

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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January 29, 2002

### **Major Midwest Co-op Makes Biodiesel Available to Farmers**

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – Growmark announced today that the company is helping to take biodiesel, the alternative fuel usually produced from soybean oil, back to the farm. Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Indiana, Ohio, and Iowa member FS cooperatives this season will begin on-farm delivery of biodiesel/petroleum diesel blends of two percent (B2) or 20 percent (B20).

Farmers can benefit from not only producing the soybeans, but by using the value-added product as well.

Biodiesel is a cleaner-burning alternative fuel that can be used in any diesel engine with few or no modifications. Biodiesel can be used in its pure form (B100), or blended with petroleum diesel at any level. It offers similar fuel economy, horsepower and torque to petroleum diesel. More than 100 major fleets use biodiesel and the fuel has been proven in more than 40 million successful on-road miles.

"The FS System is involved in all levels of the supply chain to bring renewable, home-grown, and high performing alternative fuels to American consumers," says Mike Lockart, Growmark marketing manager of alternate fuels.

Biodiesel in its pure form is biodegradable, non-toxic and has a high flash point, making it the safest fuel to use, handle and store. Biodiesel can help clear the air with reduced emissions of hydrocarbons, carbon monoxide, sulfates and particulate matter. In fact, biodiesel produces up to 50 percent less dangerous particulate matter emissions than petroleum diesel. Since it is domestically produced and renewable, it also contributes to national energy security.

"Any part of the US petroleum supply that can be replaced by a renewable fuel helps make our environment that much cleaner," said Joe Jobe, executive director of the National Biodiesel Board. "Energy independence has never been more important than it is today, and soybean farmers have the opportunity to contribute to our country's energy security by both producing and using biodiesel."

"Biodiesel blends offer farmers several benefits that outweigh paying just a few cents more per gallon than for petroleum diesel," said Brad Glenn, President, Illinois Soybean Association and farmer from Stanford, Illinois. "If only one percent of the diesel fuel used nationwide by farmers every year was replaced with biodiesel, it would require the oil from 23 million bushels of soybeans. That could help boost soybean prices from current low levels."

Farmers who choose to use biodiesel will find several on-farm benefits, including increased lubricity. When sulfur is removed from petroleum diesel fuel to meet clean air standards, lubricity goes down. But extensive testing done by Stanadyne Automotive Corp., the leading U.S. fuel injection engine manufacturer, shows that as little as a one percent blend of biodiesel can increase lubricity by up to 65 percent, thus protecting the life of the engine.

Farmers also stand to gain economically from biodiesel's increasing success. A study conducted by AUS Consultants documents that renewable fuels legislation setting goals of 1.2 percent renewable fuel use in 2002 increasing to 4 percent by 2016 could boost the U.S. economy by \$300 billion and create as many as 300,000 new jobs in many sectors of the economy by 2016. Increased use of American-made fuels, like biodiesel and ethanol, would generate an additional \$71 billion (1996 dollars) of income for America over the next 15 years through increased gross production and job creation.

Virtually all major diesel engine manufacturers have confirmed that use of B20 will not void their warranties. Individuals who are concerned about warranty or other compatibility issues are encouraged to contact the corporate office of their diesel engine manufacturer.

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