

## ***Energy Issues Affecting Corn/Soybean Systems: Challenges for Sustainable Production***

Two [key challenges](#) affect energy use within corn/soybean systems.

- Overcoming barriers to adoption of energy-conserving production practices.
- Improving the viability of bioenergy production.

When [quantifying energy issues](#) associated with agricultural systems, two of the key environmental risks and challenges are climate change and land conversion.

- Climate change impacts are wide ranging and will affect all cropping systems.
- The land conversion issue is controversial because of different assumptions regarding potential soil and crop management practices.
- The most satisfactory option for addressing these differences would be a science-based approach.



A landscape management vision serves to more fully integrate economic, environmental, and social aspects of agriculture into agronomic systems to produce food, feed, fiber, and fuel sustainably.

To support the U.S. [biofuel industry](#), subsidies have been provided.

- The policy followed has been a subsidy provided to biofuel blenders.
- A portion of the subsidy is passed back to the producers, and part is passed forward to consumers.
- This has become a subsidy that encourages greater fuel consumption to support more vehicle miles.

A critical need is to find profitable ways to [decrease adoption barriers](#) for energy-conserving practices.

- Lessen uncertainty associated with adoption of energy-conserving practices.
- Provide opportunities for producers to learn about different corn/soybean production practices and develop skills for using those practices.

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