Factsheet

2008 Farm Bill Renewable Energy Provisions

The following is a brief summary of the authorities found under Title IX of the 2008 Farm Bill. The sections referenced are ones contained in the 2002 Farm Bill that are amended by the Section 9001 of the 2008 Farm Bill.

Section 9002: Biobased Market Program

Provides provisions for a federal procurement program and a voluntary labeling program for biobased products. The bill provides $1 million in mandatory Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 funding and $2 million per year from FY 2009 through 2012. Additionally, the bill authorizes additional funds in the amount of $2 million per year, from FY 2009 to 2012.

Section 9003: Biorefinery Assistance Program

Provides loan guarantees for the development, construction and retrofitting of commercial-scale biorefineries, and grants to help pay for the development and construction costs of demonstration-scale biorefineries. Provides $75 million in FY 2009 and $245 million in FY 2010 for commercial-scale biorefinery loan guarantees. It also authorizes funding of $150 million per year starting in FY 2009 and continuing through FY 2012 for both demonstration- and commercial-scale biorefineries.

Section 9004: Repowering Assistance

Provides for payments to biorefineries (that were in existence at the time the 2008 Farm Bill was passed) to replace fossil fuels used to produce heat or power to operate the biorefineries with renewable biomass. The bill provides $35 million for FY 2009 that will remain available until the funds are exhausted. The bill also authorizes additional funding of $15 million per year, from FY 2009 through 2012.

Section 9005: Bioenergy Program for Advanced Biofuels

Provides for payments to be made to eligible agricultural producers to support and ensure an expanding production of advanced biofuels. The bill provides $55 million in FYs 2009 and 2010, $85 million in FY 2011, and $105 million in FY 2012. Additionally, the bill authorizes additional funds in the amount of $25 million per year, from FY 2009 to 2012.

Section 9006: Biodiesel Fuel Education Program

Provides competitive grants to eligible entities to educate government and private entities that operate vehicle fleets and the public about the benefits of biodiesel fuel use. The bill provides $1 million in funds per year, from FY 2008 to 2012.

Section 9007: Rural Energy for America Program

Expands and renames the program formerly called the Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvements Program. Under the expansion, hydroelectric source technologies will be added as eligible; energy audits will be included as eligible costs, and; loan limits will be increased. The bill provides $55 million for FY 2009, $60 million for FY 2010, and $70 million for FYs 2011 and 2012. It also authorizes additional funds of $25 million per year, from FY 2009 through 2012.

Section 9008: Biomass Research and Development Initiative

Provides competitive grants, contracts and financial assistance to eligible entities to carry out research on and development and demonstration of biofuels and biobased products, and the methods, practices and technologies for their production. The bill provides $20 million in funds in FY 2009; $28 million in FY 2010; $30 million in FY 2011 and $40 million in FY 2012. In addition, there is a funding authorization of $35 million per year, from FY 2009 through 2012.

Section 9009: Rural Energy Self-Sufficiency Initiative

Provides grants for the purpose of enabling eligible rural communities to substantially increase their energy self-sufficiency. The bill authorizes funds of $5 million per year, beginning in FY 2009 and continuing through FY 2012.

Section 9010: Feedstock Flexibility Program for Bioenergy Producers

Subsidizes the use of sugar for ethanol production through federal purchases of surplus sugar for sale to ethanol producers. Funds will be provided in sufficient amounts to carry out this program.

Section 9011: Biomass Crop Assistance Program

Provides support to establish and produce crops for conversion to bioenergy in project areas, and to help with collection, harvest, storage and transportation of eligible material for use in a biomass conversion facility. The program will be implemented by the Farm Service Agency with support from other federal and local agencies.

Section 9012: Forest Biomass for Energy

The bill authorizes the Forest Service to conduct a comprehensive research and development program to use forest biomass for energy. The Forest Service, other federal agencies, state and local governments, Indian tribes, land-grant colleges and universities, and private entities are eligible to compete for program funds. Priority research projects include:

- The use of low-value forest biomass for energy from forest health and hazardous fuels reduction treatment.
- The integrated production of energy from forest biomass into biorefineries or other existing manufacturing.
- The development of new transportation fuels from forest biomass.
- The improved growth and yield of trees for renewable energy production.

Section 9013: Community Wood Energy Program

Provides grants to state and local governments to develop community wood energy plans and to acquire or upgrade wood energy systems. The bill authorizes funds in the amount of $5 million per year from FY 2009 through FY 2012.

For More Information:

On the 2008 Farm Bill renewable energy provisions listed here, visit www.usda.gov/farmbill/, or contact Robin Robinson at Robin.Robinson@wdc.usda.gov or Weldon Freeman at Weldon.Freeman@wdc.usda.gov.

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