



August 1st, 2025

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Office of the
Secretary

Office of Tribal
Relations

1400 Independence
Avenue, SW
Room 501-A
Whitten Bldg.
Washington, DC
20250

Phone # 202-205-2249
Fax # 202-720-1058

Dear Tribal Leaders:

On behalf of the Secretary, you are cordially invited by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to participate in a **Consultation and Listening Session on Technical Guidelines for Climate-Smart Agriculture Crops Used as Biofuel Feedstocks interim final rule.**

USDA recently published this interim final rule to establish guidelines for quantifying and reporting the greenhouse gas benefits of crops grown for biofuel production. The Technical Guidelines for Climate-Smart Agriculture Crops Used as Biofuel Feedstocks interim final rule was issued on January 17th, 2025. The guidelines established by the interim final rule will help to ensure the recognition of climate-smart agriculture in clean transportation fuel policies, creating new market opportunities for biofuel feedstock producers and contributing to climate benefits.

The rule is available on the Federal Register at:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/01/17/2025-00975/technical-guidelines-for-climate-smart-agriculture-crops-used-as-biofuel-feedstocks>

The interim final rule establishes voluntary standardized guidelines for quantification, reporting, and verification of greenhouse gas emissions associated with the production of domestic agricultural commodities used as biofuel feedstocks.

The interim final rule includes guidelines on the following:

1. Biofuel feedstock crops and entities in the biofuel supply chain;
2. Quantification of farm-level crop-specific carbon intensity;
3. Chain of custody standards for entities in the biofuel supply chain;
4. Auditing and verification standards; and
5. Climate-smart agriculture practice standards for biofuel feedstock crops.

For the consultation and listening session, USDA will ask for your input on how to mitigate potential barriers that Tribes and Tribal members may face in voluntarily adhering to the standards established in the interim final rule.

The consultation will take place virtually on **Wednesday September 3, 2025 from 3-5 pm Eastern Time**. There will be a Tribal consultation section (with participation by tribal officials and official tribal proxies only) and a listening session (any Indian Country stakeholders) to provide a broad opportunity for input. The link to register is listed below.

Registration Link: [Click to register](#) for the consultation and listening session.

There will be **Framing Paper** provided at least two weeks prior to the consultation. This is not meant to limit conversation, but rather provide context to help guide the conversation. The Framing Paper be added to the [OTR Tribal Consultation website](#).

Questions and Updated Information. Updated information will be posted on the OTR website at: [OTR Tribal Consultation website](#). Any questions on logistics for this engagement session can be directed to Tribal.Relations@usda.gov.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this consultation invitation. We look forward to this discussion.

Lawrence Shorty
Director, Tribal Colleges and Universities, Office of Tribal Relations
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Attachment:
Proxy Letter Template