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USDA Looks Back On Growth Of Bio-Based Economy And Renewable Energy

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On October 4, 2016, Lisa Mensah, Under Secretary for U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Rural Development, posted a blog item "[The Bio-Based Economy and Renewable Energy: USDA's Record of Success](#)," reviewing the history of USDA's work with the biobased economy. USDA Rural Development has spearheaded the effort to promote economic growth through expansion of the biobased industry. Lisa Mensah outlines positive impacts of USDA's programs, stating "domestic energy-related emissions have fallen to their lowest level in 20 years. Our dependence on foreign oil is at a 40-year low and declining. In the last eight years, USDA has helped lead an effort to promote the domestic production and use of advanced biofuels and biobased products, supporting millions of jobs and pumping hundreds-of-billions-of-dollars into the U.S. economy." The post also explores the economic benefits that the biobased industry has created for farmers and ranchers, especially through the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP), and the Repowering Assistance Program. USDA's support of the biobased economy has been central to the steady growth of the industry over the years, and will continue to be integral in the future.

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