

# Possibilities for Aviation Biofuels in the Midwest

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An educational meeting for stakeholders in biofuels production was held to showcase research being done on biofuels and their prospect for adoption by the aviation industry. The prospect could include the use of fuels derived from bioenergy grasses that are being studied by the CENUSA project, a 7-state effort among Midwest land-grant universities who are exploring the use of perennial energy grasses for biofuels. The meeting was sponsored by the Indiana Biomass Energy Working Group (see sidebar).

Participants (N=55) were surveyed after the program to measure the value of the information presented. Respondents (n=48) indicated the following:

- Information presented was current as far as I know: 100% strongly agree/agree
- Visuals and handouts were easily understood and helpful: 96.2% strongly agree/agree
- The information provided me with new knowledge: 100% strongly agree/agree
- The new ideas presented will be helpful to me in my business: 96.2% strongly agree/agree
- The program provided me with new skills I would like to apply to my business: 91.3% strongly agree/agree
- The new skills will be useful in my business: 91.7% strongly agree/agree

The demographics of participants represented:

68% male  
32% female

20% business owners/entrepreneurs  
16% non-profit organizations  
32% university faculty/staff  
24% Extension professionals  
8% government employees

86% between ages of 25 and 45  
4% between ages of 18 to 25  
10% over the age of 55

A new CenUSA exhibit (see photos below) was rolled out at the event that included:

- a table top display with samples of switchgrass, big bluestem, and indiagrass seeds and plant material with biochar,
- a question and answer interactive display about the history, research, and future of bioenergy crop production, and
- scrolling displays describing the CENUSA program.

The exhibit got a lot of attention. An opportunity to expand the reach of biofuels research being done by CenUSA came when a participant representing the commercial aviation alternative fuels industry suggested it be displayed at future aviation industry events.

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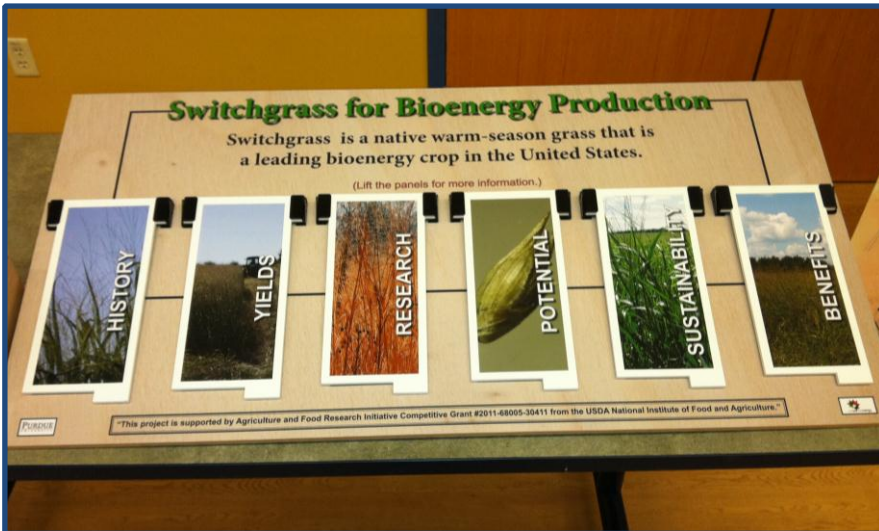
... and justice for all

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## CENUSA Bioenergy Extension Exhibit

- Samples of bioenergy grasses including switchgrass, big bluestem, and indiangrass
- Box containing biochar and grass seed samples
- Interactive switchgrass information board
- Dual scrolling display units addressing the “Why, Where, and What” context of bioenergy grass production along with benefits



## Indiana Biomass Energy Working Group:

This group is open to the public and is made up of diverse stakeholders in the bioenergy industry, government, trade organizations, universities, and entrepreneurs from throughout Indiana. Their goals are:

- to create a climate in the state of Indiana that fosters the growth of a viable renewable energy industry, protect our environment, and
- provide energy security and green jobs in our communities.