2010 Propane Agriculture Roadmap

Agriculture Strategic Priorities Through 2012

In recent years, both the propane and agriculture industries have experienced shifting consumer demographics, new market realities, and increasing regulatory constraints. The Propane Education & Research Council (PERC) responded to these changes by establishing the new *PERC Strategic Plan* for 2008 to 2012. This plan specifies goals, objectives, and metrics for the activities of each of its advisory committees and directs them to update their roadmaps and guidance methodologies.

PERC's Agriculture Advisory Committee (AAC) developed the *2010 Propane Agriculture Roadmap* to address the needs of the agriculture industry and expand its contributions to achieving the goals of the *PERC Strategic Plan*. To pursue the goals of the strategic plan and realize the agriculture vision, the new strategic framework of the *2010 Roadmap* identifies two main pathways: technology development and commercialization, and supporting activities. AAC defined a commitment to action in each of the nine focus areas across these two pathways. These commitments outline the initiatives needed to advance the *PERC Strategic Plan* and propane's use in agriculture.

Agriculture Advisory Committee Mission Statement

PERC strives to benefit the U.S. agriculture and propane industries by developing and improving propane-fueled technologies and programs that increase farm productivity, reduce environmental impacts, and enhance safety.

Technology Development and Commercialization Areas

AAC will continue to develop technologies that address the emerging needs of the agriculture industry, demonstrate technologies that increase farmers' awareness of the benefits of propane, and commercialize technologies that increase propane sales in the agricultural sector. To pursue these objectives and ensure propane's increasing use in agriculture, AAC must assess the needs of the agriculture industry in each technology area and engage in research in new areas as additional needs are recognized.

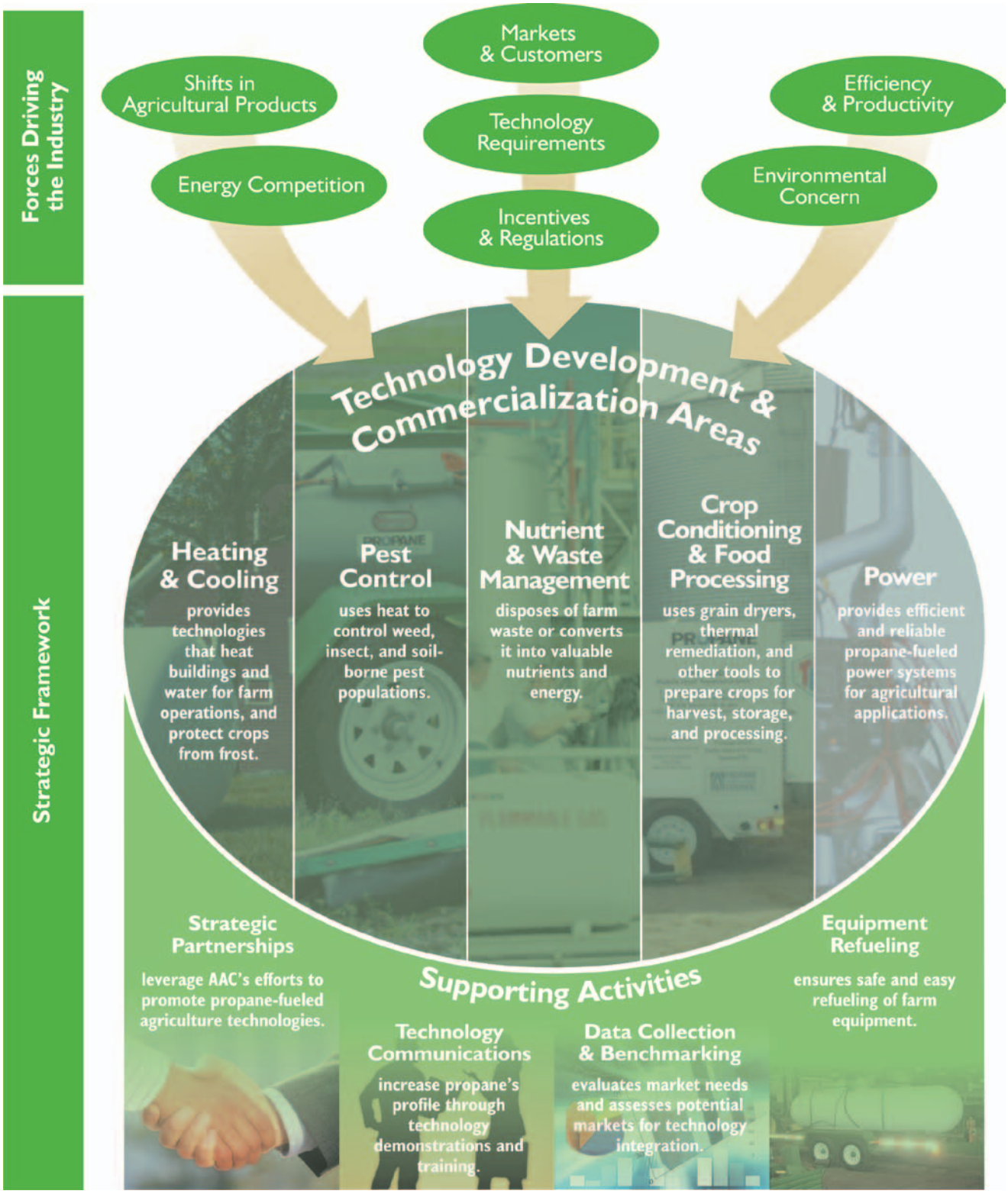
Technology Development and Commercialization Area	Commitments
Heating and Cooling	Invest in projects that focus on improving the energy efficiency of existing propane-fueled heating technologies.
Pest Control	Further invest in the development, demonstration, and commercialization of propane-fueled pest control systems.
Nutrient and Waste Management	Develop and commercialize portable incinerators for the proper and efficient disposal of animal waste and explore other uses of propane to sanitize and reduce farm waste.
Crop Conditioning and Food Processing	Partner with the grain-drying industry to improve the efficiency of grain dryers and explore new applications to aid harvest and processing operations, including controlling pests in these areas.
Power	Develop, demonstrate, and commercialize propane-fueled vehicles, stationary engines, generators, and other applications for the agricultural market.

Supporting Activities

AAC will assess and address needs across all technology development and commercialization areas.

Supporting Activity	Commitments
Strategic Partnerships	Leverage PERC resources and increase the potential for success when bringing new products to market.
Technology Communications	Communicate research results to key partners to aid in the launch of new products and increase communication on the agricultural applications and benefits of propane, including its low-carbon footprint, safety, and cost effectiveness.
Data Collection and Benchmarking	Analyze new ideas and existing projects, survey partner industries to determine technology gaps, and maintain a database of ideas and lessons learned.
Equipment Refueling	Pursue technologies and processes that increase propane's portability on the farm and invest in refueling safety training.

2010 Propane Agriculture Roadmap Structure



PROPANE education & research COUNCIL

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