

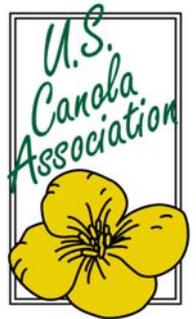
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: September 28, 2010

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Canola Biodiesel Eligible for U.S. Renewable Fuel Standard "Golden" Oilseed Best Feedstock for Cold Weather Use

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Canola oil meets the 50 percent greenhouse gas reduction requirement as a raw material (feedstock) for biodiesel production under the expanded Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS2), announced the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in today’s *Federal Register*. The supplemental final rule ascertains that canola biodiesel meets the emission thresholds as compared to the petroleum diesel it will replace. Now producers or importers of canola biodiesel can participate in the RFS2 program, getting retroactive credit for biodiesel produced or imported since July 1, 2010, when the RFS2 went into effect.

“Canola biodiesel will play a significant role in fulfilling the volume requirements of the RFS2, providing advantages over other feedstocks for cold weather use,” said Doug Scoville, president of the U.S. Canola Association (USCA). “Consistent with Congress’s intent, canola biodiesel provides benefits to our national energy security, the environment and the economy. The USCA is confident that documentation soon to be submitted to the EPA will result in an even higher emission reduction rating for canola oil.”

Canola biodiesel reduces emissions, improves air quality, furthers sustainable agricultural practices, and provides jobs and additional economic benefits. In addition, canola oil has the greatest ability to remain free-flowing at cold temperatures of any feedstock used to commercially produce biodiesel in the U.S. Plus, canola provides greater yields because it has reduced impurities – low presence of moisture and other components – that may affect yield and the efficiency of biodiesel production.

“North American canola production – concentrated in the U.S. in North Dakota and Oklahoma – is very efficient, with lower energy inputs than many crops,” Scoville noted. “A lot of canola production is done through no-till farming and as a rotational crop, canola allows for less fertilizer and water use. Canola also benefits other major crops, such as wheat, in rotation. For example, wheat yields have been shown to increase when it follows canola due to increased weed control.”

Under the RFS2, the volume of domestic biodiesel required for blending into petroleum diesel will be a minimum of 1 billion gallons from 2012 through 2022. The annual capacity of U.S. biodiesel production facilities that have used and/or are currently using canola oil exceeds 200 million gallons and is expected to expand. Two of the largest facilities, with a combined feedstock capacity of 185 million gallons, rely almost exclusively on canola oil.

“Today’s announcement by the EPA ensures that such facilities will be able to continue to rely on canola biodiesel while benefitting from the RFS2,” Scoville concluded.

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