

We Are Running Out of Oil, Does Anyone Care?

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In the November/December 2006 issue of *Farm & Ranch News*, I chatted with you about a concept called Hubbert's Peak. We all know that America is experiencing a serious fuel crisis. We are extremely dependent on unstable foreign governments and foreign oil. The surprise is that the shortage is no surprise. In 1956, Dr. M. King Hubbert, a geophysicist with Shell Oil predicted that the United States would pump its maximum production of crude oil in 1970. After that, we would pump less and less crude oil until we ran out entirely. He was right on target! As predicted, U.S. oil production peaked at 11.3 million barrels per day late in 1970. Every year since, we have produced less oil! To make matters worse, our consumption continues to increase while our production continues to fall. We can't even come close to supplying our own needs. We are very, very dependent on foreign oil. Does anyone care?

You may recall that I have been rather pessimistic about the chances of turning this crisis around. In particular, I have been critical of our federal government. The fact that oil production has been decreasing since 1970 is well known, but precious little has been done. Does anyone care?

In the private sector, there is an amazing spokesperson by the name of Josh Tickell. Some of you may remember that Josh wrote a wonderful little book entitled, *From the Fryer to Fuel Tank* in 2000. This book was a wakeup call to diminishing oil and a powerful argument for utilizing biodiesel. In 2006, Josh published a well-documented and scholarly work on the same topic. The second book is called *Biodiesel America*. In addition to lecturing across the country, Josh has recently completed a movie called *Fields of Fuel*. The movie recently took first place in its class at the Sundance Film Festival. Clearly, Josh cares a great deal.

Now I am delighted to report that someone in government also cares. Congressman Roscoe Bartlett is very well informed, cares a lot, and has been lecturing his fellow Congressmen on the seriousness of the United States fuel crisis. You can download and read his latest message to Congress at: <http://bartlett.house.gov/News/DocumentSingle.aspx?DocumentID=84882>

Please download the speech and the charts he used. Both downloads are free and you will learn a lot.

At last, someone in the federal government does care!

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