
Iowa Biotech Association Monthly Update February 2011

This message was sent to you as a benefit of membership in the IBA.
If you would like more information on any topic or no longer wish to receive these messages,
please email Mike Ott at mikeott@iowabio.org or call (319) 621-8580

Breaking News

Member Invoices will be issued shortly. We will initially send them out electronically and follow up with paper copies, if needed. Our new web based system will automate much of the process. We appreciate your patience as we transition to a new technology.

Welcome to New Member – Alkali Scientific

Alkali Scientific is a distributor of laboratory supplies and equipment located in Cedar Falls, Iowa. They specialize in consumable laboratory plastics and offer a wide variety of bench-top lab equipment and electrophoresis supplies.

Learn more at www.AlkaliScientific.com

Industrial & Environmental



Syngenta received USDA approval for a new corn

product designed exclusively for ethanol use:

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20110212/BU-SINESS01/102120315/USDA-approves-corn-engineered-for-biofuel-use>



DDCE will receive \$9 million from the Iowa Power Fund for their biorefinery project:

<http://www.iowapolitics.com/index.aml?Article=226340>



ISU is considering **permanently using biomass to co-fire its boilers** after a successful test burn:

<http://biomassmagazine.com/articles/5190/isu-ponders-permanent-biomass-cofiring-after-test-burn>

Gevo successfully **raised \$107 million in its IPO**: <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-02-09/biofuel-maker-gevo-raises-107-million-in-initial-public-offer.html>

Green Plains Renewable Energy has finished construction and **started operations on its algae bioreactor project**: <http://www.grainnet.com/article.php?ID=104489>

Enervation is in discussions to **buy the East Fork biodiesel plant in Algona**, its second in Iowa: <http://www.dailygate.com/articles/2011/02/25/news/dgc87095.txt>

Biodiesel RIN prices reach new highs, and could go even higher: <http://www.biodieselmagazine.com/articles/7611/biodiesel-rin-prices-reach-new-highs-could-be-headed-higher>

The Ag Committee of the **Iowa House unanimously passed HF 293, the Biodiesel Incentives Bill** http://www.biofuelsjournal.com/info/bf_articles.html?ID=105415

The USDA is examining the feasibility of **providing crop insurance to producers of biofuel feedstocks**: http://www.biofuelsjournal.com/info/bf_articles.html?ID=105553

USDA loan guarantees may be available to the bond market, under a new proposal: <http://www.ethanolproducer.com/articles/7526/usda-proposes-reform-to-loan-guarantees-for-advanced-biofuels>

Oak Ridge National Laboratory has created a **one-stop shop biofuels website**: <https://www.bioenergykdf.net/>

The RFA created an **iPhone app to locate flex fuel locations**: http://www.biofuelsjournal.com/info/bf_articles.html?ID=105235

BCAP may be defunded, under the current version of the spending bill: <http://biomassmagazine.com/articles/5292/bcap-on-the-chopping-block-again>

President Obama's budget **keeps spending for renewable energy** and the environment while **attempting to reduce tax breaks for fossil fuels**: <http://www.nytimes.com/2011/02/15/science/earth/15environment.html?nl=todaysheadline&emc=tha24>

Senator Harkin introduced the Biofuels Market Expansion Act of 2011 (scroll to 2nd article): <http://www.grainnet.com/info/article.php?ID=104497>

Food & Agriculture

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Monsanto acquired Divergence Inc. for its work on soybean cyst nematodes:

http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/metro/article_6c68f3cd-5c55-5274-8173-8f46ab3158ab.html



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DuPont will invest more than \$50 million to expand its biotech soybean R&D program in Delaware:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/02/17/us-dupont-usa-soybeans-idUSTRE71G46K20110217>



An ISU researcher received a \$20 million grant to study the impact of growing corn on climate change:

<http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2011/02/18/isu-researcher-leading-study-of-corns-climate-impact/>

Basis prices on corn and soybeans are expected to improve, according to ISU economist Chad Hart:

http://www.agweb.com/article/basis_on_corn_and_beans_to_improve/

Farmers will be allowed to plant genetically modified sugar beets this spring, even though the USDA's final ruling isn't expected until May 2012:

http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/metro/article_15688eb3-5ed0-5d1b-80e4-c83eb7954240.html

EU agrees to allow trace amounts of genetically modified material in animal feed imports:

http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALegM5hiXutTvOI0_5p4VhbQ6B9UzIwj5w?docId=CNG.62d0f19e811f8964214ef942867ff5e8.6f1

Biotech crops are gaining market share, especially in Brazil:

<http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2011/02/22/biotech-crops-catching-on-in-brazil/>

Meat prices rose 6.2% since January 2010, according to the CPI:

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20110218/BUSINESS01/102180338/U-S-meat-prices-climb-6-2-in-year-report-says>

Corn stocks are at their lowest level since 1995, driving up prices:

<http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2011/02/09/usda-says-corn-stocks-lowest-since-1995/>

The upcoming **Farm Bill will re-examine traditional programs** for grain and cotton farmers:

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20110227/BUSINESS01/102270320/Green-Fields-Senate-ag-chief-calls-for-rethinking-farm-bill>

Fertilizer prices are high and expected to remain so, due to increased demand for corn: <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20110213/BUSINESS01/102130324/High-fertilizer-prices-likely-to-stick-around-this-time>

Budget cuts could affect payments to large farmers and **reduce crop insurance payments** <http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2011/02/14/obama-targets-wealthy-farmers-crop-insurers/>

The **world's largest farm is up for sale**:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/newsbysector/constructionandproperty/8321543/lvolga-puts-worlds-biggest-farm-up-for-sale.html>

Healthcare & Pharmaceutical



Sanofi agreed to buy Genzyme for at least \$20.1 billion:
<http://dealbook.nytimes.com/2011/02/16/sanofi-agrees-to-buy-genzyme-for-at-least-20-1-billion/?nl=business&emc=dlbka9>



Bayer was **granted orphan drug status for regorafenib**, which treats gastrointestinal tumors: <http://www.inpharm.com/news/147480/bayer-regorafenib-fda-orphan-drug-gist>



Pfizer will slash spending by \$1.5 billion, cutting research and development centers globally:
http://www.boston.com/business/ticker/2011/02/drug_giant_pfiz.html



President Obama's budget **plan to bring generic drugs to market faster would make most biotech companies unable to recoup their investment**, according to BIO:
<http://www.bizjournals.com/sanfrancisco/blog/2011/02/obama-budget-throws-biotech-drug.html>



ISU researchers discovered and explained a **protein pathway that may be the key to understanding Parkinson's disease**:

<http://www.news.iastate.edu/news/2011/feb/KantsFeb2011>

Beckman Coulter, a maker of diagnostic research equipment for biomedical companies, **will be sold for \$5.8 billion** to the Danaher Corporation

<http://dealbook.nytimes.com/2011/02/07/danaher-to-buy-beckman-coulter-for-5-8-billion/?nl=business&emc=dlbka9>

A universal flu vaccine has been successfully tested on humans for the first time:

http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/41454190/ns/health-infectious_diseases/

There were **fewer biotech acquisitions in 2010, but they were valued more highly** than in the past: <http://www.masshightech.com/stories/2011/02/21/daily38-Biotechs-saw-fewer-but-big-value-acquisitions-in-2010.html>

Many small biotech companies would **rather be acquired than go public**:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2011/02/25/AR2011022506091.html>

The Supreme Court **barred lawsuits against the makers of vaccines** from being sued because Congress set up a special vaccine court to settle disputes:

http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/41716786/ns/business-consumer_news/

Early stage trials are starting for a **nanoparticle that targets melanoma**:

<http://www.technologyreview.com/biomedicine/32372/?p1=A5>

Experimental drug success rates are decreasing. Biotech drugs are twice as likely to gain FDA approval than traditional chemical drugs:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/02/14/us-pharmaceuticals-success-idUSTRE71D2U920110214>

Removal of lymph nodes, **once a standard procedure for breast cancer treatment, has been shown to be unnecessary**:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/02/09/health/research/09breast.html?nl=todaysheadlines&emc=tha2>

Enthusiasm for **RNAi therapies has cooled down** considerably:

http://www.nytimes.com/2011/02/08/science/08rna.html?_r=1&ref=todayspaper

Nanoparticles make blood clots **visible by CT scanner**:

<http://in.news.yahoo.com/nanoparticles-blood-clots-visible-ct-scanner-20110203-022350-247.html>

Bioengineered veins made from stem cells could improve treatment results in dialysis, heart bypass and organ transfers: <http://www.cbc.ca/health/story/2011/02/02/veins-bioengineer.html>

UK scientists have **identified 5 new genes linked to Parkinson's disease**:
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2011/02/01/AR2011020105556.html>

New Members:

If you know of a company that would benefit from the Association's advocacy, financial savings and education/workforce focus; please have them contact the Association at 515-327-9156 or email rachelhurley@iowabio.org. Membership details are also available at www.iowabio.org

Events:

BIO World Congress on Bioprocessing, Toronto, CA, May 8-11
<http://www.bio.org/worldcongress/>

BIO International Convention, Washington DC, June 27-30 <http://convention.bio.org/>

Want to promote your biotechnology conference, symposium or training class? SEND A NOTE TO MICHAEL OTT AT mikeott@iowabio.org Members may submit their event for a free listing in our Monthly Update and on our website www.iowabio.org.

Speakers

IBA staff members are available to give 15-60 minute speeches to interested groups, such as Rotary Clubs, trade associations, or civic groups. A broad range of topics could be discussed, including biotechnology, healthcare, food vs. fuel, legislative policy, investment and more. Contact Rachel Hurley at (515) 327-9156 or rachelhurley@iowabio.org

Today's Thought:

Most of the shadows of this life are caused by standing in one's own sunshine."
--Ralph Waldo Emerson