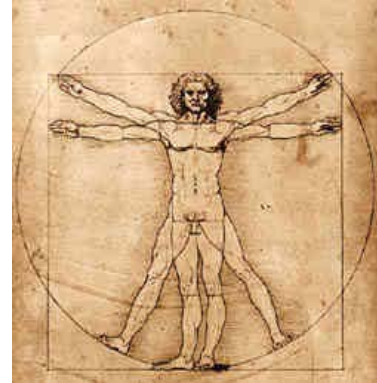


# The Age of Energy Innovation

by Gary Truitt  
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**T**HROUGHOUT HISTORY there have been periods of time when mankind experienced explosive creativity and innovation in specific areas. During the Renaissance, great works of art, music, and literature were created. During the industrial revolution, entire economies and societies were transformed by mechanical and industrial inventions.



*We are entering another such period when science, technology, and agriculture are joining forces to change the energy sources that power the world.*

As President Bush stated recently, "We are a nation addicted to oil." This is an addiction that is shared by most other developed nations in the world. The problem is we are running out of the stuff ...

As supplies shrink, oil prices will rise faster and higher. Since two-thirds of the world's oil reserves are in Middle-Eastern nations, OPEC will become the most powerful force in the world. Industrialized nations with large armies will not take kindly to being so controlled. Wars have been fought over oil before, and they likely will be again.

Yet there is an alternative ...

Bio-energy holds promise for agriculture and for the world. As I recently told the Purdue Ag Forecast meeting, the world is looking to agriculture for an energy alternative. Agriculture is very quickly being seen as the food, fiber, *and fuel* industry ...

Bio-fuel refineries ... will take in a variety of crop material and produce a wide variety of fuel and industrial products. Unlike a typical oil refinery, these plants will be clean, quiet, and, most importantly, located in rural areas.

While the bio-energy revolution will change our agricultural industry, farm economy, and rural community, the biggest impact will be on our world order ... Energy will no longer be the property of the few but will be available to all ...

The key to this world becoming reality is innovation, research, and investment. Government, industry, and individual farmers must invest in this future and prepare for it. The age of energy innovation is here and our future will be shaped by it.

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