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**From common crops--renewable, clean fuel ...'an exciting time for home-grown energy'...ethanol coming east
NEW JERSEY FARM BUREAU URGES ADOPTION OF ETHANOL AS GASOLINE ADDITIVE**

Trenton, NJ (March 2, 2005) -- "Fuel from renewable sources is finally taking off in the United States and New Jersey should be no exception," says Richard Nieuwenhuis, president of the New Jersey Farm Bureau, the independent grass-roots organization. "New technology is making it feasible and practical to utilize ethanol, solar and wind, and continuing advances will bring down costs, raise efficiencies and even get rid of waste products. But the state needs to set a renewable fuels policy to make it all happen, and the national energy crisis now makes action imperative."

New Jersey is getting closer to producing ethanol as a replacement for the petroleum-based MTBE now used to oxygenate automotive fuel and reduce tailpipe pollution. Moving through the state legislature is a bill to join almost 20 other states in banning MTBE because of its threat to water supplies. This is putting the focus on ethanol as the most viable replacement.

The state's first ethanol plant is being planned for a site in Gloucester County. It will serve as a local source to produce the renewable fuel additive, fulfilling the federal mandate for oxygenated gasoline, and it is firmly backed by the New Jersey Farm Bureau. In fact, both the Farm Bureau and the New Jersey Department of Agriculture passed 2005 policy resolutions to promote use of ethanol.

"Wouldn't it be a good thing to not only reduce our dependence on foreign oil and its offshoot, MTBE, but also be able to produce energy that is renewable within our own state, while benefiting our farmers and the public at large in the process?" asks Nieuwenhuis. "Research presented by the New Jersey Department of Agriculture shows that the proposed ethanol plant is projected to use 14.5 million bushels of corn per year to generate 40 million gallons of ethanol, and the distilling process would also produce 121,000 tons of distilled grains for use as livestock feed."

According to the Renewable Fuels Association (RFA), during 2004, an estimated 3.41 billion gallons of ethanol were produced nationwide from 1.26 billion bushels of corn. In contrast to mistaken notions about energy inefficiency, ethanol produced 167% of the fossil energy used to grow, harvest, transport and process the grain that went into it.

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Additional ethanol statistics cited by the association include:

- >Reduction in gasoline prices by nearly 30-cents per gallon.
- >Reduction of more than 7-million tons of CO-2 equivalent greenhouse gas emissions.
- >13.2 Btus of ethanol produced from every one Btu of petroleum fuel used to make it.
- >Ethanol additives reduced CO2-equivalent greenhouse gas emissions by approximately 5.7 million tons -- equal to removing annual emissions of 1.04-million cars.

RFA also reports that 81 existing ethanol plants currently can produce more than 3.6 billion gallons annually and, with 16 additional plants under construction, annual production capacity will expand to 4.4 billion gallons. Nineteen states currently use it exclusively to oxygenate automotive fuel, including New York and Connecticut, both of which switched over seamlessly from MTBE in 2004.

The American Lung Association credits ethanol-blended gasoline with reducing smog emissions 25% since 1990. If the ethanol additive is increased to 85% and 95%, ozone-forming emissions can be reduced by 30% to 50%, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Vehicles require modification to use that blend, but there are currently four million of these "flexible fuel" vehicles on the road, capable of burning "E-85" (an 85% ethanol to gasoline blend) -- General Motors is the largest manufacturer of them. The Chicago Board of Trade is about to launch a futures contract in ethanol. Even the Indy Racing League will be running its race cars on ethanol in 2006. The league's cars have long been testing ground for experimental equipment for the auto industry.

Gasoline blended with up to 10% ethanol can be used in all motor vehicles without modification. Milwaukee-area motorists have been using this 10% blend since 1995. Closer to home, Getty stations in the northeast have been offering ethanol-blended gasoline for 12 years.

"The perception that the energy used in producing ethanol is greater than the energy produced, which in turn increases gasoline prices, is based on 25-year-old technology," says Nieuwenhuis. "A study by the U.S. Department of Agriculture found that using the best farming and production methods, the amount of energy contained in a gallon of ethanol is more than one-and-half times the energy used to grow the corn and convert it. And advances are continuing. The next generation of ethanol probably will be produced from corn stalks and other vegetable waste material. This is a very exciting time for home-grown energy.

"New Jersey is the most densely populated, most traffic-jammed state in the country and its inhabitants increasingly suffer with breathing disorders from gasoline emissions. Ethanol can reduce those emissions, won't leak into water supplies and will contribute to both the personal and economic health of New Jersey. There is no downside," Nieuwenhuis concludes.

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The New Jersey Farm Bureau is a member organization of more than 19,000 farmers and farm-related entities within the Garden State. It is the only organization solely dedicated to representing the grass- roots interests and directives of its members to educate all levels of government and the public on the farm community's policies and positions. The Farm Bureau also takes a lead in seeking out initiatives, activities and ventures to enhance the profitability of producer members and ensure the viability of agriculture in New Jersey -- *the Garden State for Good Reason -- our farms.*

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