

Biomass Study

 [watch the video](#)

May 21 2010 11:07PM
KXMBTV Bismarck

The first of its kind to reach North Dakota is becoming a reality.

NDSU is teaming up with the Northern Great Plains Research Center south of Mandan to establish the first biomass testing laboratory in North Dakota.

The lab will test the dimensional, thermal and physical properties of biomass.

Tim Faller is one NDSU employee now stationed in Mandan.

Faller says Mandan is a good location for the lab because they can get more research done with some amount of dollars then if both facilities would work independently.

(Tim Faller / NDSU BioEPIC ARC Director) "As we transverse across the state the growing and climatic conditions for raising biomass are greatly different and locating the work that we do in biomass in a central location allows the opportunity at the least cost to go both directions and say well, what works in eastern North Dakota doesn't work in Bowman County."

Research Scientists and NDSU students will be working in the field and the lab.

Testing the energy values of different biomasses like switchgrass and Corn stover.

(Igathinathane Cannayen / NDSU Biomass Processing Engineer) "North Dakota is recognized as a biomass supplying place. It has got lots of biomass potentially. And if you see in the northern plains we have several varieties of grasses. In some of the other pockets we have only one called corn, but here we have varieties of grasses and the physical and chemical properties of all these biomasses have not been studied."

The lab is expected to be fully operational within the next two years.

One of the goals is to develop a database of the different biomass characteristics of each sample tested