

National Biodiesel Board: EU Import Duties Unfair

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Pro Farmer Editors

The European Union (EU) has decided to impose anti-dumping duties on imports of biodiesel from the United States, according to reports. The plan was adopted by EU finance ministers and have prompted complaints by the U.S. biodiesel industry.

Reports say the duties will kick in by July 12 and will range from \$32 to \$57 per 100 kilograms and will be in place for five years. The decision comes after an anti-dumping and anti-subsidy investigation was launched at the request of the European biodiesel industry which charged that the U.S.-produced product was being sent into the European market at prices well below production costs due to the use of subsidies.

The U.S. National Biodiesel Board (NBB) Vice President of Federal Affairs, Manning Feraci, issued the following statement on the development, criticizing the EU action:

"This is an unfortunate decision," Feraci said. "Throughout this case, we have constantly put data on the record that clearly shows the European biodiesel industry was not being harmed by U.S. competition. In fact, some EU companies have fared quite well. For those that have not, it is factors unrelated to U.S. competition - bad business models; high feedstock costs; and detrimental EU member state policy- that are to blame. The decision to ignore these fundamental facts has yielded a protectionist result that is detrimental to all parties involved. Moving forward, the U.S. biodiesel industry will certainly reserve our right and ability to further address this flawed outcome."

Biodiesel represents around 80% of total biofuels production in the EU.

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