

Title: A Study on the Feasibility of Biodiesel Production in Georgia

Author(s): University of GA – Center for Agribusiness and Economic Development

Publication Date: February 2003

Summary: The State of Georgia faces two issues that may provide a unique opportunity for rural economic growth. The first issue is that major urban areas of the state have air quality problems that will require actions to reduce sources of pollution. One major pollution source is from exhaust emissions from cars and trucks. The use of alternative fuel sources such as biodiesel can make a significant reduction in certain exhaust emissions thus reducing pollution and improving air quality.

The second issue facing the state is depressed crop farm incomes due to low market prices for the many oilseeds produced. Prices for soybeans, cottonseed and crush quality peanuts have been at very low levels for the last four years. These low prices have reduced farm incomes. Additionally, disposal of animal fat by-products and spent vegetable oils may become increasingly difficult in the future.

The opportunity for economic growth resides in the processing of these oilseeds and other suitable feedstocks produced within the state into biodiesel. The new fuel can be used by vehicles traversing the state thus reduce air pollution and providing another market for Georgia produced oilseeds while creating a value added market for animal fats and spent oils. The benefits of biodiesel go far beyond the clean burning nature of the product. Biodiesel is a renewable resource helping reduce the economy's dependency on limited resources and imports. Also, biodiesel will help create a market for farmers and certain feedstocks and help reduce the amount of waste oil, fat and grease being dumped into landfills and sewers.

The purpose of this report is to provide decision makers with information on the feasibility of producing biodiesel in Georgia.

Market Segment: General

Accessibility: Public

Files Available: From University of GA's website:
<http://www.agecon.uga.edu/~caed/biodieselrpt.pdf>