



13750 S. Sedona Parkway, Ste 5
Lansing, MI 48906

For Immediate Release
December 2, 2011

Contact: Dennis Raymo
Phone: (517) 668-2676

Corn Heat is a great way to “Go Green” this winter

Michigan corn is a clean-burning, renewable heating source

LANSING, MI – Environmentally conscious Michiganders look for ways to be green, including looking for natural, sustainable alternatives in their lives. It is especially important when we examine ways to use heating sources that burn cleanly but still keep our families warm in winter. Michigan’s corn farmers would like to offer Great Lakes State residents a natural, renewable alternative to other traditional heating methods – heating with corn.

Corn heating units can be used for a multitude of heating purposes and can take the place of other heating sources that have been used in the past, such as electricity, propane, heating oil, natural gas or wood. In fact, on a BTU basis, one bushel of corn is equal to five gallons of propane.

Corn heating units are similar to wood-burning stoves but are designed to generate heat by burning a dry granular fuel, such as shelled corn. Some units are flex-fuel and can burn other fuels such as pellets, small wood chips and other small grains, including rye, wheat and barley, in addition to burning corn.

A variety of sizes and models are available and depending on the unit, corn heating systems can be used to heat a single room, an entire house, an outdoor building like a shed or a barn, a factory, or even an entire school system or college campus. Depending on your heating needs, you can choose from a fireplace insert, stove, furnace or boiler and also between an indoor or outdoor unit.

“The state’s corn farmers have a long history of providing an abundant crop that can be used as an energy source and this year is no different, as we are expecting a record crop of more than 335 million bushels,” said Pat Feldpausch, President of the Corn Marketing Program of Michigan (CMPM) and a corn farmer from Fowler. “We are spreading the word, once again, that we are able to provide a renewable and plentiful heat source for Michigan residents. At the same time, thanks to efficient farming practices that help yield more corn each year on the same amount of land, we have the ability to supply all of our other corn markets and still have corn leftover.”

According to Dr. Chris Schilling, professor of Mechanical Engineering at Saginaw Valley State University, who has done extensive research on corn stove efficiency, corn has proven to be a cost-effective fuel which can significantly reduce the escalating heating bill of any building in comparison to traditional fossil fuels. Based on price estimates for 2011, with the price of corn at \$6.20 a bushel, “...an average 2,000 square foot home would require approximately 270 bushels of corn a year, costing roughly \$1,674 a year,” said Dr. Schilling. “Compare that cost to \$3,047 for electricity priced at \$0.1218 per kilowatt-hour or \$2,321 for propane at \$2.12 per gallon. Using corn as a heat source makes economic sense and could save up to \$1,500 a year on a heating bill.”

“Even though the price per bushel has increased slightly in the last year, heating with corn is still a less-expensive option for homeowners to comfortably heat their homes than many of the more traditional sources,” said Jody Pollok-Newsom, Executive Director of the CMPM.

In addition to being economically viable, corn heating units are also environmentally friendly.

(MORE)

“By using corn for heating purposes, we can help decrease our use of fossil fuels. As forests, oil and other energy sources continue to be depleted, it is comforting to know our corn supply is replenished annually and can be used to create an alternative heat source that is renewable year after year,” said Pollok-Newsom. “Michigan’s corn farmers are expected to harvest another record crop this year that will be more than enough to meet the feed, fuel and energy needs of our many consumers.”

Headquartered in Lansing, the MCGA is a grassroots-membership association that has represented the state’s corn growers’ political interests since the 1970s. The MCGA works cooperatively with the Corn Marketing Program of Michigan (CMPM) a legislatively established program that utilizes one-cent per bushel of Michigan corn sold and invests in research, education, new uses and market development. Michigan’s corn industry adds more than one billion dollars to the state’s economy annually and in 2010, Michigan’s corn farmers harvested a record-setting crop of more than 315 million bushels. For more information, visit the website of the MCGA and the CMPM at www.micorn.org.

#DR#