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The ETCFC is a designated participant in the U.S. DOE's Clean Cities Program

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NEWS RELEASE

Bradley-Bledsoe Farmers Co-op Fifth in East Tennessee to Begin Offering Biodiesel B5 Now Available in all On-road Diesel

Cleveland, TN - Starting several weeks ago, the Bradley-Bledsoe Farmers Co-op began blending 5 percent biodiesel into all its on-road diesel. Called "B5," this blend is an easy way to get biodiesel in use in the community and is a fill-n-go option for any current diesel user. B5 consumers may notice a slight improvement in fuel economy, or a reduction in their diesel vehicle's smell.

The move was initiated by the co-op's CEO Darrell Clark, with approval of the co-op's board. Clark says of the switch, "I've done this before at another co-op and watched the responses of many of that co-op's members over the following year. The overwhelming majority of the comments were positive, ranging from support for doing what's right for our country to them noticing their vehicle getting better fuel economy. It really is an easy decision."

With roughly 500 customers that are now using this low biodiesel blend, there is now a substantial presence of biodiesel users in Bradley County... and Clark doesn't plan on stopping there. "We also operate the co-op in Pikeville and are discussing putting a low blend of biodiesel in use there as well," says Clark. "It only makes sense for us to sell more products that help support farmers."

The Bradley-Bledsoe Co-op is the first public station and area fuel provider in Bradley County to begin offering a biodiesel blend to its customers. It joins four other county co-ops in East Tennessee that offer biodiesel: the Washington, Hawkins, Blount-Greenback and Greene Farmers Co-ops. These co-ops are leaders in their communities for getting this fuel in use in their respective counties.

Biodiesel, an American-made renewable fuel, is made from virgin or used vegetable oils or animal fats. Its expanded use by public and private vehicle fleets and individuals is improving air quality in East Tennessee and reducing our nation's dependence on oil. Over 70 fleets here are using biodiesel blends and that number continues to grow, showing that East Tennesseans are Actors for Change.

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