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Ohio Department of Agriculture Director Speaks at opening of Ohio's First Interstate Biofuels Pumps

Ohioans have two new retail locations to purchase alternative fuels. On September 8, 2006, Ohio Department of Agriculture Director Fred L. Dailey presided over the ribbon cutting ceremonies for two new Sunoco-branded fuel pumps featuring E85 ethanol and biodiesel at blends of 2% to 20% (B20). The Mt. Gilead station, at 6027 State Road 95 (I-71 exit 151), Mt. Gilead, Ohio, is the first along the heavily traveled I-71 corridor from Columbus to Cleveland. Another station was opened at 1303 N. Main St., Marion, Ohio. The new stations are part of a wave of six new E85 and three new biodiesel retail locations opening in August and September. Additional sites are expected by year's end. The new biofuels station locations are being funded by the Ohio Biofuels Retail Price Incentive Program, an Ohio pilot program created with advice from Clean Fuels Ohio, among others.

Attending the opening ceremonies for the two stations were dignitaries from local government, the Ohio Corn Growers Association, the Ohio Soybean Council, Clean Fuels Ohio, and the Ohio House of Representatives. At the Mt. Gilead station opening, Steve Miller, an Ohio Soybean Council Board Member, thanked all present for helping to support biofuels in Ohio: "Thank you as a farmer, for supporting my industry. Thank you as an outdoorsman, for helping to keep Ohio's environment clean. And lastly, thank you as an American, for helping to reduce our dependence on foreign oil."

With support from Ohio Governor Bob Taft, the General Assembly, and combined efforts from the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA), Ohio Corn Growers, Clean Fuels Ohio, Ohio Department of Development, Ohio Department of Transportation, and the Ohio Soybean Council, Ohio has been moving forward in the world of alternative fuels. "The agriculture community has known for years why biofuels make sense – they help assure sufficient energy supplies, enhance our economic stability, and are friendly to the environment," said Ohio Agriculture Director Fred L. Dailey. "Now, as we create an infrastructure to make ethanol and biodiesel readily available along our highways, the benefits of renewable fuels will be evident to many more Ohio consumers."

Ohio is building an E85 and B20 fueling grid at the same time they are building production. Together, these sectors of the biofuels industry will meld to make Ohio a leader in every area of biofuels. In July, Governor Taft signed House Bill 245. This bill, championed by Steve Reinhard (R-Bucyrus) required Ohio government agencies to purchase flexible fuel vehicles and biofuels; established requirements for Ohio's government agencies to use at least 60,000 gallons E85 fuel and 1 million gallons of biodiesel per calendar year; and significantly expand the Alternative Fuel Transportation Grant Program. According to Sam Spofforth, Executive Director of Clean Fuels Ohio, HB 245 also requires State of Ohio vehicles to fuel with biofuels whenever reasonably available.

MORE

“These new pumps, particularly the one in Mt. Gilead with easy Interstate 71 access, will go a long way towards making the fuel available to State vehicles and the general public.”

Clean Fuels Ohio is a statewide non-profit organization that advances the availability and use of alternative fuels, efficient vehicles and energy-saving transportation technologies in order to increase American energy security, support Ohio's economy and improve the environment.

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The photographs from the events captioned below can be obtained online at www.CleanFuelsOhio.org/Media.

Captions:

Photo 1 - Mt. Gilead Dailey and Gayle Kanz:

Retired General Motors employee Gayle Kanz drove fifteen miles to fuel his flex-fuel Chevrolet at the Mt. Gilead station on opening day. “We’re just here to support American made fuels,” he said as he chatted with ODA Director Fred Dailey and fueled his vehicle with E85.

Photo 2 - Mt. Gilead Opening Dailey:

Ohio Department of Agriculture Director Fred Dailey presided over the opening of Ohio’s first fuel pumps to offer biodiesel blends and E85 at one location.

Photo 3 - Sunoco Price Sign with E85:

At the Mt. Gilead Sunoco Station, E85 was offered for 10 cents below the price of regular gasoline.