

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

Our organization is one of the founding members of the **South Carolina Biomass Council** and our President serves as chair of the Bio-feed stocks Committee. We also operate a Woody Biomass Utilization Project, which finds customers for National Forest biomass. One of our affiliates has had a CRADA with ARS, concerning an insect pheromone.

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

USDA quickly needs a better understanding of which “invasive species” will make the best bio-crops, with the least impact on the environment. It would be very helpful, if ARS would accept and review existing research on promising “invasive species”, in addition to taking a CRADA approach on new research on such crops.

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

- ◆ Find and produce the most effective bio-feed stocks.
- ◆ Rank feed stocks for their efficacy in producing ethanol, bio-diesel, etc.
- ◆ Have a better understanding of the invasive tendency of the best bio-crops

Additional customer service questions:

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

- ◆ Clearly identify a biomass team
- ◆ Promote more CRADAs on bio-crops
- ◆ Maintain regular dialogue with C/S’s
- ◆ Publish regular reports and statistics

What, in particular, about ARS would lead you to recommend ARS to someone else looking for similar research products?

A better understanding of what ARS is doing regarding bio-energy and bio-products