

Wisconsin Soy Scoop

News from the Wisconsin Soybean Programs

October 2006

Associations Work for Growers

While Wisconsin soybean producers are hard at work harvesting this year's crop, Wisconsin soybean program leaders are working hard to grow markets for soybeans and soy products. From farm policy to expanded uses, research and education, the Wisconsin Soybean Association and the Wisconsin Soybean Marketing Board is representing state grower interests.

State soybean leaders are actively involved with the University of Wisconsin in the search for a new Extension soybean agronomist as well as an additional Extension plant pathologist. The agronomy post will fill an open position, while the plant pathology position is a newly created position due to demand from growers and industry. Things such as soybean rust, other fungal diseases, white mold, brown stem rot and soybean cyst nematode are constant problems that demand such expertise. The goal is to have both positions filled prior to the next planting season.

Biodiesel continues to grab the spotlight in Wisconsin with the state awarding biofuels grants to several existing biodiesel companies. The 2005-07 state budgets contained \$1 million to help develop a bio-based industry, and the grants have been dispersed to a combination of bio products, fuel, and energy projects.

Quality Roasting, Inc. of Valders received a \$97,000 grant to help expand its soybean crushing facility and complement biodiesel production at the nearby Renewable Alternatives soy biodiesel plant. Quality Roasting anticipates using 1.5 million bushels of soybeans annually to produce similar amounts of soybean oil. The company has produced soybean oil for biodiesel since 2004 and is expected to increase its annual soybean oil production from 800,000 gallons to approximately two million gallons.

Another recipient of a grant dispersed earlier this summer is Great Lakes Biofuels, Madison, and O'Brien Farms, Oregon, Wisconsin. The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) awarded them \$60,000 to help develop a containerized mobile processor for processing oilseeds into finished bio-diesel.

Work also progresses on the large-scale commercial biodiesel production. The state's first, large-scale commercial biodiesel plant is expected to begin by December at Anamax Energy Services, DeForest. This plant should produce 20 million gallons per year of biodiesel, using a variety of feedstock sources. Located next to an existing Anamax Grease Services, the Anamax process likely will use primarily recycled grease and vegetable oil, however, company officials have indicated they would buy soybean oil as well. While there are about 40 biodiesel plants in the United States, only nine produce

biodiesel fuel from multiple feedstocks.

Another large-scale commercial project underway by North Prairie Productions, LLC, will produce 45-million-gallons per year of soy biodiesel. The company is currently raising equity for the project through a public offering and recently completed a 3-week schedule of presentations. Plans call for NPP to break ground on the plant next March on land that sits within a shuttle-train loading facility owned by Landmark Cooperative, in Evansville. Landmark, the state's largest farmer-owned cooperative, recently announced it was studying the feasibility of establishing a soybean crush facility on that site as well.

Locating a soybean crush facility in Wisconsin has been an on-going project for the Wisconsin Soybean Programs over the last ten years, as state production has increased. Results of the Landmark study are expected later this fall. For more information on Wisconsin soybean programs call the office in Madison at 608-274-7522 or look on the website at www.wisoybean.org . ###