

**USDA Agriculture Air Quality Task Force Recommendation to the Secretary
Regarding the Establishment of a Biofuels Research Collection at**

October 4, 2007

As the nation moves quickly towards increasing energy independence through the increasing use of agricultural feedstocks for ethanol and biodiesel production, pressing questions are being raised by all stakeholders involved. Much research on issues associated with renewable fuel production is new and ongoing and dispersed through the nation. Funded by federal, state and private monies, access to this research is of paramount importance for the agricultural and regulatory communities to make sound decisions regarding best-approaches for moving forward.

The National Biofuels Action Plan Workshop Summary, a May 2007 report to the Biomass Research and Development Board on efforts to coordinate Federal activities to meet the President's Biofuels Initiative, recommends the following as an activity needed to overcome barriers to communications, education and outreach for biofuels:

- **Create a central biofuels information resource.** Develop a clearinghouse for biofuels information that presents a common face for biofuels facts and figures, links federal information resources for ease of access, and serves as a repository for information and tools for all stakeholders. This resource should go beyond the EERE Information Resources website.

The USDA Agriculture Air Quality Task Force supports this recommendation, specifically as it relates to creating a central biofuels information resource as a repository for biofuels research. Housed at the USDA Beltsville Agricultural Library or other appropriate and accessible location, this repository should also be available online. This collection would be of great use to stakeholders around the nation (and the world) who are growing biofuel crops, researching production issues, and planning for the future and who can use the latest research results to develop up-to-date and relevant research projects. Ensuring that biofuels researchers and decision makers have access to the latest research will facilitate the development of the U.S. biofuels industry and make the best use of public and private investment in biofuels research.