



## MICHIGAN SOYBEAN PROMOTION COMMITTEE

# a new release



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **Michigan County Road Commissions Starting with Biodiesel**

As you're traveling through Michigan this year, you may want to pay closer attention to some of the **County Road Commission's (CRC's) diesel vehicles as they may be powered by soy-based biodiesel**. As a matter of fact, seven more Michigan CRC's will be using biodiesel this year because of a grant opportunity offered by the Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee (MSPC). The MSPC sent out a call for proposal to CRC's to give them the opportunity to have any added biodiesel costs of B20 (20 percent biodiesel/80 percent regular petroleum diesel) offset by a grant through the MSPC. The seven CRC's that were selected to participate in a year-long venture include **CRC's from Calhoun, Chippewa, Eaton, Ionia, Jackson, Macomb, and Mecosta counties**.

The MSPC has been administering programs in the areas of soybean research, promotion, and education on behalf of Michigan's soybean producers since 1976. Our mission is to increase grower profit opportunities while enhancing a positive public image of the soybean industry. Besides displacing importation of foreign oil, CRC's also want to increase their public image and we're glad to help them do just that with biodiesel! Biodiesel is a cleaner-burning, American grown fuel. By using a B20 level, carbon monoxide is reduced by 12%, unburned hydrocarbons by 20%, and particulate matter by 12%. Several unregulated emissions are also reduced which are estimated based on results of B100 testing which include sulfates by 20%, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) by 13% and ozone potential of speciated hydrocarbons by 10%. With all these **reductions of emissions**, it's clear that biodiesel is an excellent option for CRC's to make a change to.

**Biodiesel is readily available across Michigan**, especially in the Lower Peninsula and in particular for on-site fuel storage options. Presently there are more than 100 biodiesel suppliers in Michigan who deliver biodiesel to on-site fuel storage facilities of businesses such as schools, MDOT's, city fleets, state and national parks, power companies, farmers, and the like. "We're excited to be able to add CRC's to this growing list of interested users," said Gail R. Frahm, Executive Director of the MSPC. "Our objective is to encourage Michigan's County Road Commissions to use blended biodiesel in their fleet vehicles and equipment through a grant process intended to offset any incremental cost increase resulting from biodiesel fuel purchases with our goal of consistent biodiesel use even after the grant is completed. The maximum grant award amount is \$10,000 per County Road Commission."

Each CRC was asked to provide their annual diesel fuel use noted. The amounts range from 13,000 - 360,000 gallons. These seven CRC's collectively used nearly 1 million gallons of diesel

fuel in 2004, so if each CRC used B20 in all their diesel vehicles, they'd utilize approximately 200,000 gallons of B100 (100% biodiesel) in the blend with regular petroleum diesel as they traverse over 5 million miles.

The grant runs from July 1, 2005 - June 30, 2006. "This will give the opportunity for CRC's to see that biodiesel does work year-round in Michigan's environment," Frahm continued. "We've been using biodiesel here in Michigan for about 15 years, year-round, with no challenges and no engine modifications." Nationally biodiesel has logged more than 55 million on-road miles in more than 500 fleets and in countless off road miles as well.

Each CRC also provided information on their vehicles and other diesel powered equipment. From dump trucks, semi-tractors, boom trucks, backhoes and loaders, rollers, pickups, graders, and tractors, the CRC's are well suited for using this alternative fuel.

So why is it these CRC's applied for this grant? Frahm concluded, "We don't believe it's just because of the money." Calhoun CRC explained in their application, "Not only is biodiesel beneficial for the environment, the quality is equal to regular diesel fuel. Biodiesel provides an alternative that allows its use without having to perform additional work on our equipment in order to start utilizing the product. CCRC hopes to set a precedent that biodiesel is a great option for not only Road Commissions, but all other transportation businesses as well. CCRC would like to share with others around our community that biodiesel is a great renewable fuel source."

How do you get your local city fleets, county road commissions, waste management companies, power supplier, construction companies and others to use biodiesel? For some it may be to "just ask!" If you have a connection with someone at any of these types of businesses or others that use diesel, direct them to good information sources on biodiesel like [www.biodiesel.org](http://www.biodiesel.org). For a list of biodiesel suppliers in Michigan, visit [www.michigansoybean.org](http://www.michigansoybean.org).

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**Note to the Editor: Contact information for each of the seven CRC's is as follows. Feel free to contact them for additional interview and photo opportunities.**

Calhoun, Robert Volkmer, Fleet Maintenance Supervisor, 269.781.9841 Ext. 230  
Chippewa, Dirk Heckman, P.E., Engineer/Manager, 906.635.5295  
Eaton, Daniel Parshall, Equipment Supervisor, 517.543.1632 Ext. 215  
Ionia, Don Chubb, Fleet Manager, 616.527.1700  
Jackson, Robert Zenz, Commissioner, 517.788.4230  
Macomb, Robert Hoepfner, P.E., County Highway Engineer, 586.463.8671  
Mecosta, Nick Petersen, 231.796.2611 Ext. 25