



# BioBuzz

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

[BioPreferred® Program Update](#)

[Celebrating National Biobased Products Day '26](#)

[New Updates: Reporting and Preference Requirements for Biobased Products](#)

[How the BioPreferred Program Powers National Priorities](#)

[Feedstock Focus: Algae](#)

[Spotlight on Innovation: Biobased Medical Breakthroughs](#)

[Biobased Products in Action: Dredging America's Waterways](#)

[Soy-Based Firefighting Foam Gains Ground Nationwide](#)



## BioPreferred® Program Update

USDA Rural Development has prioritized its efforts to expand rural biomanufacturing and biorefinery capacity that turns agricultural feedstocks into biobased products and fuels. This is an important part of Secretary Rollins' [National Farm Security Action Plan](#), and [the priorities for the Rural Business-Cooperative Service](#) recently announced by Administrator J.R. Claeys. The USDA Biopreferred Program continues to be an important part of this effort to advance key national priorities by strengthening domestic manufacturing and industrial capacity and creating new and expanded markets for American farmers and rural producers. Through these efforts, the Program helps drive demand for U.S.-made biobased products, supports rural economic development, and enhances supply chain resilience.

The Biopreferred Program is actively accepting applications for product certification and stands ready to assist participants with their product listings. Our team is also available to support members of the procurement community who wish to incorporate biobased products into their operations and projects. We look forward to an exciting year ahead in 2026! Please watch for additional communications from us, and do not hesitate to reach out [help@usdabiopreferred.net](mailto:help@usdabiopreferred.net) with any questions.

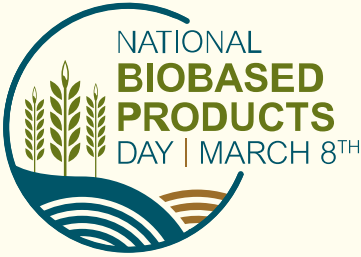
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## National Biobased Products Day Sparks Nationwide Celebration

National Biobased Products Day, held on March 8, was a resounding success, marked by widespread participation and enthusiasm across the country. The day shined a bright spotlight on innovation and the economic benefits of the U.S. bioeconomy, while showcasing biobased products—what they're made from, how they're created, and the incredible benefits they bring to everyday life.



Communities, businesses, and organizations came together to raise awareness of the wide variety of biobased products used at home, in offices, on playgrounds, at construction sites, in landscaping, and beyond. From renewable materials to innovative manufacturing processes, the celebrations highlighted how biobased products are helping build a brighter future.

National Biobased Products Day once again proved that it is more than a USDA initiative—it is a nationwide movement. Events and online engagement amplified the remarkable work happening across the bioeconomy, underscoring its role in supporting rural communities and strengthening U.S. manufacturing and job growth.

Thank you to everyone who participated, shared their stories, and helped make National Biobased Products Day a success. Your efforts continue to inspire awareness, collaboration, and growth across the bioeconomy, and we look forward to building on this momentum in the year ahead.

### NBPD '26 - List of Participating Organizations

Advanced Fiber Technology	Coretec Water Treatment	Minnesota Soybean Research & Promotion Council
Algenesis Labs	Croda Home Care	Natur-Tec®
AstroTurf	DF Seed	Naturbag
Avient	DGP Works	Naturium
Bambu	Eco-Products	Nutra Harvest
Beynon Sports	Echo Panel	Novamont NA
Beyond	Environment First Printing	PCA Skin
Biofur World	Envirofluid	Plant Based Product Council (PBPC)
Bionetix International	Futamara Americas	Plastics Industry Association
Blue Ridge Fiberboard	Gardening Talk	Primient
Blueview Footwear	Hitachi Electron Microscope	Pyram Inc
Brock USA	Illinois Soy Association	Qira
Cargill Bioindustrial	Iowa Corn	Rekoraton
Cavalier Inc	ISSA/Clean & Management Magazine	Stream2Sea
CLR Brands	ISSA/Cleanfax Magazine	Tampa Bay Boy Scout Shop
Collateral Good	Kemper Systems America	Toray Performance Materials
CoreChem	Lanaco	Trick Shot Sustainable Products
Coretec Coatings	Marine Standard Biofuel	UltraFabrics
Coretec Packaging	Master Fluid Solutions	U.S. Soy
Coretec Southeast Asia	MCI (Migrating Corrosion Inhibitors)	W. R. Meadows
	Michigan Advanced Biofuels Coalition	Zoey Naturals



## New Updates: Reporting and Preference Requirements for Biobased Products

### Deviations Issued for Clauses 52.223-2 and 52.223-23

Big news for contractors: two Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) clauses were updated earlier this year, with a class deviation issued in accordance with FAR 1.404. The changes are as follows:

- Clause 52.223-2—Reporting of Biobased Products Under Service and Construction Contracts (MAY 2024; DEVIATION FEB 2025) requires reporting of biobased product purchasing in the System for Award Management.
- Clause 52.223-23—Sustainable Products and Services (MAY 2024; DEVIATION FEB 2025) informs the contractor of the statutory requirement to give a purchasing preference to biobased products.



You must include both clauses in your service and construction solicitations to inform contractors of the procurement preference for biobased products and the need to report those purchases annually.

## How the BioPreferred Program Powers National Priorities

Since its start in 2002, the BioPreferred Program’s efforts have contributed to rural prosperity, innovation, the U.S. economy and jobs, and national security. Here are four ways the Program powers the nation’s most critical priorities.

### The BioPreferred Program:

1. **Supports Rural America by providing American farmers with new, consistent long-term revenue opportunities.** Because biobased materials can be grown and cultivated in the U.S., feedstock can be replenished year after year, providing American farmers and producers with reliable, long term revenue streams.
2. **Contributes to a thriving U.S. economy and job creation.** Biobased products span seven critical sectors of the economy, including agriculture and forestry, biobased chemicals, biobased bottles and packaging, biorefining, enzymes, forest products, and textiles.
3. **Spurs American innovation since biobased products may transform previously low-value agricultural materials into higher value goods.** Many of these raw materials were previously classified as waste materials. The possibilities are endless when it comes to biobased product innovation.
4. **Helps to keep family farms thriving, safeguarding our citizens.** Farm Security = Food Security = National Security. It is an important national security objective to ensure that the U.S. can feed itself (and help to feed the world)!





## Feedstock Focus: Algae

Algae is a rapidly renewable resource that can be used to create many different types of biobased products. This renewable powerhouse is turning up everywhere:

- Foliar Sprays – Sunshine Harvest Brown Algae Extract uses algae as its key ingredient to improve soil health and promote plant growth.
- Lubricants—Checkerspot® High Oleic Microalgae Oil Lubricant delivers high heat resistance and oxidative stability.
- Personal Care—EllaOla Brand’s baby lotions and rash creams harness algae as a primary ingredient for gentle care.

## Spotlight on Innovation: Biobased Medical Breakthroughs

From implants that dissolve safely in the body to PFAS- and BPA-free operating room supplies, the future of healthcare is being reshaped by biobased innovation. Here are some recent examples:

- **Surgical Staples and Counters** - Because of their breathability, ability to absorb fluids, and acceptance by the human body, NewGen Surgical’s 100% biobased skin stapler and sharps counter are advancing patient care.
- **Biobased Implants** - Benefits include less invasive repair, improved physiological repair, gradual body dissolution, and biocompatibility. These products are also free of intentionally added BPAs and PFAS (also known as forever chemicals).
- **Prosthetics** - Utilizing biobased materials, Human Plant Solutions created an alternative to often caustic and high-cost ultra-light composites for prosthetics and device manufacturing. For example, the company’s hemp-based prosthetic socket combines strength with flexibility, offering a lightweight alternative to carbon.



These are just three examples of how the medical sector is developing biobased solutions that are healthier, smarter, and more innovative than their predecessors.



## Biobased Products in Action: Dredging America’s Waterways

Every year, billions of cubic yards of sediment are dredged to keep harbors open, protect ecosystems, reverse the effects of erosion, and improve water quality. Whatever the equipment—backhoes, hydraulic dredgers, or water injectors—biobased motor oils, greases, corrosion inhibitors, and lubricants are available.

The BioPreferred Program Catalog is an excellent source for both government agencies and contractors seeking biobased product options for dredging projects.



## Soy-Based Firefighting Foam Gains Ground Nationwide

Innovation with biobased feedstocks continues to advance across industries, and the fire and safety market is no exception. For decades, firefighters have relied on foam retardants that proved effective in suppressing fires—but often came with unintended environmental and health impacts. A new solution is helping change that narrative.

Enter SoyFoam™ TF 1122, a fluorine free, biobased, biodegradable firefighting foam concentrate manufactured by Georgia-based Cross Plains Solutions. Made from U.S.-grown soy and other agricultural products, SoyFoam™ TF 1122 is engineered to deliver effective fire suppression while prioritizing the safety of firefighters, communities, and surrounding ecosystems.

The product has demonstrated strong vapor suppression across a range of Class B hydrocarbon fuels as well as Class A woodland materials, making it a versatile tool for both structural and wildland firefighting. Designed for seamless adoption, SoyFoam™ TF 1122 requires no special handling and works with traditional foam concentrate dispensing equipment, allowing departments to transition without operational changes.

Momentum behind soy-based firefighting foam is growing nationwide. In 2025, Clinchco Volunteer Fire Department became the first department in Virginia to adopt SoyFoam™ TF 1122. The decision reflects a broader shift away from traditional foams containing harmful PFAS chemicals, while also supporting American farmers. The United Soybean Board and qualified state soybean boards, overseen by USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, have funded SoyFoam research and promotion through checkoffs.

Other departments are seeing results as well. The Casselton Fire Department in North Dakota successfully deployed SoyFoam™ during a fast-moving wildfire. “We used SoyFoam both for initial extinguishment in grass and shelter belts and during mop-up of heavy timber and railroad ties scattered along the right-of-way,” said John Hejl, Fire Chief of Casselton, ND. “Its ability to break water’s surface tension helped it soak deeper into dense fuels—and because it’s people- and environmentally friendly, we could use it confidently in our community without worrying about harmful aftereffects.”

In addition to its performance benefits, SoyFoam™ TF 1122 is certified readily biodegradable by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and has earned the USDA Certified Biobased Product Label, with a verified biobased content of 84 percent. Current formulations have the potential to utilize protein from more than 12 million bushels of soybeans annually, highlighting the product’s role in supporting sustainable agriculture alongside public safety.

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