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For Immediate Release

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**Iowa Biotechnology Association to Host *Partnering for Growth:*
*A Forum for Public Private Collaboration***

Local biotech companies encouraged to participate at two-day event

Des Moines, IA (September 19, 2011) – The Iowa Biotechnology Association (IBA) will host the United States Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Agricultural Research Service (ARS) at the *Partnering for Growth: A Forum for Public Private Collaboration* to be held October 17-18 at the FFA Enrichment Center on the DMACC Campus in Ankeny. The *Partnering for Growth* forum is held in partnership with Iowa State University (ISU), the Iowa Innovation Council and the Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA). The forum is free for attendees.

Through large group presentations, smaller panel discussions and one-on-one networking opportunities, attendees will learn about the ARS organization and mission, the research available through the ARS and opportunities for commercialization of that research. In addition, the State’s universities will be on hand to discuss their own opportunities for developing business relationships. Participating companies will also be encouraged to bring new innovative products and processes to showcase.

PARTNERING FOR GROWTH FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

October 17

- Welcome: Rob Denson, President of Des Moines Area Community College
- Opening Remarks: Debi Durham, Director of IEDA
- Keynote Address: Dr. Cathie Woteki, Under Secretary for Research, Education and Economics of the USDA
- Break-out Sessions:
 - Plant breeding
 - Biobased products
 - Animal health
 - Food ingredients
 - Funding opportunities for Iowa companies
- Comments: Dr. Gregory Geoffroy, President of ISU
Ted Crosbie, VP, Integrated Farming Systems of Monsanto
- Reception and Expo

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October 18

- One-on-One Meetings with ARS Scientists and Staff
- Panel Discussions:
 - How ARS, Universities, and Industry Choose Research Targets
 - Accessing ARS and University Research Capabilities – Interacting with the Private Sector
- Final comments: The Honorable Terry Branstad, Governor of Iowa

To register, view the full agenda or to learn more about sponsorship or exhibit opportunities, please visit www.iowabio.org/pfg.

ABOUT THE IOWA BIOTECHNOLOGY ASSOCIATION

The Iowa Biotechnology Association focuses on the growth and development of biotechnology in Iowa, and includes companies working in the areas of food and agriculture, industry and the environment, and healthcare and pharmaceuticals. It also supports academic research institutions and other industry partners. It is the state affiliate to the national Biotechnology Industry Organization and the national Pharmaceutical Researchers and Manufacturers of America association. For more information on the Iowa Biotech Association, go to www.IowaBio.org.

ABOUT ARS

ARS continually looks for opportunities to partner with businesses, other federal agencies, state and local governments, and universities. ARS research falls under the following six broad categories: a) food production & improvement; b) animal health, food safety and pathogen detection; c) human nutrition & healthy foods; d) bio-fuel feed stocks; e) natural resource protection & environmental quality; f) plant & animal genetics and genetic resource protection.

These partnerships are designed to augment research programs, expedite research results to the private sector, exchange information and knowledge, stimulate new business and economic development, enhance U.S. trade, preserve the environment, and improve the quality of life for all Americans. For more information on the USDA – ARS, please visit: <http://www.mwa.ars.usda.gov/>.

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