



NEWS RELEASE

June 20, 2008 - For Immediate Release

Close to \$1 Million in Federal Funding Announced for Biodiesel Project

RIDGETOWN, ON - Southwestern Ontario Bioproducts Innovation Network (SOBIN) and the University of Guelph, Ridgetown Campus are thrilled with today's Federal Government funding announcement of almost \$1 million towards the establishment of a farm-scale biodiesel demonstration, education and applied research facility located on the campus.

"This biodiesel facility will play a pivotal role in helping to translate Southwestern Ontario's strength in agricultural production into new opportunities in the renewable energy sector," says SOBIN President Jim Nash. "This will help the agricultural sector move towards playing a significant role in supplying new sources of clean energy – something very important to the mission of SOBIN and to the sustainability of our economy."

This funding is being provided through Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's (AAFC) Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food Program, which is delivered in Ontario by the Agricultural Adaptation Council. The contribution will help build a functional farm-scale oilseed processing and biodiesel production facility located at the Ridgetown Campus. It will provide an opportunity to evaluate oilseed crushing technologies and determine the feasibility and over-all economics of on-farm biodiesel production.

"Farmers are interested in integrating new technologies for value-added products in their own operations," says Art Schaafsma, Director of Ridgetown Campus. "We will study all the variables to make it easier for them to be successful at producing fuel from their farms and adding value to the by-products."

Matt McLean, SOBIN Executive Director adds, "The funding provided by AAFC for this farm-scale biodiesel facility is an important first piece in establishing Ridgetown Campus as centre of excellence in on-farm renewable energy technologies. Ultimately, this facility will play a significant role in demonstrating to agricultural producers how they can be engaged in the renewable energy sector."

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Media Contacts:

Matt McLean, SOBIN Executive Director, 519-354-9714- ext. 3905

Rob Nicol, U of G Ridgetown Campus biofuels scientist, 519-674-1641 or 519-784-4044

About SOBIN:

SOBIN is a non-profit organization dedicated to accelerating a bioproduct strategy and implementing more bio-based enterprise primarily within the agricultural, automotive, chemical, and energy industries. SOBIN is funded by the Ontario Ministry of Research and Innovation as well as through its founding partners including: Lambton College, Municipality of Chatham-Kent, Sarnia-Lambton Economic Partnership, St. Clair College, University of Guelph–Ridgetown Campus, University of Windsor, and the Windsor Essex Development Commission. For more information visit: www.sobin.ca

About Ridgetown Campus, University of Guelph:

University of Guelph Ridgetown Campus, with integrity and a commitment to excellence, provides applied research programs, responsive educational opportunities and outreach, and diverse client services to strengthen rural communities and the life-science sectors that we serve. For more information visit: www.ridgetownc.uoguelph.ca