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Minnesota soy checkoff board helps drive NTPA's acceptance of B100

ST. LOUIS (October 22, 2012) – U.S. soybean farmers, through their checkoff, support the National Tractor Pullers Association (NTPA) to promote biodiesel among pulling fans. The NTPA plans to return the favor by allowing the use of 100 percent biodiesel fuel, or B100, in all diesel pulling classes beginning next season.

This could increase biodiesel demand by putting its performance benefits on display for the farmers, truck drivers and other diesel users who make up a large portion of the NTPA's fan base.

"The NTPA has been a good partner with the soy checkoff," says United Soybean Board (USB) Director Jim Willers, a soybean farmer from Beaver Creek, Minn. "We are pleased that tractor pullers will be able to use B100 and show off what biodiesel can do for their engines."

A recent study by the Minnesota Soybean Research & Promotion Council (MSR&PC) and the United Pullers of Minnesota (UPM) found that using B100 in a pulling tractor can add up to 4 percent more horsepower and torque compared with traditional diesel.

Previously, NTPA fuel regulations limited the use of biodiesel to lower concentrations. This season, the NTPA and UPM allowed the use of B100 on a trial basis. The overwhelming success of the trial led the NTPA to adopt the policy permanently.

"We now have a reliable test to make sure it's B100, so pullers can use it right out of the pump," says Gregg Randall, NTPA office general manager. "The biggest thing is that this will be the ultimate proof that biodiesel performs well, which is what our partnership with the soy checkoff is all about."

The United Soybean Board has partnered with the NTPA for the past six years to help increase biodiesel availability and use among pulling fans. And for the third year in a row, the checkoff sponsored the NTPA's "Powered by Biodiesel" Light Pro Stock class, in which all competitors use biodiesel blends.

Biodiesel offers excellent horsepower, mileage, cetane and lubricity. It's also recognized as America's Advanced Biofuel due to its ability to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions. And since biodiesel's an American-made fuel that can be made from U.S. soy oil, it can help Americans declare freedom from foreign oil.

Finding biodiesel has never been easier. The Environmental Protection Agency recently announced it will require the use of 1.28 billion gallons of biodiesel next year under the Renewable Fuel Standard. That's an increase over this year's requirement of 1.1 billion gallons.

The soy checkoff funds biodiesel research and promotion efforts through the National Biodiesel Board to help increase the use of U.S. soy oil. Soy oil remains the dominant feedstock for U.S. biodiesel production.

The 69 farmer-directors of USB oversee the investments of the soy checkoff to maximize profit opportunities for all U.S. soybean farmers. These volunteers invest and leverage checkoff funds to increase the value of U.S. soy meal and oil, to ensure U.S. soybean farmers and their customers have the freedom and infrastructure to operate, and to meet the needs of U.S. soy's customers. As stipulated in the federal Soybean Promotion, Research and Consumer Information Act, the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service has oversight responsibilities for USB and the soy checkoff.

For more information on the United Soybean Board, visit www.unitedsoybean.org
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