

Wisconsin Soy Scoop

News from the Wisconsin Soybean Programs

June 2006

Soy Diesel Holds Unlimited Potential

Research paid for by soybean grower checkoff funds have helped develop hundreds of new uses for soybean products in recent years and today, soy diesel holds unlimited potential for improving soybean utilization and ultimately producers' profit opportunity.

The domestic biodiesel industry is expanding at an exponential rate. Production of biodiesel fuel has grown from 2 million gallons in 2000, to this year's projection of more than 150 million gallons.

Soy diesel is a biodegradable, non-toxic domestic alternative to petroleum diesel that helps lessen our dependence on foreign oil. Because it also is sulfur free, soy diesel helps improve the quality of the air we breathe. And since it is a home-grown renewable commodity, soy diesel increases soybean demand and stimulates rural economies where it is produced. It is a viable alternative for truck and fleet operators seeking compliance with clean air regulations and requires no special adaptations for use in modern diesel engines. In fact its high lubricity helps reduce engine wear and extend engine life.

Legislative Priorities Set

The American Soybean Association recently outlined its biodiesel legislative priorities for Congress to consider as it develops another energy bill, as follows:

1. Extending the volumetric biodiesel tax incentive.
2. Extending small agri-biodiesel producer credit.
3. Authoring and funding a CCC Biodiesel program.

These three items are priorities because, both the biodiesel tax incentive and the small producer credit will expire at the end of 2008, while the CCC Bioenergy Program terminates this fiscal year.

Every gallon of domestically produced, soyoil-based biodiesel represents an expansion in distillate supplies, additional refinery capacity and is a direct replacement for imported, refined diesel fuel. Boosting available fuel supplies should have a positive impact on fuel prices to consumers as well as to soybean producers and that makes it a priority for the Wisconsin Soybean Association.

Farm Technology Days

Soy diesel is powering this summer's Wisconsin Farm Technology Days in Sheboygan County, via funds provided by the state soybean checkoff.

Six, 180 kilowatt Kohler generators fueled with an E-5 blend of soy diesel will deliver electrical needs for the show's tent city and six, multi-directional light towers powered by soy diesel will provide security lighting for the area. Soy diesel also will power farm equipment used for the show's always-popular field demonstrations.

Make sure to check these out and stop by the Soybean Program booth to say hello in the Agribusiness Tent, booth number E-182, July 11, 12 and 13, on the Hesselink Farm, near Oostburg.

Golf Outing

Wisconsin Soybean Association's 16th annual golf outing is scheduled for Thursday, July 27, at Old Hickory Country Club, Beaver Dam. Four-person teams play best ball with a shotgun start at 9:30 a.m., offering prizes and door prizes. This event is a great way to net with growers and industry representatives while having a fun-filled and relaxing day. Be sure to call the WSA office this week to register.

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 . ###