

Switchgrass & Crop Residues to Energy: A Possibility for the Future

Dr. Burton English

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Friday, February 18

10:00 a.m.

212-B Morgan Hall

Refreshments will be served



The use of biomass as a renewable energy source for transportation fuels, electricity, bioproducts, and other uses is receiving increasing attention.

Dr. Burton English will present the findings of several biomass studies he has conducted with his colleagues at the University of Tennessee. His presentation focuses on the impacts on the agricultural sector of adding significant acreages harvested for conversion to energy. The analysis first examines the projected impacts on the agricultural sector and the nation's economy, and then examines the economic impacts that occur regionally under two different energy conversion scenarios.

Dr. English has been involved in research examining the economics of biomass-to-energy conversion for nearly 25 years. This presentation draws upon his collaborative work with the Agricultural Policy Analysis Center (with Daniel de La Torre Ugarte and Chad Hellwinckel taking the lead), the Agri-Industry Modeling and Analysis Group (involving Kim Jensen and Jamey Menard), and Marie Walsh.

About Dr. English ...

A native of Connecticut, Burton English received a B.S. in forest management from Iowa State University in 1974 and an M.S. in agricultural economics from New Mexico State University in 1976. He then returned to Iowa State University where he received a Ph.D. in agricultural economics while working full time in the Center for Agricultural Development (CARD). He joined the University of Tennessee faculty in 1986.

Dr. English's current research focuses on evaluating the feasibility of biomass for energy and the economic viability of precision farming in Tennessee and the Southeast. In addition to these production oriented issues, Dr. English has during the past several years focused on developing methods to evaluate the potential for agribusinesses to locate in Tennessee and the regional economic impacts of these businesses.