

Irish Renewable Energy From Agriculture

A Growing Power

IREFA is a farmer controlled business developing the markets for energy from agricultural activities.

For Biofuel Oilseed Rape Contracts for Harvest 2004

Contracts 2004

In order to promote and develop the Irish biofuel market Biogreen Energy Products Ltd can offer farmers contracts for oilseed rape to be grown on both commercial and set aside land for harvest 2004. Normal regulations for growing industrial crops on set aside will apply.

The intention is to use the production of this carbon-certified oilseed rape to put liquid biofuel on Irish market made from Irish produced oilseed rape. We are working closely with SEI, Teagasc Oakpark, University of Limerick & Wexford Energy Management Agency to promote the whole concept of the **Oil from the Soil** contract with its tractability and environmental credentials. More details can be found at Rapoleum.com

Some growers may not know Biogreen Energy Products Ltd so it may be possible for us to place your contract with the merchant you normally contract with.

The rape grown on contracted with Biogreen Energy Products Ltd, will be market and priced as energy crop for the biofuel market. This will allow us to offer the final customer the opportunity to purchase Irish biofuels at a price that reflects its true value from the producer to the customer.

Environmental Considerations

Liquid Biofuel is an environmentally friendly fuel. Accepting the basic principle that the crop has to be grown profitably it is possible to provide some environmental benefits while growing the crop without significantly affecting the financial returns. To these ends we ask growers to consider whether any of the options below could be applied to their crops. Many if not all are already undertaken by farmers but if not they are worth consideration.

- If you have a number of oilseed rape fields try to have them separated by either natural regeneration fields or different crops. This provides wider habitat diversity than having all the rape fields together.
- Use slug pellets sparingly as they can be harmful to wildlife. Consider applying them at sowing time.
- During crop establishment accept an economic level of weed control.
- Only spray against insect pests when levels are above conventional thresholds.

Carbon Balances

One of the main benefits of Liquid Biofuel is its ability to reduce carbon pollution when compared to fossil fuels. This benefit can be enhanced by reducing the carbon consumed whilst establishing and growing the crop. Over the coming years we would hope to monitor crops for carbon usage and take steps to reduce the overall consumption.

Initially some carbon saving can be made by using minimum tillage techniques at sowing time but we are aware that this method is not suitable in some cases but given the environmental benefits above we feel it is worth consideration.

Interest in Liquid Biofuel is growing rapidly and the fuel is widely used across Europe. The use of Biofuels in Diesel can improve the performance of the vehicle and reduces CO₂ emissions, so the environment and the consumer win.

There is now an opportunity for farmers to be involved in the development of this industry and keeping the supply chain as short as possible

The Facts

Minimum Price Protection

- Biogreen Energy Products Ltd contracts protect your crop with a guaranteed PRICE

Increasing Demand

- EU draft legislation will require each member state to use 5% renewable energy sources by 2005, with a target of 20% by 2020.
- There are over 25 Liquid Biofuel (bio-diesel) producing plants in the EU with upwards of 10 more either being built or planned. Production capacity is now over 1.2 million tonnes per annum and climbing.

Consumer Pressure

- Corporate users of fuel, especially local councils are required to undertake a green audit to reduce their environmental impact – using Liquid Biofuel fits these “green credentials
- Agriculture is a major user of “diesel”. What are you doing as consumers to demonstrate demand?

Contract Timescale

- Complete and return - a copy of the CONTRACT ASAP to Biogreen.
- Contracts lodged with Area Aid form.
- Lodgement dates – before 31st March 2004.

Why Grow Double Low Rapeseed on Set-a-side Land?

- Will give you an increase in Gross Margin of €400.00 per hectare
- Will increase the yield of wheat following rapeseed by 13% over wheat following natural regeneration. This is worth €110.00 per hectare extra profit
- The land is in much better condition following a deep-rooted crop such as oilseed rape.
- Cultivating natural regeneration set-aside often brings up wet intractable soil that can be difficult to work into a seedbed.

For further information on seed, contracts and bio-fuels please do not hesitate to contact us at

Biogreen Energy Products Ltd
Cornerstown,
Bridgetown,
Co Wexford.

Tel: 053-35950
Fax: 053-35950
Mob: 087-244-9619
E-mail: Biogreen@eircom.net

If you are interested in growing carbon certified oilseed rape for the farm to fuel tank