

Biodiesel Facts

- Biodiesel is a clean-burning, biodegradable, alternative fuel produced from vegetable oils or animal fats. To be called biodiesel, it must meet American Society for Testing & Materials (ASTM D-6751) quality specifications.
- Blends of biodiesel can range from 1% to 99%. Common blends used in Iowa are B2, B5, B10 and B20. Many farmers use even higher blend levels in their equipment.
- Biodiesel provides engine lubricity which helps extend engine life and reduce maintenance costs. Even biodiesel levels as low as one percent can provide up to a 65% increase in lubricity.
- No diesel engine modifications are needed to use biodiesel.
- B100 reduces ozone (smog) formation by 50%.
- Biodiesel is a biodegradable, renewable fuel with positive performance benefits. Increased cetane, high fuel lubricity and increased oxygen content make it a preferred blending agent for ultra-clean diesel.
- As a domestically-produced fuel, biodiesel can reduce the need for fossil fuel and improve the nation's energy security.
- Biodiesel is registered as a fuel and fuel additive with the EPA and meets clean diesel standards established by the California Air Resources Board (CARB). B100 (100% biodiesel) has been designated as an alternative fuel by the U.S. Department of Energy and the U.S. Department of Transportation.
- Fleets covered under EPACT (federal, state and public utilities) can meet the alternative fuel vehicle purchase requirements by purchasing a minimum of 450 gallons of B100 and blending it to a 20% level with diesel fuel for use in new or existing diesel vehicles.
- Using biodiesel in diesel engines does not void parts and materials workmanship warranties of any major U.S. engine manufacturer.
- Biodiesel blended up to 20% exhibits cold flow properties similar to #2 diesel.
- Biodiesel has the highest BTU content of any alternative fuel (ranging between #1 and #2 diesel fuel).
- B100 reduces exhaust emissions of carbon monoxide by 48% and hydrocarbons by 67%.

- Sulfur emissions are essentially eliminated with B100.
- Every 200 gallons of pure soy biodiesel purchased in Iowa uses the soy oil from 143 bushels of soybeans.
- According to the Iowa Soybean Association, a 200 million gallon annual demand of soy-based biodiesel would increase the average price of a bushel of soybeans by 17 cents, increasing average net farm income by \$300 million each year.