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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

'97 NOV 24 PM 7:06

INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM FOR TODD STERN

FROM: Charlie Rawls  
USDA Office of Secretary

SUBJECT: Farm Bureau Economic Analysis

DATE: November 24, 1997

As you will see from the attached memorandum from Joe Glauber, our deputy chief economist, the Farm Bureau will release an economic study on Tuesday, November 25 related to climate change. The study presents a bleak picture for farmers as it relates to the costs of addressing climate change in the U.S. For example, the study says that farm income could be reduced by 46 percent (\$21 billion) in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2010.

Secretary Glickman wanted me to make you aware of the situation. He is concerned that the report may have some resonance in the agricultural press during the slow, holiday news period. We are drafting a statement for possible use by him in addressing the deficiencies of the study. Although we are somewhat handicapped by not having an Administration economic analysis, there are a number of deficiencies in the way the analysis was done, as well as its failure to acknowledge the important role that technology will play in holding costs down. We should also point out the risks to agriculture and the costs of adaptation in a future of increasing greenhouse gas concentrations.

On another subject, I hope you will do what you can to ensure a strong U.S. position on sinks for the Kyoto negotiation. I don't believe that there has not been a full policy level discussion of the issue, but it would be a major domestic problem if sinks are not included in the agreement. Joint implementation would be severely limited if forest sinks are not an option. Soil carbon strategies present a future hope for gaining farmer buy-in to actions needed to address net greenhouse gas concentrations.

Attachment



November 20, 1997

**INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM FOR CHARLIE RAWLS**

**United States  
Department of  
Agriculture**

Office of Secretary

Office of the Chief Economist

14th & Independence Ave., SW  
Washington, DC 20250

**FROM:** Joe Glauber   
Deputy Chief Economist

**SUBJECT:** Sparks Companies Analysis of Climate Change

On Tuesday, November 25, the Farm Bureau will release a commissioned study by Sparks Companies on the effects of carbon emission constraints on U.S. agriculture. The study indicates that policies that reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to 1990 levels by 2010 could ~~potentially~~ reduce farm income by as much as \$21 billion (46 percent). The analysis draws heavily on studies by DRI and the Economic Policy Institute that project large increases in energy costs as part of any GHG control strategy. For example, the DRI study estimates that real gasoline prices increase by 33 percent, natural gas prices increase by 129 percent, and electricity prices increase by 90 percent. Because the direct and indirect costs of energy account for such a large share of the agricultural budget, U.S. farm products become less competitive in foreign markets. Domestic consumption also is estimated to fall because of decline in GDP growth.

The briefing will take place at 1300 Longworth and I assume that critics of the Administration will likely try to tie this study to the failure of the Administration to provide the analysis requested by Senator Lugar last summer on effects of the climate change treaty on agriculture.

Attachment



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY



DATE: 11-25-97

SENT TO: Todd Stern

PHONE #:

FAX #:

NUMBER OF PAGES SENT: 1  
(excluding cover sheet)

FROM:

Charlie Rancie

PHONE #: 720-6158

FAX #: 720-5437

# NEWS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Office of Communications News Room 460-A  
Washington, DC 20250-1300  
Internet: [News@usda.gov](mailto:News@usda.gov) Phone: 202-720-9035  
World Wide Web Home Page: <http://www.usda.gov>

Release No. 0416.97

## Statement

of  
Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman  
On Climate Change Report

The 'analysis' released today was crafted to scare America's farmers and ranchers into opposing any effort to address global climate change. The conclusion is based on the false assumption that all reductions in carbon emissions would come from increased energy prices. This Administration has proposed no such thing.

The analysis conveniently ignores the fact that America today has a wide variety of options to address global climate change without hindering our economic competitiveness -- agricultural or otherwise:

-- New technologies are making it easier to reduce carbon emissions without making unreasonable sacrifices;

-- Agriculture-based alternative fuels offer an increasingly viable solution to burning coal and other high-carbon fossil fuels. The increased use of bio-based fuels would actually boost farm incomes and contribute to America's fuel independence;

-- This Administration wants \$5 billion in tax cuts and research funds to help companies increase their use of existing energy-efficient practices and to develop more lower carbon energy sources;

-- This Administration also supports emissions trading between nations, so countries have maximum flexibility in meeting their commitments. And, we are insisting that developing nations also make reductions.

The report also overlooks the likely costs of a do-nothing approach: unstable agricultural production affecting farm incomes, greater health problems, increasingly erratic weather, eroding coastlines, and decreased food production in some of the world's most hungry spots. Clearly, our world can ill-afford these consequences.

President Clinton is committed to building strong farm incomes. He would never take any action that would seriously impair America's ability to feed itself and the world. Nor would he take any action that would put U.S. producers at a disadvantage in global markets. That is why he is advocating a responsible, rational approach. His plan relies first on voluntary actions spurred along by government incentives. Then, there is an evaluation period before binding commitments even become a factor.

It should be noted that today's report was funded by a group that has made clear its opposition to any global climate change treaty. I trust that America's farmers and ranchers will consider all the facts before making their decision on an important issue facing our world in the 21st century.

#

NOTE: USDA news releases and media advisories are available on the Internet. Access the USDA Home Page on the World Wide Web at <http://www.usda.gov>

Cabinet -  
Agriculture

THE WHITE HOUSE  
Washington, DC

OFFICE OF THE STAFF SECRETARY

Fax Transmittal Sheet

To: Patrick Steele ✓

Fax Number: 720-2166

Telephone Number: 720-3631

From: Todd Stern

Subject: Q and A on climate change

Date: 8 October 1997

Number of Pages (including cover sheet):

Message:

*(If all pages are not received, please call (202) 456-2702.)*

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 8, 1997

Patrick --

I talked with Secretary Glickman this afternoon about making a few climate change calls to the Hill -- in particular to Senators Lugar, Dorgan, Harkin and Conrad. This is a base touching exercise so that when we need to call on them in two or three weeks to solicit their support for the specific policy that we announce at that time, we will have already made contact. Talking points attached. We'll also have a few Qs and As in about an hour.



Todd Stern

## Talking Points for Visits to Hill

### *Global Climate Change*

- **What we've been doing.** Wanted to give you an update on what the Administration is doing on the issue of climate change and what is likely to be coming up in the period leading to the Kyoto talks.
- We have been working intensively on a couple of different fronts. First, we have been working on an interagency basis on developing policy options for the President. These options include a target and timetable for reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, various implementing policies, and proposals for developing country participation. No decisions yet.
- Second, active outreach effort. White House Conference held on Monday at Georgetown was very successful. Good, substantive discussions. People on all sides of this issue felt good about it. President said in his speech that day should be spent talking to each other rather than past each other. By that standard, a success. Before Conference, some 20 Cabinet events, weather forecasters event, many senior level meetings with business, labor, environmental community and others.
- **President's four principles.** President has identified four principles which are guiding the development of U.S. climate change policy: **First**, the science of climate change is real. While uncertainties remain, we know enough to warrant taking sensible actions to address the problem; **second**, President is committed to proposing a binding target and timetable for greenhouse gas emissions; **third**, President will not propose actions which threaten economic growth. We will support measures that are flexible and cost-effective, such as various means to get and trade credit internationally. Domestically, we are exploring a range of options for reducing our greenhouse gas emissions, including some form of permit trading; **fourth**, we will insist that all nations, developed and developing must genuinely participate in a solution. It would be environmentally and economically reckless to leave developing countries out of the equation.
- **Calendar.** The next major event on the climate change calendar is meeting in Bonn from October 20-31. This is last full preparatory meeting for Kyoto. Administration is likely to announce a policy position during Bonn meeting, though this isn't definite. Kyoto runs from December 1-12.
- **Touching base.** Wanted to touch base with you today, let you know what we are doing, see whether you have concerns, questions, ideas, suggestions. We will be back in touch with you as we get clearer idea from President of specific policy. We hope we can count on you to work with us. It's a tough issue and we need to craft a policy that is environmentally, economically, and politically sound.



'97 OCT 8 PM 2:32



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Telephone (202) 720-3631 Fax (202) 720-5437

## FAX COVER SHEET

DATE: 10/8/97NUMBER OF PAGES 8 INCLUDING COVER SHEETPLEASE DELIVER TO: Todd SternFAX NUMBER: ( ) 456-2215 PHONE NUMBER: ( )

- FROM:
- ☐ DAN GLICKMAN, SECRETARY
  - ☐ JOHN GIBSON, SPECIAL ASSISTANT
  - ☐ GREG FRAZIER, CHIEF OF STAFF
  - ☐ KOFI DEGRAFT-JOHNSON, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
  - ☐ REBA PITTMAN EVANS, DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF, INTERNAL AFFAIRS
  - ☒ PATRICK STEEL, DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
  - ☐ JOSE VENZOR, ASSISTANT TO THE DEPUTY CHIEFS OF STAFF
  - ☐ PAUL DRAZEK, SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR POLICY
  - ☐ ANNE KENNEDY, SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR POLICY
  - ☐ ERIC OLSEN, SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR POLICY
  - ☐ JANET POTTS, COUNSEL TO THE SECRETARY

MESSAGE: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

October 8, 1997

MEMORANDUM

To: Todd Stern  
Staff Secretary  
The White House

From: Patrick Steel  
Deputy Chief of Staff  
USDA

Re: Climate Change

Secretary Glickman hosted a Climate Change event in Centerville, IA this past weekend as part of the roll-out for the WH Conference on Global Warming. Senator Harkin and Representative Boswell also participated. The event which focused on biomass as a renewable energy source received extensive TV and print coverage (see attached clippings).

In addition, USDA hosted a downlink site for the White House Conference in our Jefferson Auditorium that was attended by approximately 100 people. USDA's Rural Development State Directors were in attendance at 19 of the official downlink sites around the country (list attached).

Congratulation on the great success of the conference. I am sure Jody Jaeger is working out well. We look forward to having him back at USDA.

If you have any questions, please call me at (202) 720-7231.

From: Leanne Powell  
To: OSEC.PSTEEL  
Date: 10/7/97 3:31pm  
Subject: Global Climate Change Conference Participants

The following is a list of downlink sites for the Global Climate Change Conference where a USDA Rural Development State Director was in attendance:

Piscataway, New Jersey  
Knoxville, Tennessee  
Chicago, Illinois  
Little Rock, Arkansas  
New Orleans, Louisiana  
Kansas City, Kansas  
Des Moines, Iowa  
San Francisco, California  
Ann Arbor, Michigan  
Tucson, Arizona  
Boulder, Colorado  
Reno, Nevada  
Albuquerque, New Mexico  
College Station, Texas  
Salt Lake City, Utah  
Atlanta, Georgia  
Tuscaloosa, Alabama  
Glouster Point, Virginia  
and  
San Juan, Puerto Rico



OCT. -06' 97 (MON) 13:27

P. 002

The Des Moines Register

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4, 1997 125

# Glickman sees bright future for Iowa grass

■ He finds a 'real-life field of dreams' near Centerville.

By ANNE FITZGERALD

REGISTER AGRIBUSINESS WRITER

Centerville, Ia. — An effort to grow switchgrass not for forage but as fuel for power generators could help reduce harmful air emissions while boosting farmers' profits, the nation's top ag official said here Friday.

Visiting the Loren and Wilma Eddy farm north of here, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman said the project would "boost farm income on marginal farmlands."

He also said it promised to stem soil erosion in an area known for its steep slopes, while also contributing to cleaner-burning fuel by being mixed with coal at a local power plant.

Meeting briefly with farm reporters after addressing a crowd of about 70 people, Glickman also spoke about recent food safety steps involving U.S. meat products, including a still unsettled situation in South Korea. In that case, a shipment of beef processed by IBP Inc. has been detained because of supposed E. coli contamination — something that neither the U.S. government nor the meatpacker has been able to confirm.

"If it's there, then I think there is legitimate concern, but we need to be sure it's there," he said. "We need to get more information on this."

## Team to Korea

A special team of USDA officials has been sent to Korea to investigate the situation, Glickman said.

He didn't discuss Friday's recall of 444,000 pounds of beef from a BeefAmerica Inc. plant in Norfolk, Neb.

He said his agency was looking closely at expanded

use of irradiation as a way to prevent contamination of the nation's food supply, but he also said it was "no silver bullet."

Glickman's stop in southern Iowa capped a decade-long campaign by conservationists, farmers and others in this area to develop alternative uses for a grass normally harvested as hay for livestock.

During the visit, he announced a \$44,700 USDA grant to finance a feasibility study of the merits of forming a farmer-owned, value-added cooperative to develop and market switchgrass products.

## Value-Added Projects

The grant is one of about 20 totaling \$1.1 million being handed out to value-added ventures across the country as part of the Clinton administration's Fund for Rural America. Another project co-sponsored by the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives and Iowa State University Extension is slated to receive a \$75,000 grant through the program.

Switchgrass acreage intended for the project is expected to grow to 30,000 to 40,000 acres by 2000, and organizers hope to boost the value of switchgrass in the process.



U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman, left, talks with U.S. Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Ia., Friday during a visit to the Loren and Wilma Eddy farm near Centerville.

IKS Utilities is a partner in the project. Plans call for the company to mix the grass with coal at a power generating station in Chillicothe, about 80 miles northeast of here.

Various governmental agencies, farm groups and businesses have supported the project, including the U.S. Department of Energy, USDA, Iowa State University, the Iowa Farm Bureau, IES and Deere & Co., which is trying to devise better equipment for harvesting the grass. Chariton Valley Resource Conservation and Development, a USDA agency, also has played a key role in the project.

Organizers expect the first phases of the project to cost

**GLICKMAN PLANS SEE PAGE 115**



OCT. -06' 97 (MON) 13:27

# Glickman sees bright future for Iowa grass

## GLICKMAN

*Continued from Page 12S*

\$13 million. Both public and private funds are to pay for it.

The switchgrass project is part of a broader-based movement to generate power and produce fuels from biomass — material that includes grasses, corn stover and other materials that otherwise would be discarded. It also is developing at a time of growing global concerns about air pollution and increasing interest in alternative approaches to agricultural production.

Henry Kelly, an official with the White House's Office of Science and Technology who also spoke at the gathering, said the world was carrying out "a huge uncontrolled experiment" environmentally that had helped cause the highest level of so-called greenhouse gas in the

earth's atmosphere in 50 million years.

"We don't want to kid ourselves," he said. "This is going to be a tough road to go down."

Reading from a prepared text after viewing the harvesting of switchgrass nearby, Glickman said he had seen "a real-life field of dreams."

The Clinton administration is watching the project "with extreme interest," he told the crowd.

"From industrialization to mass transportation, we are putting too much stuff into the air — carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases — and literally heating up the planet," he said. "If we do nothing, there are likely long-term consequences — health problems, more floods and droughts, rising sea levels and eroding coastlines, decreased food production in the poorest nations, a threat to the survival of many species. We have a duty to our children and grandchildren to do something."

The pilot project now under way includes 4,000 acres of ground enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program, Glickman noted.

Speaking with farm reporters after his speech, he predicted that the CRP would be expanded in the years ahead. He also said that he expected several more signup periods for it beyond the 16th signup, which is to begin later this month.

In the future, he said, the CRP may involve production of crops like switchgrass that can be harvested without depleting the soil, while also contributing to a cleaner environment. Except for emergency haying and grazing allowances, farmers have been barred from producing anything on the ground enrolled in the program.

"I think it's important to look at the role of CRP in agriculture in a much broader way," he said.

Paul Johnson, the former Iowa lawmaker who is head of the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service, said the project was an glimmer of things to come in agriculture.

"I really think we're in a pioneering effort to look at all of the environmental benefits of well-farmed land," he said.



# Iowa finds field of dreams

## Officials tout benefits of switchgrass

BY JOEL HANNAHS  
Courier staff writer

OTTUMWA — National and state political figures gathered Friday on a Centerville farm invoking famous movie lines while promoting a newly valued Iowa crop.

### Inside

Consumers and the food industry need to work together to curb food-borne illness, U.S. Secretary Dan Glickman said Friday.  
Page 15

"I've seen a real life field of dreams today," U.S. Secretary Dan Glickman said in reference to the Iowa based movie, "If you grow it, change will come."

The Clinton Valley Resource Conservation and Development Council will receive a \$44,700 grant from the USDA to study a competitive for switchgrass products. Dan Glickman announced the funding Friday at the Loren Eddy switchgrass farm, in an event attended by U.S. Sen. Tom Harkin and Iowa Rep. Leonard Boswell.

"The future is biomass," Harkin said, comparing the movie theme with a converted line from "The Graduate."

The challenge of the study is to take a crop that has possibilities, and produce a marketable cash crop that is profitable to Iowa farmers, Glickman said. The grant is part of \$1.1 million out of the Fund for Rural America that is divided among different products in 16 states.

Switchgrass is being grown as an alternative energy crop. Researchers are looking at the feasibility of burning the substance with coal to generate electricity in an environmentally friendly manner. Up to 40,000 acres of the crop are expected to be established by the year 2000, with incomes of up to \$200 per acre.

Switchgrass was touted as a renewable fuel source that will eventually provide new incomes, rural development and a cleaner environment.



U.S. Secretary Dan Glickman, Sen. Tom Harkin and Rep. Leonard Boswell check out a bale of switchgrass Friday on the Loren Eddy farm near Centerville.

Harkin said "What ethanol is to gas, switchgrass can be to electrical power. I call this the ethanol of electricity."

The benefits of switchgrass include erosion prevention, a natural habitat for wildlife, a natural protection for Lake Rathbun, and a more fuel-independent nation, Glickman said. Plus, the crop will not add carbon into the air, in contrast with corn and oil.

"We are putting more stuff into the air than our ancestors did. The human being can push the earth beyond sustainable limits," Glickman said. "Do right by the earth and you can do very well for yourself. (Switchgrass) is a great experiment."

About \$5 billion of Iowa's energy is supplied from outside the state, but switchgrass can keep local dollars at home, Harkin said. Switchgrass can take what might otherwise be idle land and provide energy.

"We have to appreciate how we rely on energy," Boswell said. "Let's move this for

## IES researches practical uses for crop

BY JOEL HANNAHS  
Courier staff writer

OTTUMWA — The cost and bulkiness of switchgrass are the major impediments to its use as a viable alternative fuel, but IES Utilities is researching the crop's practical uses.

"We're going to do everything we can," said Gary Walling, general manager of technical support and shared resources at IES. "This is in fact a new agricultural product."

A test burning of switchgrass is expected sometime in the spring, he said. The issue of converting the boiler to burn switchgrass as well as coal is not a big challenge, he said. More of the problem is the cost of converting the substance into one-inch pellets, and then transporting it.

"We have high confidence that we can solve the boiler," he said. "The concept is to burn up to 5 percent (switchgrass)."

The crop is grown and harvested much like hay and baled into bulky bales. The grass must then be reduced to a size that can be handled. The possible future modifications to the Chillicothe plant would primarily be in the conveyance system, which would use air pressure to move the switchgrass into the burners, he said.

Switchgrass





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Volume 114, No. 128 Monday, October 6, 1997 105 N. Main St. Centerville, Iowa 52544 60¢ per issue 8 Pages

## Switchgrass: The future of agriculture

By STEVE DUNN  
 Managing Editor

A major switchgrass project involving several federal, state and local agencies and organizations has the potential of increasing farmers' income and serving as an alternative fuel source without harming the environment, U.S. Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman and others say.

Glickman, Sen. Tom Harkin and U.S. Rep. Leonard Boswell were among the officials who praised the Chariton Valley RC&D Homestead project Friday on the Loren Eddy farm north of Centerville. Then U.S. Agriculture Secretary Orville Freeman visited the same farm 30 years ago.

The project is expected to cost about \$15 million with the Department of Energy investing nearly \$6 million in the first two phases of the project.

On Friday, Glickman announced the RC&D will receive a \$44,700 USDA grant for a feasibility study on value-added switchgrass products.

IES Utilities Inc. is already designing modifications to its Ottumwa generating station that would allow switchgrass to be burned with coal. The modifications are tentatively scheduled to be completed early next year. A test is scheduled later in 1998.

Three thousand of the 4,000 acres of Conservation Reserve Program land needed for the program have already been signed up. Eventually, the number of acres will increase to 40,000 as switchgrass is converted from an erosion control tool to a cash energy crop generating up to \$200 per acre. Up to 500 local farmers will be able to sell the new cash crop to power companies.

"I've seen a real life field of dreams," said Glickman. "If you give it, change will come. This balances the environment with productivity of the land."

"All the experts agree we are leaving our marks on the earth," he added. "The level of carbon dioxide is going up, which raises the temperature. If we do nothing, there are likely long term consequences."

The amount of carbon dioxide from burning switchgrass is about the equivalent of what is used in the growing process, unlike coal and other fossil fuels, according to Glickman.

Growing switchgrass is a great way to stem erosion and protect Rainbow Lake, he added.

The near term plans for switchgrass include establishing a grower's cooperative by the end of '97, continuing to develop ways to maximize the establishment, yield and handling of switchgrass on 330 acres of land with the eventual conversion of 4,000 acres of CRP land; and completing the design and site plans for the modifications to the Ottumwa generating station this year.

Iowa State University will also develop switchgrass gasification processes and the Energy Research Corp. will investigate using switchgrass product gas in fuel cells.

"Today the future is biomass ... it's a triple winner for Iowa," Harkin commented. "Not only can it increase farmers' income and help protect the environment, but also it can spur economic development in Iowa. Ninety-eight percent of Iowa's energy is derived from out-of-state sources at a cost of \$5 billion a year, he said.

The next step is to convert biomass to hydrogen for use in a fuel cell to generate electricity, the senator said. "This is a true value added



PHOTO BY STEVE DUNN

Jim Cooper (right) of the Chariton Valley RC&D explains a switchgrass project to U.S. Sen. Tom Harkin (second from left), U.S. Rep. Leonard Boswell (third from left) and U.S. Agriculture

Secretary Dan Glickman (next to Cooper) on Loren Eddy's farm Friday. Eddy is shown at left.

solution -- the ethanol of electricity," he added.

Harkin's electric farming concept was supported by Glickman. "I've always thought that energy from the ground is the way to go," the agriculture secretary said.

"Finally, we're doing something for alternate energy," Boswell said. "You just keep adding to it when you put the environment into it, too. Everybody is pulling together to

get something done. It's very exciting to be a part of it."

Henry Kelly, a member of the White House Office of Science and Technology, said President Bill Clinton and Vice President Al Gore are very interested in the switchgrass project.

The project has another benefit for rural areas in that most of the processing has to be done locally, he said.

Paul Johnson, head of the federal agency formerly known as the Soil Conservation Service, compared the project to the early days of flight.

"This project represents the future of agriculture," Johnson observed. "I feel like we're where the Wright brothers were a few years ago."

Partners in the switchgrass project include the Chariton Valley RC&D, IES Utilities Inc., Iowa State University, ABB Combustion Engineering

Energy Research Corp., Iowa Division of Natural Resources, John Deere Co., R.W. Beck, Iowa Farm Bureau Federation and many local farmers.

Others include the U.S. Department of Energy, Iowa Energy Center, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA Rural Development, USDA Farm Service Agency, ABB Combustion Engineering

See PROJECT, Page 2



**MEMORANDUM TO TODD STERN****WHITE HOUSE CLIMATE CHANGE TASK FORCE**

**FROM: CHARLIE RAWLS**  
**EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE DEPUTY SECRETARY**  
**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)**

**Subject: Climate change work plan.**

**I. Agriculture and Climate Change**

The burning of fossil fuels (coal, oil and gas) for energy is the primary source of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, accounting for about 88% of annual U.S. greenhouse gas emission totals. While agriculture is a source of methane, nitrous oxide, and carbon dioxide, U.S. agriculture-related industries contribute about 5% of the total CO<sub>2</sub> released into the atmosphere from U.S. greenhouse gas emissions. In addition, U.S. forests absorb carbon dioxide and offset total U.S. greenhouse gas emissions by about 8%. These statistics would indicate that agriculture-related industries are a small part of the much larger climate change issue.

The United States is the number one agriculture producer in the world. In 1995, farming contributed \$63.2 billion to the U.S. GDP and agriculture-related industry contributed close to \$1 trillion, that accounts for 13.5% of U.S. GDP. The U.S. exports almost \$60 billion a year in agriculture products, that translates into approximately a \$27 billion agriculture trade surplus. In addition, farming and food-related industries employ over 17% of the total U.S. labor force.

To maintain this level of success, the U.S. agriculture industry is always looking for more efficient methods of production. As a result of continued research and the agriculture industry's ability to adapt to varying weather and climate conditions, it is unlikely that predicted climate change levels will pose a serious threat to global or U.S. food supplies. Regional effects may vary, but with progressive agricultural management producers will generally be able to adapt to changing climate conditions. | ✓

**II. U.S. Agriculture Reduces Climate Change**

Although agriculture is but a small part of the problem, the agriculture industry can take actions to reduce U.S. greenhouse gas emissions and preserve the environment. USDA has several programs that may be useful to highlight as part of the White House Climate Change Task Force efforts.

**BIOMASS**

Biomass and renewable fuels can play an important role in the mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions through substitution of fossil fuels. USDA agencies (NRCS, FS, ERS, and ARS) are holding two technical workshops to discuss the technology of the conversion of wood and wood



waste to energy. The workshops are being held in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and are focused on exchanging information among collaborators and improving liaisons with researchers on energy crop production. As a follow up to the workshops, USDA and DOE are in the early planning stages of a fall conference on biomass in Washington, D.C. 11

## SOIL CARBON

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has been working with the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges to develop educational materials on conservation tillage and its value in storing soil carbon and its benefits to soil quality. NRCS will convene a meeting in the fall with scientists and farm groups to discuss agriculture and climate change, particularly the role of natural resources management in mitigation and adaptation. 11

## FORESTS

The USDA Forest Service is the U.S. representative to the steering committee for the August 4-8 conference of The International Boreal Forest Research Association in Duluth, Minnesota. The theme of the meeting is the *Disturbance in Boreal Forest Ecosystems: Human Impacts and Natural Processes*. Climate change will be a major topic in this discussion since most scenarios predict the greatest warming at high latitudes. Representatives from Canada, Russia, Norway, Sweden, Finland, and the U.S. are expected to attend. 11 Amy 088-7

Dr. William Sommers of the USDA/FS will speak on risk assessment to the American Bar Association Natural Resources Group in Ashville, NC on October 15. Climate change will be a major topic.

## LIVESTOCK

Methane from ruminant livestock accounts for about 50% of carbon-equivalent U.S. agricultural greenhouse gas emissions. By increasing ruminant production efficiency (by increasing feed conversion efficiency, reproductive efficiency--twinning, etc.) one can reduce ruminant methane emissions. USDA/NRCS, EPA, and the Universities of TN, GA, Southwest LA, Utah State, and Washington State are meeting on August 17-20, at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville to discuss joint activities on Ruminant Livestock Production Efficiency Improvement (CCAP Action #39). They may be joined by representatives of the Cattlemen's Beef Association and the National Forage and Grassland Council.

## III. Secretarial Meetings and Speeches

Secretarial and subcabinet speeches in the next 100 days are being reviewed for inclusion, where appropriate, of references to the climate change problem. We will continue to brief USDA constituent groups and look for opportunities to discuss climate change. For example, I will be making a presentation on agriculture and climate change to Alpha Zeta in August.



MEMORANDUM FOR CABINET AFFAIRS

FROM: Charlie Rawls   
USDA

RE: Activities of Secretary Glickman on Climate Change

Date: August 21, 1997

Secretary Glickman will play an active role in the Administration's climate change outreach effort leading up to the White House Conference on October 6.

The Secretary will take advantage of his schedule for the months of August and September to amplify the President's message on climate change.

On August 26, the Secretary will visit Virginia State University in Petersburg, Virginia. Among the issues he will discuss during his visit with a group of primarily small, limited resource farmers will be the challenges that global warming and climate change will pose to agricultural producers in the future.

Also on August 26, the Secretary plans an American Heritage Rivers event in Richmond, Virginia. A climate change message for this event is being reviewed.

On September 4<sup>th</sup> the Secretary will meet in Washington, DC with the "Green Group", which is composed of the CEOs of the major environmental organizations in the U.S. He will use this opportunity for amplification of the Administration's commitment to address the climate change issue.

On September 8<sup>th</sup> the Secretary will meeting with the Board of the National Farmers Union (NFU) in Washington, DC. Among the issues to discuss will be the possible role of the NFU in discussing with its membership the issue of climate change.

The Secretary's major event leading to the October White House Conference is now tentatively scheduled for either September 17 or September 26. This will partly depend on his return from the Gore/Chernomyrdin meeting. Plans are now being made for a large event in the West or Mid-west (Iowa) which will highlight the challenges of global warming for agriculture, and contributions that biomass and other agriculture related technologies can make which will help reduce or stabilize the amount of carbon being released in the atmosphere. A role for the Department of Energy and OSTP is being reviewed. More information will be provided as plans are finalized.

*Cabinet  
meeting  
Plans*

## U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

## OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Telephone (202) 720-3631 Fax (202) 720-5437

## FAX COVER SHEET

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# Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

## Clinton Library

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#### Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
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**Wed., 13th Meeting on Climate Change  
1:00PM**

**Todd Stearns' Office. West Wing**

**Patrick Steel, Deputy Chief of Staff USDA**

(b)(6)

**Charlie Rawls, Executive Assistant to the Deputy Secretary USDA**

**Tom Amontree, Press Secretary/Director of Communications USDA**