
Iowa Biotech Association Monthly Update March 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

The IBA received a **grant from IDED to host a booth at the BIO International Convention** in Washington DC on June 27-30th. Please let [Rachel Hurley](#) know if you plan to attend or would like to feature your company.

Check out our Upcoming Events page for information on conferences and events such as the **BIO Legislative Fly-In on May 3-4**:

http://www.iowabio.org/en/resources/upcoming_events/

The IBA's **1st Annual Golf Outing will be held at the Legacy Golf Club** in Norwalk on May 17th. Full details can be found here: <http://www.iowabio.org/golf/>

Fisher Scientific will host an event in Eastern Iowa (Cedar Rapids or Iowa City) on April 19th to discuss the current IBA Purchasing Contract. Fisher Representatives will answer questions and gather feedback on how they can make improvements going forward to better service IBA Members. RSVP to [Rachel Hurley](#) for event details.

Submit **nominees for the Governor's Environmental Excellence Award**:

<http://www.iowadnr.gov/other/ee/index.html>

The first iteration of **Iowa's redistricting maps have been released**:

<http://www.legis.iowa.gov/Resources/Redist/redistricting.aspx>

Welcome to New Members

MCG Biocomposites develops and produces biocomposite resins which are sold for commercial and industrial applications. It is a full service provider of materials, technical support and recycling assistance- www.mcgbicomposites.com

FEC Solutions helps ethanol and biodiesel producers implement new ideas and new processes that improve margins and ensure a richer, cleaner more efficient industry for generations to come- www.fecsolutions.com

Food & Agriculture

MONSANTO
imagine®



Monsanto **invested in Sapphire Energy** to develop higher yields in algae:

<http://biofuelsdigest.com/bdigest/2011/03/09/monsanto-invests-in-sapphire-goes-hunting-for-yield-traits-in-the-wild-wild-wet/>

Monsanto received **approval to sell biotech corn in the Philippines:**

<http://www.isaaa.org/kc/cropbiotechupdate/article/default.asp?ID=7546>

syngenta

Syngenta expects to **see its corn market share stabilize** due to a broad package of new seed products:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/03/16/us-food-summit-syngenta-idUSTRE72F6RH20110316>

Lilly Johnson & Johnson

Eli Lilly plans to **buy Johnson & Johnson's animal health unit** for \$111 million:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/03/14/us-animalhealth-deals-idUSTRE72D69F20110314>

Cargill®

Cargill, McDonalds, ISU and other partners will **collaborate on a sustainable egg supply study** at an undisclosed location in Iowa:

<http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2011/03/02/mcdonalds-backing-iowa-research-on-hen-housing/>



Iowa State will **establish an African seed institute** at the University of Nairobi, thanks in part to a grant from the Gates Foundation: <http://www.news.iastate.edu/news/2010/apr/semi>

The **USDA is seeking nominees** for its Advisory Committee on Biotechnology and 21st Century Agriculture: <http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2011/03/call-for-nominations-to-ag-biotech-committee/>

Farmers and agribusinesses receive 12 cents for every dollar spent on food, according to the USDA: http://www.biofuelsjournal.com/info/bf_articles.html?ID=106486

Food inflation is being camouflaged as manufacturers sell smaller portions at the same price:
http://www.nytimes.com/2011/03/29/business/29shrink.html?_r=1&nl=todaysheadlines&emc=tha25

Food prices increased by a record 3.9%, according to the Producer Price Index:
<http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2011/03/16/big-jump-in-wholesale-food-costs/>

Projected corn acreage increased to over 92 million acres:
<http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2011/03/31/us-iowa-farmers-to-boost-corn-acres/>

Biofuels can't be blamed for rising food prices:
<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/opinion/ct-oped-0328-biofuel-20110317,0,6110895.story>

Corn acreage is expected to increase by 3.4% while soy acreage is expected to decrease by 3.4%, according to a Farm Journal Media study:
http://www.agweb.com/article/agweb_survey_corn_acres_rise_soybeans_fall/

Biotech plantings increased by 10% globally in 2010:
<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/02/22/us-biotech-crops-idUSTRE71L4H120110222>

Farmland prices are up dramatically, and tax increases are starting to catch up:
<http://thegazette.com/2011/03/18/farmers%E2%80%99-taxes-rising-but-not-because-of-higher-land-values/>

EU lawmakers are **deadlocked on how to regulate the production and sale of food from cloned animals**: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/03/17/us-eu-wrestles-idUSTRE72G82Z20110317>

EPA rules designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions won't include the so-called 'cow tax':
<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20110313/BUSINESS01/103130324/1030/Farmers-won-t-pay-cow-tax-EPA-chief-says>

Organic corn prices are finally starting to rise, reaching their more traditional level of nearly twice the price of conventional corn:
<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20110306/BUSINESS01/103060319/Organic-corn-late-to-join-pricing-surge>

Ag Secretary Tom Vilsack **encouraged cutting subsidies for wealthy farmers** in the impending Farm Bill

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20110302/BUSINESS01/103020352/Vilsack-urges-subsidy-cuts-for-wealthy-U-S-farmers>

Healthcare & Pharmaceutical



Eli Lilly is **handing over its drug discovery bioanalytical operations** to Advion Bioservices, Inc.

<http://www.indystar.com/article/20110302/BUSINESS03/103020351/Eli-Lilly-to-shift-lab-work-26-jobs?odyssey=tab|mostpopular|text|BUSINESS>



Pfizer may **spin off some of the businesses acquired in recent mergers**: http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20110314-708734.html?mod=dist_smartbrief



GlaxoSmithKline

Benlysta, the **lupus drug which will be marketed by GlaxoSmithKline**, was approved by the FDA:

http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/41995956/ns/health-health_care/

GlaxoSmithKline received full approval for

Promacta, which is used to treat chronic idiopathic

thrombocytic purpura <http://www.medicitynews.com/2011/02/gsk-orphan-drug-gets-full-fda-approval-to-treat-rare-blood-disorder/>



Novartis was **granted EU approval for Gilenya**, a treatment for active and severe forms of multiple sclerosis: <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-03-21/novartis-wins-eu-approval-for-gilenya-multiple-sclerosis-pill.html>

Gilead's experimental **HIV drug elvitegravir has proven as effective** as competitor's drugs which must be taken more often: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/03/23/us-gilead-idUSTRE72M5HJ20110323>

Provenge, a recently approved prostate cancer vaccine, **will be covered by Medicare**:

http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/medicare-moves-to-pay-for-prostate-cancer-drug-provenge/2011/03/30/AFXzam4B_story.html

The FDA is **investigating whether food dyes have a link to child hyperactivity**:

http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/42338423/ns/health-diet_and_nutrition/

Sets of abnormal genes **may be responsible for the onset of autism:**

<http://consumer.healthday.com/Article.asp?AID=650465>

Gene therapy successfully reversed the symptoms of Parkinson's disease in a phase II trial: http://weill.cornell.edu/news/releases/wcmc/wcmc_2011/03_17_11.shtml

Researchers were able **to shrink enlarged hearts by injecting stem cells** from the patient's own bone marrow: <http://health.usnews.com/health-news/family-health/heart/articles/2011/03/17/stem-cell-therapy-shrinks-enlarged-hearts>

Drug firms are **facing billions in losses as key patents expire** this year:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/03/07/business/07drug.html?nl=todaysheadlines&emc=tha25>

Embryonic stem cells have been converted to a type of brain cell that is **lost to Alzheimer's disease, offering hope of a treatment in the future:**

<http://www.popsci.com/science/article/2011-03/using-stem-cells-scientists-re-create-neurons-succumb-alzheimers>

Genetics tests marketed directly to consumers **should only be allowed under a doctor's supervision**, according to the FDA: <http://www.latimes.com/health/la-na-genetic-testing-20110309,0,4375925.story>

The FDA will fund a campaign **to inform consumers about proper usage of medication:**

<http://www.modernhealthcare.com/article/20110309/MODERNPHYSICIAN/303099991#>

Patent reform is **expected to help established entities more than start-ups:**

<http://www.genengnews.com/analysis-and-insight/patent-reform-likely-to-benefit-industry-giants-more-than-start-ups/77899369/>

Legal challenges to healthcare reform are **threatening biopharmaceutical legislation:**

<http://www.genengnews.com/analysis-and-insight/legal-challenges-to-healthcare-reform-threaten-biopharmaceutical-legislation/77899387/>

Industrial & Environmental



BIO's Brent Erickson **authored this Op-Ed entitled The Bottom Line on Biofuels:** <http://www.environmentalleader.com/2011/03/30/the-bottom-line-on-biofuels/>



Cargill will buy the unfinished Tate & Lyle corn ethanol plant in Fort Dodge:

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20110331/BUSINESS01/110331004/1030/Cargill-buy-Fort-Dodge-ethanol-plant>

Legislators **toured the Eddyville complex of businesses** and discussed the fact that local expansion is inhibited by overly restrictive state laws:

<http://ottumwacourier.com/local/x1527123271/Area-officials-make-bioprocessing-plea-to-lawmakers>

Investors are planning **to build a \$100 million 60 million gallon per year biodiesel plant** in South Sioux City using beef tallow as a feedstock:

http://www.siouxcityjournal.com/special-section/local/industry/article_354a884b-5dc9-5a9d-95a0-c249b521b145.html

Soybean derived biodiesel is not deemed to be sustainable by the EU, despite calculations that show otherwise:

<http://www.biodieselmagazine.com/articles/7673/checkoff-disputes-eus-soy-biodiesel-sustainability-calculation>

The USDA **seeks applications for renewable energy funding**:

<http://www.grainnet.com/article.php?ID=106311>

Microalgae producer **Solazyme will file for a \$100 million IPO**:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/03/15/idUS312118557620110315>

Two Midwest senators are **proposing a bill that would incentivize biofuel infrastructure, increase efficiency of tax credits and establish a renewable energy standard**: <http://www.ethanolproducer.com/articles/7599/midwest-senators-strike-back-with-pro-biofuels-bill>

The Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels **launched a third party sustainable biofuels certification system**: http://www.biofuelsjournal.com/info/bf_articles.html?ID=106646

Glycerol, the byproduct of biodiesel production, is the **target of research to convert it into products such as hydrogen and polyurethane foam**:

<http://www.theleafchronicle.com/article/20110309/NEWS01/103090306/APSU-professor-students-pen-paper-about-biofuel-research> and

<http://www.biodieselmagazine.com/articles/7638/osu-partners-with-startup-to-commercialize-glycerin-foam-tech>

Higher oil prices are compensating for high corn prices and **giving ethanol producers a healthy margin**:

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20110308/BUSINESS01/103080344/Oil-prices-are-a-boost-for-ethanol>

CHS plans to invest \$26 million to improve infrastructure for refined fuels in the upper Midwest: <http://www.grainnet.com/article.php?ID=105728>

Ethanol exports are expected to double due to high global prices for sugar and oil: <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20110303/BUSINESS01/110303015/Ethanol-exports-could-double-this-year>

A commercial scale **zein protein plant will be built in Illinois**: <http://www.ethanolproducer.com/articles/7618/zein-technology-to-go-commercial-at-illinois-ethanol-plant>

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:

[Pitch & Grow IV](#), Des Moines, IA, April 7

[2011 Prometheus Awards](#), Des Moines, IA, April 7

[Translational Regenerative Medicine Forum](#), Washington DC, April 6-8

[2011 National SBIR/STTR Spring Conference](#), Madison, WI, April 10-13

[BioProducts Committee Meeting](#), Des Moines, IA, April 12

[Ames Seed Capital Annual Meeting](#), Ames, IA, April 13

[2011 BIO Legislative Fly-In](#), Washington DC, May 3-4
Open to BIO Members only

[BIO World Congress on Bioprocessing](#), Toronto, CA, May 8-11
[IBA Presentation information](#)

[First Annual IBA Golf Outing](#), Norwalk, IA May 17

[BIO International Convention](#), Washington DC, June 27-30

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:

We should regret our mistakes and learn from them, but never carry them forward into the future with us.

--Lucy Maud Montgomery