



E³A: Biodiesel Applications for the Home, Farm or Ranch

Steps in the Biodiesel Series

Consumer Issues

Oilseed Processing

Production

Economics

Biodiesel production for personal use

This series examines biodiesel from oilseed processing to conversion, from consumer issues to economics. The series is organized into the following four areas:

- Consumer issues
- Oilseed processing
- Biodiesel production
- Economics of oilseed processing and biodiesel production



Consumer issues

Biodiesel is a fuel produced by combining vegetable oil (or animal fat), alcohol and a catalyst in a process called transesterification. Biodiesel can be used in most diesel engines without any modifications.

Oilseed processing

Biodiesel is primarily created from new or recycled vegetable oil. This section explores oilseed processing technology, provides a framework for estimating the amount of feedstock needed to produce a given amount of biodiesel and discusses oilseed meal — an important byproduct of oilseed processing.

Biodiesel production

Vegetable oil produced or procured must be converted to biodiesel. This section explores key considerations for biodiesel production, required inputs (oil, alcohol and catalyst) and fuel quality issues.

Economics of oilseed processing and biodiesel production

This section focuses on understanding the capital required, equipment and operating costs for a biodiesel producer to make you aware of the labor requirements, capital investment and operating costs of producing biodiesel.



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