

National Biodiesel Foundation Final Report: California Environmental Organizations and the California Air Resources Board (CARB)

June 24-26, 2013



California Environmental Organizations, Iowa Soybean Association, and National Biodiesel Board representatives on Tim Olsen's farm, Iowa June 25, 2013

“It was pretty humbling, for me to learn how much I did NOT know about farming in the Midwest.”

From June 24 to June 26, 2013, California Environmental NGO and CARB representatives experienced Midwestern farming and biofuel production first hand. The Iowa Soybean Association in collaboration with

the National Biodiesel Board and the California Biodiesel Alliance hosted the informational exchange. Over three days, participants toured farms, oxbows, nutrient control systems, grain elevators, as well as biodiesel and ethanol production facilities.

Participants toured and lunched on the farms of Tim Olsen and Ron Heck. For a detailed agenda, please see Appendix A.

Topics included the biodiesel industry's maturity; advanced, sustainable farming practices; and the latest efficiency improvements in biodiesel and soybean production.

“ I was very impressed with the efforts to protect water quality by the farmers and associations.”



“It was truly a unique opportunity and great educational experience to visit the facilities, talk to farmers, and to meet with NBB and the Iowa and Minnesota Soybean Associations. I truly learned a lot and appreciated the productive, open exchange and ability to ask questions.”

Purpose

The California environmental community, while supportive of biodiesel, has historically not been overly enthusiastic about the wide-scale use of Midwestern soy-based biodiesel. Issues such as food versus fuel, agribusiness, iLUC, and mono-cropping have drawn concern. The agricultural community has long understood that biodiesel is not a net negative contributor to the environment, but rather a small, but important, contributor to global environmental sustainability.

The complexities of how China and global demand for feed are the real drivers of soybean production were discussed. Standing in a soybean field, touring a production facility,

and hearing directly from farmers is key to awareness and education. Because of the current regulatory landscape in California, building long-term relationships between Midwestern biodiesel production and the California environmental communities is advantageous for both parties.

California's current environmental policy is based on AB 32, a carbon reduction program. To reach the carbon reduction goals of 1990 carbon level by 2020, multiple rules and regulations have been implemented. The transportation sector, responsible for approximately 42% of carbon emissions, is a major target of AB 32. Carbon reduction in this sector is based on the Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS), which requires reductions of 10% of CO₂ by 2020.

The NGO representatives as well as the California Air Resources Board, the regulatory body overseeing LCFS implementation, have been important supporters of the LCFS. Without their support and expertise, the LCFS would falter.

The tour was designed to enhance participants' understanding of production agriculture. Over the last 15 months, the direct support of the ISA, MSA, and the NBB has provided resources to build relationships and provide greater awareness of biodiesel benefits for California.

Importantly, the tour also provided a unique and valuable opportunity to discuss concerns held by key environmental advocates, whose perspective is prominent in state and national policy conversations.

“I was finally able to understand what no-till, low-till, split-till practices were. We have talked about these practices in my sustainability working group, however, seeing and hearing first-hand that not only were the practices beneficial for the soil environment, water retention, emissions, etc., but that the farmers also supported the practice.”



California Participants

California Air Resources Board (CARB)

National Resources Defense Council (NRDC)

American Lung Association in California (CA Lung)

Center for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Technologies (CEERT)

CalStart

Environmental Entrepreneurs (E2)

Environmental Defense Fund (EDF)

Biodiesel Participants

National Biodiesel Board

Iowa Soybean Association

Minnesota Soybean Association

California Biodiesel Alliance

California Biodiesel Initiative

Renewable Energy Group (REG)

Agenda:

See Appendix A

Appendix A

California and Biofuels/Logistic Chain Visit Agenda

Mon June 24:

If arriving by at least 2:30 pm, group can go to REG Newton biodiesel plant for a tour.

- 3:45 Arrive at REG Newton biodiesel plant.
- 4:45 Depart Newton for Ankeny.
- 5:45 Arrive at hotel and check in at Courtyard Marriott
- 6:30 Dinner

Tues June 25:

- 7:30 Breakfast included at Courtyard Marriott and depart at 8 am (travel time – 1 hour 40 mins)
- 9:45 Arrive at Oxbow conservation structures promoting biodiversity, meet Tim Smith there.
- 10: 45 Depart for Tim Smith's farm
- 11:00 Arrive at Smith farm
- 12:00 Lunch at the farm
- 12:30 Depart farm for Lincolnway Energy ethanol/Key Coop (travel time: 1:15 min
- 2:00 Tour of Lincolnway/Key Coop
- 3:30 Depart Lincolnway, head to REG Lab tour
- 4:00 REG Lab tour
- 5:00 Head to downtown DSM for dinner
- 6:00 Dinr

Wed June 26: (ISA office/Heck farm/Magellan)

- 7:30 Breakfast at hotel
- 8:15 Check out and depart hotel for ISA office
- 8:30 Visit with ISA staff-ISA Overview, programming & initiatives
- 10:30 Depart ISA office to go to Ron Heck farm (Stayed until 11:30)
- 11:30 Arrive – Ron Heck farm, lunch brought to the farm
- 1:00 Depart Heck farm (stayed until 2)
- 2:00 Arrive at Magellan terminal in DSM (cancelled)
- 3:00 Depart Magellan and head to airport