

# Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP)

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USDA Farm Service Agency  
Conservation and Environmental Programs  
Division (CEPD)



# Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP) Overview

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- Authorized by Section 9011 of the 2008 Farm Bill.
- Program Purposes:
  - Assist with the collection, harvest, storage and transportation (CHST) of eligible material for use in biomass conversion facilities.
  - Support the establishment and production of crops for conversion to bio-energy in project areas





# Biomass Crop Assistance Program's Two Elements

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## □ Matching Payments

- Payments are \$1 for \$1 up to \$45 for a dry-ton of eligible material delivered to a Qualified Biomass Conversion Facility
- Limited to two-years duration per eligible material owner

## □ Project Areas

- Provide annual payments and crop establishment assistance for producers of bioenergy crops in a Project Area

# BCAP Implementation

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- BCAP is expedited as part of the “Presidential Directive to USDA to Expand Access to Biofuels,” May 5, 2009.
- The Directive mission is to make renewable energy financing opportunities available to the renewable fuels market.



# BCAP Current Status

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- A Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) was published in the Federal Register June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2009.
- The NOFA provides policies and processes for
  - Matching Payments for the collection, harvest, storage, and transportation of eligible material to qualified biomass conversion facilities
  - Qualifying CHST biomass conversion facilities.



# How do Biomass Conversion Facilities become CHST-qualified?

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- ❑ Enter in an Agreement outlining a commitment by the facility to document the purchase of eligible materials, share data, and utilize biomass for the production of bioenergy and biobased products.
- ❑ See website ([www.fsa.usda.gov/bcap](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/bcap)) for further instructions
- ❑ 80 biomass conversion facilities have been qualified and have an Agreement with CCC/FSA.

# How do biomass material owners receive a payment?

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- Eligible material owners and CHST-Qualified BCF's enter into sales contracts, purchase commitment agreements, or nonbinding letters of intent for eligible material sales and delivery
- Eligible material owners apply for CHST Matching Payments at FSA County Office
- Eligible material owners with approved applications submit payment requests after sale and delivery to eligible material to CHST-Qualified BCF's
- Payments subject to the availability of funds

# Material Eligibility

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## **National Forest System and BLM Lands**

### **Federal Woody Resources**

#### **Eligible**

Pre- & Non-Commercially Valued Forest Materials (that WOULD NOT otherwise be used for higher-value products) including:

- ❑ Forest thinnings materials
- ❑ Forest, harvest, and post-disaster slash (branches, tops, and disaster debris)
- ❑ Hardwood chips
- ❑ Softwood chips
- ❑ Cutoffs
- ❑ Bark
- ❑ Tree and shrub species without timber, lumber, or wood pulp value



# Material Eligibility

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**National Forest System and BLM Lands  
Federal Woody Resources**

## **Ineligible**

Commercial Forest Materials (that WOULD otherwise be used for higher-value products) including:

- Timber
- Lumber
- Wood Pulp
- Any other finished wood products such as:
  - Mulch
  - Black liquor
  - Paper products



# Material Eligibility

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**Non-Federal Land** (including land belonging to an Indian or Indian Tribe that is held in trust by the United States)

**Non-Federal Woody Resources**

**Eligible**

Renewable Plant Material including:

- Trees and Shrubs such as:
  - o Forest thinnings materials
  - o Forest, harvest, and post-disaster slash (branches, tops, and disaster debris)
  - o Hardwood chips
  - o Softwood chips
  - o Cutoffs
  - o Bark



# Material Eligibility

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## **Agriculture Resources**

### **Eligible**

#### Renewable Plant Material including:

- ❑ Feed grains
- ❑ Other agricultural commodities

#### Waste Material including:

- ❑ Crop residues
- ❑ For example: corn stover, corn cobs, rice hulls and wheat straw are eligible after the commodity crop is harvested from the plant

# Material Eligibility

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## Agriculture Resources

### Ineligible

Any crop eligible to receive payments, including loans, under List 8-LP par. 126 or 7-CN (Title I of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008), or an amendment made by that title, including, but not limited to:

Grains, Kernels, Oilseeds, and other commodities such as:

*Row Crops/Small Grain Plants*

*Oilseed Plants*

*Pulse Crops*

*Other Products*

- Sugar
- Honey
- Wool
- Mohair
- Dairy products



# Material Eligibility

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## **Herbaceous Resources**

### **Eligible**

#### Renewable Plant Material including:

- Forbs
- Legumes
- Grasses
- Vines
- Mosses



# Material Eligibility

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## **Other Renewable Plant Material**

### **Ineligible**

#### Algae including:

- ❑ Algal-residue or by-products
- ❑ Algal-derived oils
- ❑ Lichens composed, in part or whole, of algae

# Material Eligibility

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## Waste Materials

### Eligible

#### Other Vegetative Waste Material including:

- ❑ Roadway maintenance cuttings
- ❑ Non-edible food processing waste
- ❑ Non-edible plant processing waste and scraps
- ❑ Non-edible fats, oils, and greases derived from plants
- ❑ Wood waste such as:
  - o Orchard, vineyard, and related woody waste renewable biomass
- ❑ Wood residues such as:
  - o Wood mill waste and scraps including:
    - o Sawdust
- ❑ Intermediately processed biomass derived from eligible sources



# Material Eligibility

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## Waste Materials

### Ineligible

All Animal Waste & Animal Waste Byproduct

All Food Waste

All Yard Waste Derived from Domestic, Residential, or Municipal Sources  
including:

- ❑ Municipal solid waste
- ❑ Construction and demolition waste or salvage products
- ❑ Leaves
- ❑ Grass
- ❑ Tree branches

# BCAP Entire Program Implementation Timeline

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- ❑ Draft PEIS comment period ended Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>
- ❑ Final PEIS will have 60 day comment period.
- ❑ Proposed rule anticipated for publishing in Federal Register in Fall 2009 with a 60 day comment period.
- ❑ Anticipated Final PEIS pursuant to comment period is December 2009.
- ❑ Anticipated Final BCAP Rule pursuant to comment periods, February 2010

