

Northwest Regional Biomass Research Center



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Point-Of-Contact

USDA - Agricultural Research Service

Land Management and Water Conservation Research Unit

Pullman, Washington

Creation of Regional Biomass Research Centers

Growing America's Fuel

(Biofuels Interagency Working Group, Feb 2010)

United States not on target to reach biofuel production goal in RFS2

Lead-agencies given responsibility for supply chain segments

USDA (REE and FS)

- Feedstock development
- Feedstock production systems
- Feedstock conversion

USDA Regional Biomass Research Centers proposed to develop feedstock and conversion systems

Creation of Regional Biomass Research Centers (con't)

Secretary Vilsack

(National Press Club, October 2010)

Work harder and faster to meet RFS2
Intensify research and development

Regional Biomass Research Centers

- Coordinate intramural research of USDA (ARS and FS)
- Focus and accelerate feedstock science and technology
- Locations –

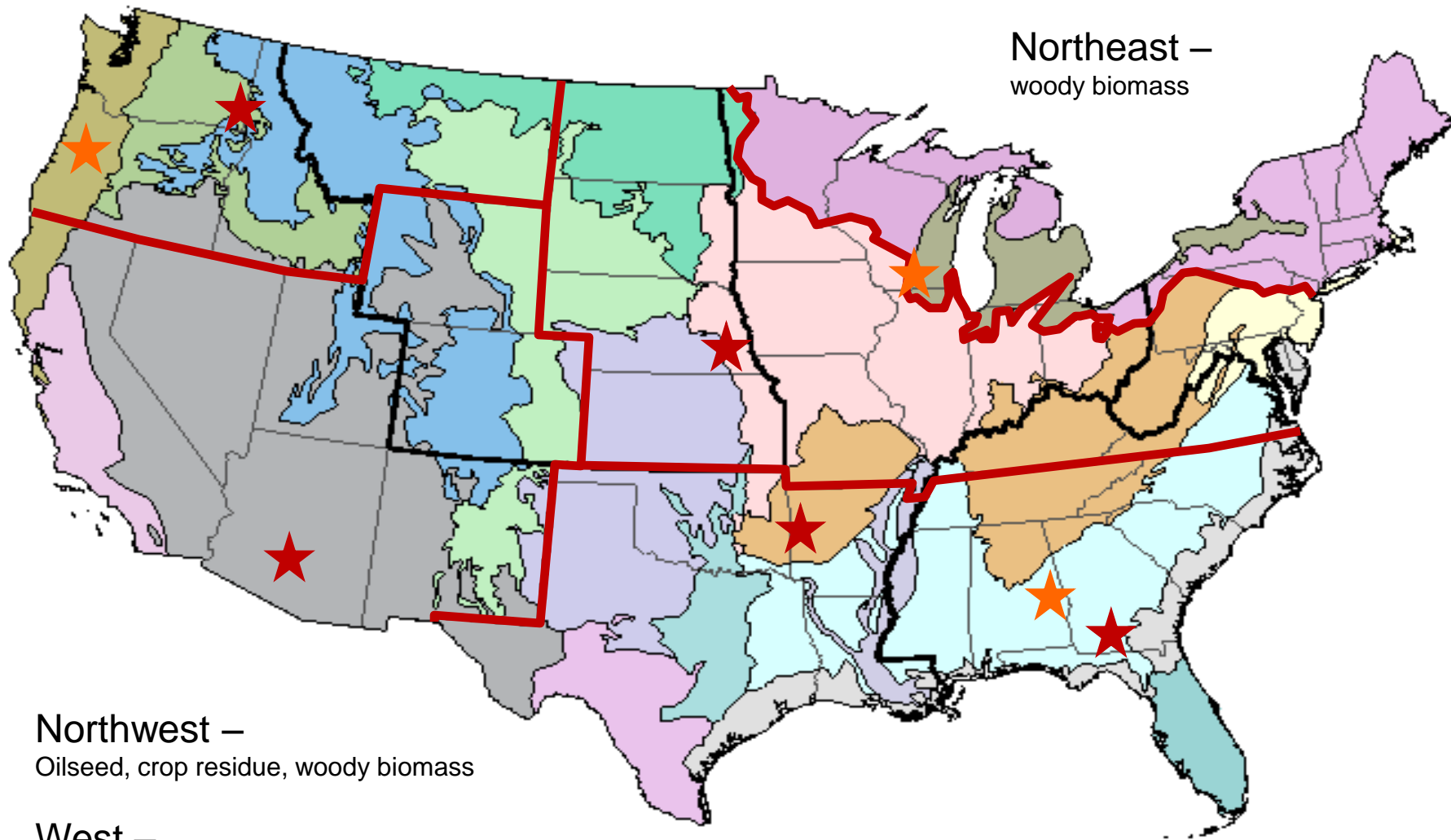
Northeast (Madison, WI)

Central-East (Lincoln, NE)

Southeast (Booneville, AR; Tifton, GA; Auburn, AL)

Western (Maricopa, AZ)

Northwestern (Pullman, WA; Corvallis, OR)



Northeast –
woody biomass

Northwest –
Oilseed, crop residue, woody biomass

West –
Oilseed, woody biomass

Central East –
Corn, soybean, sorghum, crop residue, grass, woody biomass

Southeast –
Sorghum, energy cane, grass, woody biomass

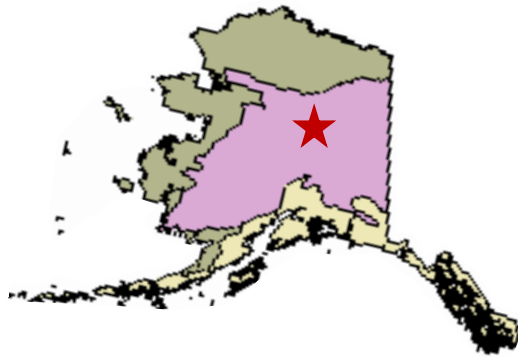
Purpose of Regional Biomass Research Centers




Coordinate research of agencies within region

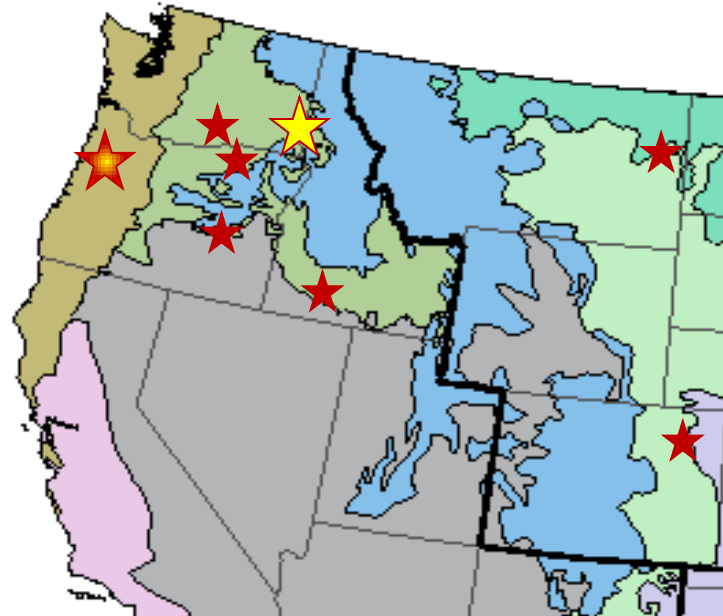
Accelerate feedstock production

- existing resources
- partnerships
- collaborations

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-  USDA-ARS office and field site
-  USDA-ARS field sites
-  USDA-ARS field site and USDA-FS office



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Biofuels research

Feedstock development

- grass / alfalfa

 - screening for mineral content / lodging resistance

- sugar beets

 - improve disease resistance

Feedstock production systems

- grass

 - biomass and soil C/N affected by residue removal, irrigation, and crop rotation

- wheat

 - soil quality and yield affected by residue removal

 - residue biomass across landscape and affect on soil erosion

- canola / camelina

 - crop performance and weeds affected by plant date, rate, and depth

 - residue decomposition rate

 - water and nitrogen use affected by crop rotation

Co-Products

- brassica meal

 - soil C affected by biochar

Partnership for a sustainable community



*Demonstrating the success
of a partnership in the
Okanogan Region*

*Paschal Sherman School
Omak, Washington*