



MICHIGAN SOYBEAN
PROMOTION COMMITTEE

a new release



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Michigan Amusement Companies Offer Soy Biodiesel Powered Rides at County Fairs

*Ride Into The Future...*with Michigan based Elliott's Amusements and McDonagh's Amusements this summer as they power their generators and other diesel equipment with cleaner burning soy biodiesel fuel.

Both Elliott's, based in Mason, and McDonagh's, based in Chesaning, looked at and listened to a lot of research and real-world results on biodiesel usage in Michigan before fueling their diesel equipment this summer with B20 (20% soy biodiesel/80% petroleum diesel).

Each company's decision to make the switch to soy biodiesel is in part through a grant offered by the Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee (MSPC). That grant allowed companies to receive partial reimbursement of added cost for biodiesel (if there is any) as well as biodiesel signs, literature, and promotional assistance throughout the summer for their efforts to help clean the air at the festivals by using soy biodiesel. With the increase in fuel charges, Elliott's and McDonagh's are hoping to save money with switching to soy biodiesel as well as to help the environment and make people aware of this great product.

Gail R. Frahm, Executive Director of the MSPC, gave a presentation to the amusement companies in attendance at a January meeting of the Michigan Association of Fairs and Exhibitions members. At that time, great interest was expressed by several companies thus the reason for the grant opportunity. Frahm reports, "We're really excited that these two companies have taken the lead on using soy biodiesel at these Michigan venues. And, they came to us expressing interest. We are glad that the efforts farmers have invested in over the past fifteen years have helped increase the awareness of biodiesel in the marketplace."

James Domagalski, president of the MSPC and a director on the National Biodiesel Board states, "Michigan's soybean farmers are supportive of biodiesel use in this and other markets for obvious reasons...we can grow our own fuel instead of importing it."

Tracy Elliott owner of Elliott's Amusements says, "We want people that operate diesels to realize they don't have to make any modifications or changes in their (diesel) cars or trucks to be able to use biodiesel. And, I like the fact that biodiesel adds lubricity back into the fuel system." Elliott continued, "It is our objective to provide our patrons with a clean family-friendly atmosphere for their entertainment. It is our belief that for us to be successful, the

events we play must be successful. We will strive to compliment any venue we are associated with, taking an active role to ensure their greatest potential. We have many ideas, concepts, and information to share and are excited to be using and sharing the benefits of soy biodiesel with all our patrons."

Tom McDonagh, owner of McDonagh Amusement's adds, "We are proud to be known as Michigan's Cleanest and Brightest Midway and are encouraged that our addition of soy biodiesel ties in with this standard."

Elliott's and McDonagh's will be attending 16 to 20 fairs and festivals this summer and fall. The companies offer a wide range of rides and a midway full of family oriented games. Thousands of people will walk through their amusement aisles and be able to see signs proudly displaying soy biodiesel information. The fair or festival will turn into an educational event as well as fun. Next time you go to a county fair or festival with rides by one of these companies, you will be taking a *Ride Into The Future*.

Both companies encourage all fair and festival goers to be one of the first to ride their soy biodiesel fueled rides at the many venues they're providing rides for this summer. For a list of their schedule or for company contact information, checkout their websites at www.elliottsamusements.com and www.mcdonaghsmusements.com.

The MSPC is a board of seven soybean farmer directors representing Michigan's soybean farmers and directing the soybean checkoff investments for the state into new uses, research, domestic and international marketing, and producer communication efforts. Soy biodiesel is just one of their many accomplishments over the course of the soybean checkoff's existence.

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Note to Reporter: The following is a bit of information taken from each company's website.

Elliott's Amusements, LLC was started in 2002 by Tracy and Debbie Elliott, but it has history in the State of Michigan that goes back as far as 1981. The Elliott's, including Jim Elliott who left Wade shows in 2002 to join his son, and Elliott's Amusements, LLC have set many goals for themselves. They have begun to build a solid Michigan route. Their plan to be a progressive, quality medium sized amusement company is being realized. The show wants to work hand and hand with their committees and provide the kind of entertainment people want to return to year after year, building a solid base of customer activity. While they've given their operation the look and feel of a big show, they still provide the individualized attention only a family operated show can produce.

McDonagh's Amusements is an ever-progressing, quality outdoor amusement company. It started when Bruce McDonagh brought his six Shetland ponies to Uby's 1958 homecoming festival. Forty plus years and three generations later, McDonagh's Amusements has steadily expanded and upgraded to become one of Michigan's premiere carnivals. They are capable of providing a complete and balanced midway for any size or type of event. In order to maintain this level of quality, their winter season is spent refurbishing and re-manufacturing their equipment. This maintenance is necessary to preserve their outstanding safety record and minimize equipment down time. During the spring and summer, they practice daily safety inspections and precautions. McDonagh's takes safety measures far beyond the standard requirements.