



ACEEE'S 2ND FORUM ON ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN AGRICULTURE

Food and Energy from the Ground Up: Efficiency's Role in Sustainable Agriculture

Embassy Suites Hotel • 101 E. Locust St., Des Moines, Iowa • February 20 – 22, 2008

In many industrialized nations, and the United States in particular, any mention of efficiency is generally absent from energy debates. In spite of high energy prices and rising concerns about energy security, consumers and policymakers alike have all but stopped talking about the ways we use energy, how much we waste, and what might be changed.

- Paul Roberts, *The End of Oil* (2005)

In the recent national dialogue about biofuels and other renewable energy opportunities for agriculture, efficiency has been a strangely neglected topic. The hope and vision of many policymakers seems to be that agricultural lands will produce enough fuel and electricity to meet future energy demands that are assumed to keep expanding rapidly.

This conference will explore an alternative vision, where increased energy production by agriculture is accompanied by equally significant improvements in energy efficiency throughout our economy. Making these improvements will require rethinking and redesigning many aspects of our interrelated food and energy systems.

Conference Co-Chairs

Rich Hackner, Wisconsin Focus on Energy and GDS Associates

Mike Morris, National Center for Appropriate Technology

On the Agenda

- Welcome Address by Iowa Governor **Chet Culver** and USDA State Director for Iowa **Mark Reisinger**
- Opening Plenary speeches by **Sarah Murray**, author of *Moveable Feasts*, and **Dennis Olson** of the National Campaign for Sustainable Agriculture
- Discussion of the *Role of Agriculture in Achieving Energy Independence* by **Roya Stanley** (Iowa Office of Energy Independence) and **David Jenkins** (Wisconsin Office of Energy Independence)
- Sessions Addressing:
 - Public Policy Drivers for Energy Efficiency in Agriculture
 - Biogas and Ag CHP: Technology, Practices, and Incentives Shaping the Use of Common Farm Energy Resources
 - Energy Efficiency and Biofuels: A National Policy that Makes Sense?
 - Producing On-Site Biofuels Efficiently: How to Produce Biofuels on the Farm for On-Site Consumption
 - Economic Development: The Role of New Energy Sources and Efficiency
 - Farm Energy Audits
 - Successful 9006 Energy Efficiency Grant Applications
 - Rural Electric Cooperatives and Agricultural Energy Efficiency
 - Carbon Markets for Agriculture
 - Energy Crops: Environmental and Ethical Limits
 - Food Miles: Reducing Energy Usage in the Food Distribution System
 - Best Program Practices: Utility Programs for Agriculture and Rural Communities
 - and other topics – Download a complete agenda at <http://aceee.org/conf/08ag>.

The Ag Forum will also feature an Information Fair where our sponsors and other interested organizations will have displays during conference session breaks. For more information on the Info Fair, go to <http://aceee.org/conf/08ag/infofair.htm>.

Participants may also have the opportunity to take tours of relevant facilities in close proximity to the conference location. Possibilities include: an ethanol plant, a biodiesel plant, the Iowa Energy Center's BECON facility, anaerobic digester site, or a wind farm.

Background

In recent years, the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE) has been active in reinvigorating interest in energy issues in agriculture. We supported the Senate Agriculture Committee in crafting the energy title (Title IX) of the *2002 Farm Bill*, helping to ensure that energy efficiency was included. Since the bill's passage, we have worked to provide information on energy efficiency opportunities in the agricultural sector and to identify successful program strategies, becoming a leading source of information on energy efficiency in agriculture through our Web site, reports and presentations.

In order to expand the dialogue about the role of energy efficiency in agriculture, ACEEE organized the first *Forum on Energy Efficiency in Agriculture* in November of 2005 in Des Moines, Iowa. The Forum advanced programs and policies to help farmers and ranchers increase the energy efficiency of their operations, while also exploring technologies and actions that can make American agriculture more sustainable.

One major success of the 2005 Forum was that we were able to bring together a diverse group of participants to raise awareness, share information, form new collaborations, and create new ideas regarding policy options to increase energy efficiency on farms and ranches and in rural communities. A primary objective of the 2008 conference will be to strengthen and expand this network of supporters of energy efficiency in agriculture.

The 2008 Forum on Energy Efficiency in Agriculture is sponsored by

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For more information about the Ag Forum, please visit us on the web at <http://aceee.org/conf/08ag> or contact Sarah Black at agforum@aceee.org or by calling 202-429-8873.