



Biodiesel Use Is On The Rise in Kentucky, Providing Significant Business Growth to Griffin Industries

COLDSRING, Ky. — Biodiesel, a substitute for diesel fuels produced from spent restaurant cooking oil, is on the rise in Kentucky. In May 2004, Governor Ernie Fletcher announced that all Kentucky State Resort Parks are now required to use B20 in diesel vehicles and equipment. He also announced that funding had been identified to offset the cost differential for B20 for public school buses, Kentucky city and county fleets, for an idle reduction plan and other alternative fuel programs.

The Kentucky Clean Fuels Coalition indicated the changes fit into a new portfolio of programs begun by the US Department of Energy in Washington. The Senate recently passed S. 1637, which includes a federal excise tax credit for biodiesel, a cleaner-burning alternative to petroleum diesel made from renewable resources.

According to the Commonwealth's only biodiesel production facility, President Dennis Griffin of Griffin Industries, "Our production facility in Butler, Ky., is a good illustration of the marriage between technology and innovation that has resulted in a completely new line of products."

Noted Griffin, with the present political and economic climate energy policy issues have been thrust to the forefront. Plus with the technological advancements, the global market for renewable energy sources is here now. In fact, the potential for biodiesel success is so great that Griffin sees that division of the company becoming a spin-off operation in coming years.

Griffin Industries, originally named "Griffin Fertilizer," began as a one man, one truck operation in 1942. The company made its mark as an important recycling company, focused on providing waste removal services for the beef, pork, poultry and fish industries. With steady acquisitions, innovative products, and unparalleled customer service, Griffin has grown to become the largest family-owned rendering company in the nation which extends over 18 states, 30 locations and more than 1,400 employees.

Griffin Industries recycles 95-100 percent of the discarded materials into useful, saleable products using state-of-the-art equipment to protect the natural environment, specializing in water and air treatments. Innovation has placed the firm clearly in the forefront of several important recycling categories, including its state-of-the-art fertilizer (sold as Nature Safe Natural and Organic Fertilizer), and its Bakery Feeds division, which recycles unused food items and produces feed and nutritional supplements for the agricultural and aquacultural industries.

The company's international business, complete with its fleet of ocean-going vessels that delivers products primarily to Latin America and Asia, also remains an important part of the firm's future planning. Recently celebrating its 60th year of operation, Griffin Industries remains poised to continue providing the best products available.

"Being a privately held company, we enjoy the advantage of being able to grow systematically and carefully," Griffin said. "We like to create long-term relationships, which takes time. The benefit is that you keep your customer by building that relationship."

About KY 120:

In the fast-paced world of technology-driven business, it should be recognized that best practices can be studied and emulated. As a part of the [connectkentucky](http://www.connectkentucky.org) initiative, CITE is profiling business initiatives in each of Kentucky's 120 counties.

[connectkentucky](http://www.connectkentucky.org) is a public-private partnership between the Office for the New Economy, private industry, state universities and CITE. Visit our Web site at www.connectkentucky.org or call 270.781.4320.

Name: Griffin Industries

Internet: www.griffinind.com

Products/Services:

Animal Waste
By-Product Recycling

Location:

Cold Spring/Campbell County

Leadership:

Dennis Griffin, President

Employees: 1,400

Founded: 1942

Reach: International

Innovative Insight: "Look at what technologies can be best used to enhance your product and provide customers with the very best materials available."

Advice for Growing

Companies: "Stay focused and maintain a strong work ethic. Remember who your customer is and keep them happy."

Way Internet Has Made You More Competitive:

"Griffin Industries reaches out to 8,600 customers with a computer routing system, allowing us to provide service when needed. We also use highly computerized process controls that allow us a competitive advantage."

Ways to Continue to Attract Best Workers:

"Create a positive work environment by giving people the tools they need to do their jobs. Let them perform and they will."