



Minnesota Soybean Growers Association

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Renewable Biodiesel Fuel Leads the Soybean Festival Parade in Farmington

May 20, 2010 – Mankato, MN -- Soybeans are on parade Saturday at the Minnesota Soybean Festival in Farmington, and biodiesel will be in the lead. The Minnesota Soybean Growers Association and Dakota/Rice County Corn and Soybean Growers Association are co-sponsoring the weekend celebration and driving the biodiesel vehicle that leads the Saturday afternoon parade.

Organized by the Farmington Downtown Business Association, the festival will promote the infinite possibilities of the soybean and feature a soy-cooking contest, soy farming expo, green builders expo and activities for all ages.

“We are very pleased to be part of this event which provides a variety fun ways for people to learn more about our versatile Minnesota soybean crop,” said Bill Zurn, a soybean farmer from Callaway, Minn., and president of the Minnesota Soybean Growers Association (MSGA).

“Minnesota is the third largest soybean-producing state in the country. Not only do our soybeans feed livestock and people around the world, but many common household items, such as paints, cleaners, fabrics, adhesives, and even the toner in your printer now use soybeans as a green alternative to petroleum based products.”

Biodiesel fuel is one of the newest uses for soybeans. In 2009, Minnesota became the first state in the nation to require that all diesel fuel contain a 5 percent blend of homegrown renewable biodiesel. This requirement replaces 40 million gallons of petroleum-based diesel annually and removes approximately 644 million pounds of carbon dioxide annually, according to the Minnesota Soybean Research & Promotion Council (MSRP&C).

“Use of biodiesel is a win-win for Minnesota soybean farmers and all citizens of the state Zurn aid. Biodiesel empowers Minnesota citizens to choose to support an important crop in our state, while using less foreign oil. Biodiesel production increases demand or soybean oil, which increased soybean prices for farmers.

The Minnesota Soybean Growers Association is a non-profit, farmer-controlled membership organization established in 1962. Its goal is to assure profitable soybean farming by monitoring government policies and supporting research and market development activities.

