Lesson 1: Exploring Biomass

**Directions:** Access the commodities and products tab on the AgMRC website (http://www.agmrc.org) and find the link to Biomass. Utilize information located here to answer the questions below:

1. According to the AgMRC website, what is biomass?

2. The AgMRC website identifies several hurdles with biomass production strategies. List two of these hurdles and a potential solution for each.

3. Two points have been identified by the AgMRC website as typically being limiting factors or at least important considerations when considering any biomass-utilization project of larger scope. What are these two considerations and give an example of each.

4. According to the AgMRC website, researchers are currently looking into sources of renewable green biodegradable solids to utilize as biomass. List three sources that are currently being researched.

5. The AgMRC website profiles various biomass sources (hay, sawdust, switchgrass, etc.). Select one biomass topic listed under the Biomass heading and write a brief paragraph (4-6 sentences) discussing the advantages and disadvantages of using it as a biomass source.
Reinforcement Activity: Graphic Organizers

Flow charts or graphic organizers are a great way to organize information into an easy to understand visual. For this activity you will be using flow chart or graphic organizer software online or drawing one to organize the biomass into a flow chart. Go back and look at questions 2 and 3. These are the questions that will be the major headings for the two flowcharts you create.

For question 2, the heading should be “hurdles”. Flowing down from that should be any hurdles, and alternatives to those hurdles should be connected to each hurdle.

For question 3, follow the same procedure you used for the question 2 graphic organizer. Uses the heading of “limiting factors” and from there organize those limiting factors, the effects of those factors, and potential solutions. Connect everything together in a way that makes sense visually.