

California FARMER

Addressing climate uncertainty Page 7

California almond outlook remains bullish Page 14

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FARMING BIOMASS: Scott Lunsford is now a part of the R&D department for the Colusa Indian Community Council, which farms 4,500 acres of rice, almonds, walnuts and wheat. He and Paul Totman plan to also turn the farm biomass into diesel.



BOLD IDEA: Paul Totman is construction supervisor for the Colusa Indian Community Council, which hit on the idea of converting used kitchen grease from its casino into biodiesel; this idea is now being extended to the farming operation.

Biofuel advance

By ERIC MCMULLIN

BIOFUELS are big business in farming — certainly on the supply end, and now on the demand side as well.

For the last few years, the talk has all been about the supply end: which crops give the biggest bang for the buck when converted into fuel. Now, several groups of growers in Northern California are raising or contracting for biomass, running it through their own processors,

Key Points

- Northern California growers are raising, or contracting for, biomass.
- Colusa Casino and farm to produce the diesel fuel they need annually.
- Biodiesel processor will be at World Ag Expo Feb. 9-11.

and supplying themselves with a high-quality, consistent supply of biodiesel.

See at World Ag Expo
It will all be on display at the World

Ag Expo, where seed companies and university researchers publicize and hawk the latest biofuel crops. And where companies like Chico-based Springboard Biodiesel display their biodiesel processors.

The Expo has always been a good place to catch ag's latest innovations, and biodiesel and other alternative fuels are likely to play a much larger role in farming in the future.

Even if the best biomass ultimately isn't a California crop, growers of other crops will see their economics change

as world markets adjust to new crop values. (The spectacular rise in grain prices two years ago was due in large part to ethanol's usefulness.)

And on the demand side, agriculture itself is one of the largest users of diesel fuel in the country, explains Mark Roberts, CEO of Springboard Biodiesel.

For more information, visit Springboard at Booth NS106, and stop by other booths at the World Ag Expo.

McMullin is a Berkeley writer

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