



# Online Consent Form

## **Study of Biofuel Stakeholder Interactions Surrounding Climate and Water Impacts: Farmers and Community Members**

You are being asked to participate in a voluntary research study. The purpose of this study is to (1) gauge farmer and rural community perspectives of perennial energy crops like Miscanthus and switchgrass, (2) assess farmland quality and land use change in response to varying climate patterns and water impacts, and (3) understand how communication with stakeholders (farmers, rural community leaders, biorefinery industries, government agencies, NGOs) affects land use decisions or crop choice.

Participating in this study will involve filling out an online questionnaire on Qualtrics and the opportunity to win a gift card (for farmer and rural community survey participants only). At the end of the study, 10% of participants who completed the entire survey will be randomly selected to win an Amazon gift card of \$50. There are minimal-to-no risks involved in this research, as no identifying personal information will be collected. However, if you choose to enter to win a gift card, we request that you provide an email address from which you can receive a virtual gift card. This means there is a minimal risk in the confidentiality of your email address if you choose to enter to win a gift-card.

Some benefits of participating in this study include the opportunity to learn more about the environmental and economic benefits of planting perennial energy grasses in marginal land. Participants may also learn about their own decisions regarding land use in the face of changing climate and water resources.

Investigator Name and Title: Emma Golub, Graduate Student

Department and Institution: Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign

Contact Information: [egolub2@illinois.edu](mailto:egolub2@illinois.edu)

Sponsor: This survey is funded by the Department of Energy and the Center for Advanced Bioenergy and Bioproducts Innovation, and it is being conducted by a research group at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

### **What procedures are involved?**

This study procedure is an online questionnaire via the Qualtrics platform. Research related to the questionnaire will be performed at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. The survey will take approximately 20-30 minutes to complete, and you will have one month to complete it. The survey can only be taken once.

### **Will my study-related information be kept confidential?**

Faculty, staff, students, and others with permission or authority to see your study information will maintain its confidentiality to the extent permitted and required by laws and university policies. The names or personal identifiers of participants are not being collected and thus will not be published or presented.



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**Will I be reimbursed for any expenses or paid for my participation in this research?**

Farmers and rural community members who complete the surveys will have the opportunity of being entered to win a \$50 gift card.

**Can I withdraw or be removed from the study?**

If you decide to participate, you are free to withdraw your consent and discontinue participation at any time. Your participation in this research is voluntary. Your decision whether to participate, or to withdraw after beginning participation, will not affect your current or future dealings with the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

**Will data collected from me be used for any other research?**

Your de-identified information could be used for future research without additional informed consent.

**Who should I contact if I have questions?**

Contact the researcher, Emma Golub, at [egolub2@illinois.edu](mailto:egolub2@illinois.edu) if you have any questions about this study or your part in it, or if you have concerns or complaints about the research.

**What are my rights as a research subject?**

If you have any questions about your rights as a research subject, including concerns, complaints, or to offer input, you may call the Office for the Protection of Research Subjects (OPRS) at 217-333-2670 or e-mail OPRS at [irb@illinois.edu](mailto:irb@illinois.edu). If you would like to complete a brief survey to provide OPRS feedback about your experiences as a research participant, please follow the link [here](#) or through a link on the OPRS website: <https://oprs.research.illinois.edu/>. You will have the option to provide feedback or concerns anonymously or you may provide your name and contact information for follow-up purposes.

Please print this consent form if you would like to retain a copy for your records.

I have read and understand the above consent form. I certify that I am 18 years old or older. By selecting “yes” on the first question in the survey, I indicate my willingness to voluntarily take part in this study.