



NEWS RELEASE

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Ag department makes biofuel blender pump guidelines permanent

TOPEKA -- Kansas Secretary of Agriculture Adrian Polansky announced today that he is making permanent the guidelines his department developed for a pilot project to allow at-the-pump blending of biofuels, including blending ethanol with gasoline in percentages ranging from 10 percent to 85 percent.

Blending under the guidelines was allowed on a trial basis under a pilot project that ran throughout 2008.

"Information we collected during the pilot project confirm that blending pumps can consistently and accurately dispense a range of ethanol blends from a single pump," Polansky said. "This is a real boon for owners of flexible fuel vehicles who want more choice than either 10 percent or 85 percent ethanol that are the blends most frequently offered."

Most Kansas fueling stations currently sell gasoline blended with 10 percent ethanol, or E10. Many others sell gasoline blended with 85 percent ethanol, or E85. Flexible fuel vehicles can use blends up to 85 percent ethanol, and blender pumps allow them to choose from a range of blends from E10, E20, E30, E50, to E85.

"These blender pumps allow vehicle owners to select the blend that works best for them based on performance and price," Polansky said. "I look forward to more blender pumps coming online now that the guidelines are permanent."

To prevent unwitting consumers who aren't driving a flexible fuel vehicle from dispensing a higher ethanol blend than is appropriate for their vehicle, the pumps feature a bright orange label with the message, "For use in flexible fuel vehicles only."

Polansky made the announcement before attending the grand opening of the state's newest blender pump site at the fuel station on Wanamaker Road in Topeka flying the Conoco brand, which brings to five the number of blender

pump sites in Kansas. Four were launched under the pilot project in 2008. They are in Lawrence, Blue Rapids, Colwich, Garden City and Dodge City. Four more are in the works for Ottawa, Hutchinson, Coffeyville and another one in Lawrence.

Blender pumps can also dispense biodiesel blends ranging from B2 to B99.

The Kansas Department of Agriculture's weights and measures program regulates gas pumps for accuracy and verifies the fuel's characteristics, including octane rating and whether the fuel contains impurities. Program staff also ensure that equipment used to dispense ethanol-blended fuel is properly installed and that fuel quantity and quality standards are met.

To learn more about blender pump project guidelines, visit www.ksda.gov/renewable_energy/content/191.