CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A process which comprises supplying a feed of a six-carbon carbohydrate–containing material ~~or of a furanic dehydrationproduct from a six-carbon carbohydrate-containing material or of a combination of these~~ to a reactor in a controlled manner over a period of time up to 6 hours up to a desired feed level, ~~and~~ while acid hydrolyzing the feed that has been supplied to the reactor to produce a product including levulinic acid.

2. A process according to claim 1, further comprising forming a levulinic acid derivative from the levulinic acid.

3. A process according to claim 1, wherein the feed is supplied to the reactor in increments spaced over ~~a~~the period of time.

4. A process according to claim 1, wherein the feed is supplied to the reactor in a plurality of intervals of continuous feeding spaced over ~~a~~the period of time.

5. A process according to claim 1, wherein the feed is supplied to the reactor continuously over ~~a~~the period of time up to the desired feed level.

6. A process according to claim 1, wherein the feed is comprised of fructose, glucose or both of fructose and glucose.

7. A process according to claim 6, wherein the feed is high fructose corn syrup.

8. A process according to claim 1, wherein the feed comprises a cellulosic fraction of a lignocellulosic biomass.

9. A process according to claim 8, wherein the feed further comprises furfuryl alcohol.

10. A process according to claim 9, further comprising the steps of: fractionating a lignocellulosic biomass into lignin-containing, cellulosic and hemicellulosic fractions; dehydrating pentoses in the hemicellulosic fraction to provide furfural; and converting furfural to furfuryl alcohol.