

ENERGY Independence through SUSTAINABLE FARMING

Developing a Community-Based Oilseed Industry in Montana

Despite the growth in Montana's biodiesel use, there remains only one commercial biodiesel producer in the entire state and a handful of backyard producers. In fact, more than 90% of biodiesel consumed in Montana is produced outside the state. The relatively higher cost of biodiesel in Montana is primarily attributed to feedstock availability and cost, transportation, public acceptance, and lack of technical support to farmers on oilseed pressing and biodiesel production. This project aims to develop a closed loop, community-based oilseed industry to promote the local production and use of biodiesel in Montana. This will be accomplished through the integration of culinary oil, biodiesel, oilseed meal and possibly glycerin industries.

The Bio-Energy Center has partnered with local producers for culinary grade safflower and canola oil production. This oil will be sold to three local restaurants. Used oil will be collected and pre-treated for biodiesel production and straight vegetable oil (SVO) application as alternative fuel. All biodiesel and SVO will be processed at the Montana State University Northern Bio-Energy Center and then given back to the farmers to utilize as fuel for their farming operations. This process will provide participating farmers up to 10% fuel independence.

Energy Independence through sustainable farming places value added products in the hands of producers, promotes local, community based industry, and promotes healthy stewardship of the environment. This project will illustrate the numerous possibilities available to rural communities in Montana and throughout the country.



PROJECT BY THE NUMBERS

165 acres

Total acreage of safflower and canola contracted among 6 producers

130,000 lbs

Volume of oilseeds that will be processed into culinary grade oil for local restaurants

97,000 lbs

Total meal that will be generated (valued at \$15,000)

3,120 gallons

Total biodiesel and straight vegetable oil (SVO) that will be produced for farm operations

4,000 to 11,000 gallons

Average consumption of diesel fuel in farm operations in Montana

10%

Fuel independence provides to the producers for farming operations

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