

Please provide a 1-3 sentence description of your organization.

The **American Meat Institute (AMI)** is the national trade association representing companies that process more than 70 percent of U.S. meat and poultry and their suppliers throughout America. Headquartered in Washington, DC, AMI monitors and engages in the policy process and media activities that impact the meat and poultry industry. In addition, AMI conducts merit-based scientific research through its Foundation designed to help meat and poultry companies improve their plants and their products. The Institute's many meetings and educational seminars also provide excellent networking and information-sharing opportunities for members of the industry.

Relative to bioenergy, what are your top problems and which research products (or researchable questions to which you need answers) would help you solve these problems?

Below are several of the top challenges and interests of the meat industry concerning the development of bioenergy. Some of these challenges and interests can be aligned within existing research operations or ARS's 21 National Programs. As often is the case with technology and research based solutions, the meat and poultry industry is very anxious for new alternatives and options to help address the challenges detailed below. ARS's work in this area to date has been very beneficial and is highly commendable. Yet, there remains significant urgency within the animal agriculture community to speed the research and applicable tools and techniques to market.

Major Challenge: Corn availability.

Recommendation: Whether it is improving yields, tolerance to adverse weather, resistance to disease or other limitations to statistically high levels of production, expedited research into these key areas could ease some of the pressures faced by animal agriculture producers to meet the feed needs of their operations and secure their economic well-being. Corn plays an invaluable nutritional role in the diets of meat animals. The increased demand for corn led by federal and state government directed ethanol programs has created significant market pressure on livestock producers. The application of ARS resources to improve the per acre productivity and related characteristics of corn can go a great distance to improving the larger economic environment for animal agriculture producers, consumer meat and poultry offerings, and meat and poultry processing entities.

Major Challenge: DDGS impact on meat safety, quality, and usability. **Recommendation:** Presently, ethanol industry's first priority is focused on the quality and yield of ethanol production and, with exception, the second priority is on byproduct quality, consistency, and its potential impact on livestock. The body of knowledge concerning DDGS and their performance in cattle, swine, and poultry diets is limited. A number of universities have conducted some initial and commendable studies, but much is still needed to further understand DDGS incorporation into an animal's diet and its impact on meat and poultry safety, quality, efficiency, and economics. Additionally, DDGS' nutritional content, texture, and handling characteristics remain variable within plants and from plant to plant. A method of greater standardization of

nutritional content and improved handling options could be beneficial to animal agriculture producers, the meat industry, and the ethanol community. Leveraging ARS's expertise, resources, and national programs to better understand these questions and develop tools and techniques to minimize challenges from the emergence of DDGS as feedstuffs could provide significant benefits to the U.S. animal agriculture producers and the meat and poultry industry. Insights to these questions and related topics could benefit the economic well-being of U.S. animal agriculture producers. Their ability to competitively source healthful and efficient feedstuffs also favorably contributes to the long term economic and social health of America's rural economy for grain as well as animal producers.

Major Challenge: Potential for manure, methane, and fat conversion to contribute to energy security.

Recommendation: ARS national programs have several existing research programs and resources that can be beneficially leveraged to improve the conversion of manure, methane, and fats to bio-based electricity and biofuels. Advances in applicable technology often reduce the fixed and variable costs of production for most goods and services. Unfortunately and despite great advances to date, the initial and recurring costs associated with many technologies to convert manure, methane, or fats into bioenergy or biofuels are still cost prohibitive for most packing operations and farms. ARS should seek to develop the most cost effective methods, tools, and technologies with the utmost dispatch to aid understanding and potentially offer alternatives. ARS may consider working with technical and policy personnel of national meat and animal agriculture organizations and firms to better assess the optimal mix of priorities and applicability of research.

What do you think ARS's top bioenergy research priorities should be (no more than five, please)?

- ◆ Increasing corn yields.
- ◆ Researching DDGS to provide beneficial use to animal agriculture.
- ◆ Researching energy development ideas for fats, animal related oils, and manure.

Additional customer service questions:

What might ARS do to serve its customers/stakeholders better?

ARS may consider working with technical and policy personnel of national meat and animal agriculture organizations and firms to include input from stakeholders and insight into various animal agriculture segments and emerging energy developments.