

Developing the New Bio- economy Workforce

Dr. Daniel Cassidy
National Program Leader
USDA National Institute for Food and
Agriculture



United States Department of Agriculture

National Institute of Food and Agriculture

NIFA's Mission

- Advance knowledge:
 - Agriculture
 - Environment
 - Human Health
- Supports for the Mission
 - Research
 - Education
 - Extension
- Partnerships:
 - 130+ Ag. Colleges
 - 59 Ag. Experiment Stations
 - 75 Cooperative Extension Services
 - 63 Forestry Schools
 - 16 HBC
 - 27 Vet. Schools
 - 42 Family/Consumer Services
 - 50 Native Tribal Schools
 - 160+ HIS's

Multifaceted Education



NIFA's Approach to Bioenergy

- Sustainability
 - Economic
 - Environmental
 - Social
 - Regional
- Entire Feedstock Supply Chain
 - Feedstock Development through Market Infiltration
- Trans-disciplinary and At all Levels

FY 2010 AFRI Education

- Northeast Bioenergy & Biobased Products
 - \$5 Million for 5 years
 - Support K-College teacher education
 - Internships with Industry
 - Underserved minority focus
- Placed-based Opportunities for Sustainable Outcomes and High-hopes
 - \$5 Million for 5 years
 - Facilitates multi-cultural learnings
 - Focused in a region of need

Other NIFA Programs

- Integrated Coordinated Agricultural Projects
- Biomass Research and Development Initiative
- National Needs Fellowships
- Biodiesel Education Program
- Higher Education Challenge Grants
- Formula-Funds

Workforce Development Challenges

- “Keeping up with the Joneses”
- “I need a plant producer who is a closet engineer and knows rural sociology.”
- Chicken-Egg Environment of Biofuels
- “Keeping’em down on the farm after they’ve seen the city.”
- Funding, Funding, and yes...funding