

# Developing the New Bio-economy Workforce

Dr. Daniel Cassidy  
National Program Leader  
USDA National Institute for Food and  
Agriculture



United States Department of Agriculture

National Institute of Food and Agriculture

# NIFA's Mission

- Advance knowledge:
  - Agriculture
  - Environment
  - Human Health
- Supports for the Mission
  - Research
  - Education
  - Extension
- Partnerships:
  - 130+ Ag. Colleges
  - 59 Ag. Experiment Stations
  - 75 Cooperative Extension Services
  - 63 Forestry Schools
  - 16 HBC
  - 27 Vet. Schools
  - 42 Family/Consumer Services
  - 50 Native Tribal Schools
  - 160+ HIS's

# Multifaceted Education



# NIFA's Approach to Bioenergy

- Sustainability
  - Economic
  - Environmental
  - Social
  - Regional
- Entire Feedstock Supply Chain
  - Feedstock Development through Market Infiltration
- Trans-disciplinary and At all Levels

# FY 2010 AFRI Education

- Northeast Bioenergy & Biobased Products
  - \$5 Million for 5 years
  - Support K-College teacher education
  - Internships with Industry
  - Underserved minority focus
- Placed-based Opportunities for Sustainable Outcomes and High-hopes
  - \$5 Million for 5 years
  - Facilitates multi-cultural learning
  - Focused in a region of need

# Other NIFA Programs

- Integrated Coordinated Agricultural Projects
- Biomass Research and Development Initiative
- National Needs Fellowships
- Biodiesel Education Program
- Higher Education Challenge Grants
- Formula-Funds

# Workforce Development Challenges

- “Keeping up with the Joneses”
- “I need a plant producer who is a closet engineer and knows rural sociology.”
- Chicken-Egg Environment of Biofuels
- “Keeping’em down on the farm after they’ve seen the city.”
- Funding, Funding, and yes...funding