



Minnesota Soybean Research & Promotion Council

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PRESS RELEASE

Biodiesel, America's First Advanced Biofuel

Minnesota soybean checkoff sponsors Biodiesel Lounge at Minnesota's Auto Show to educate benefits of this cleaner-burning fuel

MANKATO, MN - March 4, 2011 –Designated by the EPA as the first and only advanced biofuel, biodiesel is the fuel of the future. A clean, domestic, alternative fuel produced from readily available and sustainable sources, including soybeans, biodiesel is an excellent option for diversifying the U.S. energy portfolio and furthering national energy security. It offers substantial economic and environmental benefits to our state and country.

Minnesota is a leader in the biodiesel industry, being the first state to require that all diesel fuel contain a 2 percent blend, which started in 2005, and has since increased to a 5 percent blend of homegrown, renewable biodiesel. With the new renewable fuel standard (RFS2) mandate, which requires the country to use 800 million gallons of biomass-based diesel in 2011 and the passing of the tax-credit, 2011 is going to be a big year for the biodiesel industry.

“Increasing the amount of biodiesel in our fuel allows us to take advantage of a renewable fuel made right here in Minnesota. I’m proud to live in a state that is leading energy innovations and taking part in valuable solutions like biodiesel,” states Ed Hegland, former National Biodiesel Board Chairman and Minnesota farmer.

It’s time for consumers to become educated on the benefits of biodiesel and how they can use biodiesel on a daily basis. It is not just something for big trucks and machinery. In fact, there are numerous vehicles that are biodiesel compatible such as Audi SUV’s and sedans and Volkswagen station wagons and sedans to name a few.

“Having a presence at the upcoming auto show will allow consumers to see the importance of advancing biofuels, not only for energy purposes, but for the environment—something that will affect our families and our future,” adds Hegland.

Biodiesel is good for engine life, air quality, local economies and America’s energy independence. Biodiesel reduces greenhouse gases and other emissions by as much as 86 percent compared to petroleum diesel. Full-scale production from Minnesota biodiesel plants means more than 5,000 jobs and a \$1 billion industry in the state.

The increase in biodiesel use doesn’t stop there. Under the RFS2 mandate, the U.S. is required to increase biodiesel use to 21 billion gallons of advanced biofuels and 15 billion gallons of cellulosic biofuels by 2022. Advanced biofuels are the best alternative for reducing dependence on fossil fuels and foreign oil. The fuel of the future is here today.

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For more information or to set up an interview with Ed Hegland, please contact Rachel Gray at rgray@wideopenthinking, or 651-269-1327.