

Intersection of Agricultural Extension and Agricultural Innovations: the Case of Biofuels

Organizers: Deacue Fields, Auburn University; Duncan Chembezi, Alabama A&A University; Blondel Brinkman; USDA-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Program Description: This symposium is designed to discuss the various emerging biofuels issues and role of extension economists and other CES scientists in the industry's sustainability. The discussion will draw on four key presentations by experts from the land-grant system and from the USDA-Economic Research Service. Session Rationale (for review purposes only) : The rapid growth of biofuels production has generated many questions about its sustainability and the current and potential impacts of this evolving industry. A key challenge facing the industry is in the area of alternative feedstocks. Developing biofuels from alternative feedstocks will be necessary for long-term expansion of the industry. The potential economic implications of biofuels production are wide-ranging and warrant further attention. Extension economists and the CES machinery must provide and stimulate outreach and educational programming needed by the industry participants to aid them in remaining informed and becoming more competitive in an ever increasingly complex biofuels industry and market environment. This Extension/COSBAE Track symposium is designed to discuss the various emerging biofuels issues and role of extension economists and other CES scientists in the industry's sustainability. The discussion will draw on four key presentations by experts from the land-grant system and from the USDA/Economic Research Service (ERS).