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ISU Extension: Leadership in the Bioeconomy

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ISU Extension: Leadership in the Bioeconomy

Abstract

To learn how Iowa State University is providing educational leadership in developing the bioeconomy in a global marketplace, read [Leadership in the Bioeconomy \(SP 295\) \(PDF\)](#) from Iowa State University Extension.

Disciplines

Agricultural Economics | Agricultural Education | Agricultural Science | Agriculture



ISU Extension: Leadership in the Bioeconomy

ISU Extension's Role in the Bioeconomy

ISU Extension engages Iowans and provides educational leadership in the development of the bioeconomy in a global marketplace.

ISU Extension connects Iowans and businesses willing to take leadership in the bioeconomy with industry and funding resources that can respond to their needs for research and expertise. Iowa State University's bioeconomy initiative is a cross-disciplinary research, education, and outreach program that:

- provides unbiased, research-based information and education about efficient use of biorenewables, and
- supports the emergence of the state of Iowa and ISU as leaders in the new bioeconomy.

ISU Extension has developed educational materials to support the complex information distributed from the university to help Iowans understand the opportunities and possible consequences of the emerging bioeconomy. Extension provides direct programming to clients and internal stakeholders, and carries out applied research projects.

Extension Capabilities

ISU Extension's work in building the bioeconomy in Iowa covers a number of areas including:

- providing educational workshops, conferences, and policy forums
- conducting feasibility studies and reviewing business plans to help Iowans secure funding for startup businesses

- bringing together Iowans involved in the production and manufacturing of biobased products to learn about new discoveries in bioprocessing, business models and capitalization strategies, and new crops and cropping systems
- helping firms become certified in the new national biodiesel industry quality standard, BQ-9000
- working with USDA to implement the Federal Biobased Products Preferred Procurement Program (FB4P) designed to open potential federal markets for biobased products

The bioeconomy is part of the bigger picture of ISU Extension's work for economic development. For ISU Extension, economic development is the process of developing, maintaining, and improving economic, social, and political environments to increase the wealth—both financial and quality of life—in a community, region, and all of Iowa.

Extension is well positioned to positively impact local and regional economic development efforts. We have a presence in every county, access to research-based information, and a broad range of expertise across multiple disciplines. Economic development activity cuts across all of ISU Extension's program areas.

Extension's economic development efforts help Iowa address growth challenges in human, community, and business development. ISU Extension impacts economic development—from creating and retaining jobs, and helping businesses get started and expand; to increasing family income, developing Iowans' skills and leadership abilities, and improving quality of life.

Extension Resources

ISU Extension's Center for Industrial Research and Service (CIRAS) provides Iowa's more than 5,000 manufacturers with educational seminars and individualized technical and business assistance in engineering, management practices, procurement, quality management, biorenewables, and productivity to increase competitiveness.

www.ciras.iastate.edu

ISU Extension Community and Economic Development helps organizations and local governments reach their capacity to make Iowa communities better places to live and work. Extension provides information and education, facilitation, and collaboration to build consensus for organizational and community development. Programs and services are organized around community leadership, community management, and community policy and design.

www.extension.iastate.edu/communities

ISU Extension to Agriculture and Natural Resources serves as a source of unbiased, research-based information and education for farmers and agribusiness professionals to maintain the economic base of Iowa agriculture. Ninety-six campus faculty and staff members and 48 field specialists work with county extension education directors, agribusiness, farm organizations, and service providers to provide information and education to producers. Nine centers based at ISU also support this work.

www.extension.iastate.edu/ag

***Editor's note:** The information in this article was written for publication SP 295, Leadership in the Bioeconomy. The purpose of this excerpt is to let Iowans know the role ISU Extension is playing in the development of the bioeconomy in the state.*