



## Innovative New Uses for Soy

### USDA Broadens Support of Biobased Products, Fuels



Biofuels and biobased products, including soy-based products, recently received a boost from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Already a strong supporter of biobased products, the USDA took its support a step further in early spring by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

regarding biofuels and related products. The MOU, signed by Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, encourages the continued development of biobased products for energy consumption, chemicals and other uses.

The Governors' Biofuels Coalition signed the MOU as well. The 36-state group focuses on promoting advanced biofuels and other products derived from renewable sources.

Vilsack noted the plan strengthens public, private and academic partnerships, which remain essential to biobased industries.

"It is important that we work together to encourage the development of more biobased products," said Vilsack. "Not only will this reduce our nation's dependence on imported oil, it also will lead to a cleaner, healthier environment."

The MOU calls for collaboration to support President Barack Obama's Biofuels Directive, which calls for a reduction in energy consumption derived from fossil fuels. In addition to signing the MOU, the USDA recently made changes to a series of its policies supporting the increased production and use of renewable energy.

Biodiesel qualifies as the United States' first domestically produced advanced biofuel under the revised federal Renewable Fuels Standard. This requirement calls for the use of at least 800 million gallons of biomass-based diesel this year and at least 1 billion gallons per year in 2012 and beyond.

The United Soybean Board funds biodiesel research and promotion efforts through the National Biodiesel Board to help increase the use of U.S. soybean oil. Soybean oil remains the dominant feedstock for U.S. biodiesel production.

Increased use of soy-based products won't come at the cost of food production. Oil makes up just 18 percent of the soybean and of that 83 percent of the oil goes into human food, while the remainder of the soybean consists of protein-rich meal used to feed humans and animals across the globe. As demand for soybean oil rises, the price of soybean meal falls, according to a USDA study. This means as biodiesel lifts demand for soybean oil, it effectively cuts input costs for poultry and livestock farmers.

To learn more about the biodiesel industry, visit [www.biodiesel.org](http://www.biodiesel.org). To learn more about soy-based products, visit [www.soynewuses.org](http://www.soynewuses.org).

USB is made up of 69 farmer-directors who oversee the investments of the soybean checkoff on behalf of all U.S. soybean farmers. Checkoff funds are invested in the areas of animal utilization, human utilization, industrial utilization, industry relations, market access and supply. As stipulated in the Soybean Promotion, Research and Consumer Information Act, USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service has oversight responsibilities for USB and the soybean checkoff.