



Growing a Future of CLEAN RENEWABLE ENERGY

MEDIA ADVISORY

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Switchgrass Farmers/University of Tennessee Agriculture Specialists to be honored for their commitment to biofuels development;

Farmers produced more than 5,100 acres of switchgrass as energy crops

Knoxville, TN. – University of Tennessee Head Football Coach Derek Dooley and University President Dr. Joseph DiPietro will help Genera Energy honor 16 farmers for their participation in the first-year of a switchgrass production program.

WHAT: Coach Dooley, President DiPietro, Genera Energy recognize local farmers for their success in growing switchgrass in East Tennessee as a energy crop.

WHEN: Tuesday, July 26, 2011 at 6:30 pm

WHERE: Tennessee Terrace, Neyland Stadium

Since 2008, local farmers have been growing switchgrass as energy crops to be converted into cellulosic ethanol. The crops are grown within 50 miles of Genera Energy's demonstration-scale biorefinery in Vonore, Tennessee. The first year crops produced 723 acres of switchgrass from 16 farms. To date, more than 60 farms are enrolled in the program yielding more than 5,100 acres. Counties involved in switchgrass production include: Rhea, Meigs, Blount, McMinn, Roane, Monroe, and Loudon Counties.

For the past three years, Genera has been working to build a biofuels industry in the state of Tennessee. Since its inception in 2008, Genera has built one of the world's first demonstration-scale cellulosic biorefineries; partnered with local farmers to grow switchgrass (an energy crop) on more than 5,100 acres in East Tennessee; and is currently developing a Biomass Innovation Park for the processing and storage of biomass (switchgrass) for cellulosic ethanol production. Genera has partnered with DuPont for the operation of the demonstration-scale biorefinery.

Genera Energy is a for-profit limited liability company wholly owned by the University of Tennessee Research Foundation. Genera provides a vehicle to leverage state and federal funding with private research and development investments, strategic partnerships and collaborations to further research, economic development and clean energy objectives. Genera focuses on developing integrated biomass supply chain solutions and strategic partnerships to support the bioenergy industry. Genera's portfolio of public-private clean energy objectives includes biomass, biofuels and energy crops. www.generaenergy.net

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