

Ethanol Blender Pump Program Benefits South Dakota's Fuel Stations

SIOUX FALLS — South Dakota lawmakers demonstrated bold vision of an alternative fuel future by passing an act to give fuel stations access to \$1 million in federal funds for ethanol blender pumps, but owners must act quickly before the funds disappear.

The law, H.B. 1192, establishes a \$1 million program with money from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. A retail fuel dealer may qualify for one or more grants of up to \$10,000 each to install ethanol blender pumps, associated piping and storage systems and related equipment. The bill passed the House 68-2 and the Senate 30-0 and was signed into law today by Gov. Mike Rounds.

Money will be available for a limited time, from April 1-May 28 this year, so it is important that retail dealers act immediately to take advantage of this great opportunity.

Blender pumps offer a range of ethanol blends to the driver,

including no ethanol, the traditional E10 blend, intermediate blends such as E20 or E30, and E85.

"Our elected leaders leapt at the chance to improve our fuel infrastructure and take advantage of more South Dakota-made fuel," said Rick Serie, Vice Chairman of the South Dakota Ethanol Producers Association. "This program will provide drivers with a real choice about what they put in their engines, and it will bolster rural industry by improving the market for local farmers. This was our top legislative priority this year, and we're happy our state's lawmakers saw fit to bring this beneficial program to South Dakota."

The primary sponsors were Sen. Dave Knudson and Rep. Mitch Fargen. Both lauded its potential impact on both the ethanol and agriculture industries in South Dakota.

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SOUTH DAKOTA ETHANOL PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION

ethanol industry," Knudson said. "There are few things more important than market access. Policies like E15 approval, dedicated ethanol pipelines and blender pumps will only strengthen South Dakota's economy. I am, and will continue to be, a strong supporter of South Dakota's ethanol and ag industries and appreciate the great working relationship. Now, we need to get this money working in our economy in a very short amount of time."

"Blender pumps give South Dakota consumers more choices at the pump, while increasing the market for corn grown right here in South Dakota," Fargen said. "Our farmers have worked hard to become more efficient, growing more corn than ever before. They deserve this increased market opportunity, and I applaud South Dakota's legislators for making this opportunity available."

USDA Adds 33.5K Acres To S.D. CRP

WASHINGTON — Senator John Thune recently announced that the USDA has allocated an additional 33,500 acres to South Dakota for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).

This announcement is part of a 300,000-acre nationwide general CRP sign up. CRP, which was reauthorized in the 2008 Farm Bill, provides incentives for agricultural producers to preserve wildlife habitat.

"This increase in available acres will be very helpful for South Dakota's ongoing wildlife conservation efforts," Thune said.

"Preserving wildlife habitat will help keep South Dakota's gamebird population strong, meaning more hunting opportunities for South Dakotans and visitors to our state. Conservation of wildlife habitat is good for the environment and good for our economy, and I am proud to support this successful program."

South Dakota will receive additional acres in the following programs:

- 18,000 acres for the State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement Initiative in West River
- 15,000 acres for Duck Nesting Habitat
- 500 acres for Upland Bird Habitat



Thune

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