Cultivating Shrub Willow for Energy

June 22, 2012
Overview

- USDA investing $4.3 million
- Shrub willow will be grown on marginal farmland
- 3,500 acres planted in eligible region across nine counties
Eligible Region Spanning Nine-County Region

- Clinton
- Essex
- Franklin
- Herkimer
- Jefferson
- Lewis
- Oneida
- Oswego
- St. Lawrence
Partnership

• ReEnergy and SUNY-ESF
• Funds available from USDA’s BCAP
• New technology can be utilized locally
BCAP

- USDA’s Biomass Crop Assistance Program
- Helps renewable energy companies and farmers manage risk
- Will provide up to 75% reimbursement
Project Details

- 400,000 green tons of biomass produced over life of project
- Willow can produce biomass after the program is completed
- Creation of 144 direct and indirect jobs
ReEnergy Holdings LLC

- Employs 260 people in four states
- Generates 240 megawatts of energy
- Owns three biomass-to-energy facilities in New York’s northern region:
  - ReEnergy Lyonsdale
  - ReEnergy Chateaugay
  - ReEnergy Black River
SUNY-ESF

- 25 years of R&D through SUNY-ESF’s willow biomass program
- Facilitate commercialization of willow
- Offer outreach program to educate local stakeholders
Willow Biomass Crops

- 350+ species with wide range of genetic variability
- Coppicing ability (one planting; up to seven harvests)
- High biomass production potential
- Easily established with unrooted cuttings
- Limited insect and pest problems
- Over 1,000 acres planted in U.S.; over 25 yield trials in U.S. and Canada
- ReEnergy successfully tested willow in Lyonsdale
Willow Producers

- Can sign up in county USDA offices
- Need to establish supply agreements with ReEnergy
- Contact bcapinfo@reenergyholdings.com
- Visit www.esf.edu/willow
Benefits

- Homegrown energy source
- Good for the environment
- Jobs in Central and Northern New York
- Utilize New York’s tremendous resources
Questions?