

Perennial Bioenergy Crop Diversification Project

What are Perennial Bioenergy Crops?

Perennials can support Midwest agriculture by providing economic and environmental benefits. Perennial bioenergy crop biomass can create alternative sources of renewable energy.

Some perennial bioenergy crops include:

- Switchgrass
- Miscanthus
- Native Prairie
- Shrub Willow
- Hybrid Poplar

What is the Perennial Bioenergy Crop Diversification Project?

AFT and Argonne National Laboratory are working together to support farmers interested in growing perennial bioenergy crops on marginal land. This effort aims to increase farm resiliency by using perennial crops to scale up a regional bioeconomy.

Project at a glance...

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

- Offered a free 5-year farm management plan that help farmers and landowners adopt perennial bioenergy cropping systems into their operations.
- Demonstrated decision support tools to farmers and industry for adoption and end use.
- Hosted 10 technical assistance workshops and listening sessions covering perennial crops, SUPERBEEST, and some market potential.

OUTREACH

- AFT presented project findings and educational resources with farmers and landowners around the Midwest.
- Provided network building opportunities to over **100** interested farmers, landowners, and resource professionals.

SUPERBEEST

“Scaling Up Perennial Bioenergy Economics and Ecosystem Services Tool” is a free online geospatial tool designed to assist in decision-making for adoption and end use of perennial bioenergy crops. This tool supports farmers, landowners, conservation professionals, and industry stakeholders.

This project focuses on growing perennial bioenergy crops on marginal farm ground. The SUPERBEEST tool identifies multiple marginal characteristics that are well suited for certain perennial crops.



LEARN MORE ABOUT
THE PROJECT

REQUEST A
SUPERBEEST DEMO

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The Midwest Bioenergy Crop Coalition

Approximately 30 members representing researchers, farmers, biomass processors, economists, non-profits, and policy professionals. The coalition meets quarterly to provide insight to the project.

Coalition Members

Genera

Argonne National Lab
Green Lands Blue Waters
University of Illinois Urbana-
Champaign
Iowa Soybean Association
FDC Enterprises
The City of Decatur
Farmers
& more!

Coalition Priorities

- Inform market development
- Explore ecosystem services financing
- Identify bioenergy crop opportunities in the Midwest
- Connect producers with industry to assess feasibility

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