



Your INL Update — Week of Feb. 22, 2010

This is Misty Benjamin with your INL Update.

Farmers eyeing corn cobs as a biofuel commodity could gain insight from a new study at Idaho National Laboratory. When it comes to harvesting and storing corn cobs for biofuel production, crop-handling practices may impact the fuel economics. INL researchers are studying cob piles and bales to devise best practices for corn cob storage.

Biorefineries may soon rely on a process much like roasting coffee beans to get more energy-dense biomass. A collaborative study between INL and Pacific Northwest National Laboratory is looking at torrefaction, a technology that roasts the grass, straw or wood. This technique may eventually provide a less-expensive and higher-quality biofuel.

You can hear INL Associate Laboratory Director David Hill's interview with This Week in Energy podcast producers. They discussed the role nuclear energy can play in meeting national energy needs. You can listen to the interview at the INL in the News section of INL's home page.

This was your INL Update. You can learn more about INL by watching a new video highlighting the people and programs at Idaho's national lab. You'll find the video on INL.gov.