



**Additional Biobased Product Designation Offers Potential for Soy**



The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) BioPreferred program's Round 5 finalization adds more than 1,000 biobased products for preferred purchasing by all federal government agencies, contractors and the military. The Round 5 designation offers new opportunities for biobased products, including soy. The United Soybean Board (USB) and soybean checkoff work to promote soy-based products for industrial uses.

The final rule, published in the Federal Register in October 2009, provides additional biobased products, in nine product categories (called 'Designated Items'), for increased Federal procurement. Round 5 items include chain and cable lubricants, corrosion preventives, food cleaners, forming lubricants, gear lubricants, general purpose household cleaners, industrial cleaners, multipurpose cleaners and parts-wash solutions.

"USDA research indicates about 1,000 biobased products on the market right now will fall within the new designated categories," says Kate Lewis, deputy program manager with the BioPreferred program.

The Round 5 final rule will increase BioPreferred's total product offerings to more than 4,500 biobased products in 42 designated items, or product categories. By law, the federal government must give products in these categories preferred purchasing preference as of October 27, 2010. The Rule 5 designation holds particular opportunity for soy-based products.

"Based on past product analysis, I would estimate that between one-third and one-quarter of the 1,000 products in the Rule 5 designation would be soy-based products," says Lewis.

Any government group interested in learning more about biobased offerings should visit [biopreferred.gov](http://biopreferred.gov). The Web site also includes a section for companies interested in learning how to sell/supply biobased products to the federal government, which can be found [here](#). To learn more about soy-based products visit [soynewuses.org](http://soynewuses.org).