% of cost of establishment, not to exceed \$500 per acre (\$750/acre for socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers).

- Not later than four years after enactment, USDA shall submit a report on best practice data and information gathered from participants.

Sec. 9012 Community Wood Energy Program

- Funding - Authorizes to be appropriated \$5 million annually for FY2014 - FY2018.
- Important Program Details
 - Authorizes grants of up to \$50,000 to be made to establish or expand biomass consumer cooperatives that will provide consumers with services or discounts relating to the purchase of biomass heating systems or products (including their delivery and storage).
 - Any biomass consumer cooperative that receives a grant must match at least the equivalent of 50% of the funds toward the establishment or expansion of a biomass consumer cooperative.

More Information

[Click here to read the full text of the legislation >>](#)