



Media Advisory

Coast-to-Coast and Back Renewable Energy Tour **Sept. 29 - Oct. 17, 2008**

Wayne Keith, a cattle farmer and partner in Renewable Energy Systems LLC in Springville, Ala., has developed gasification technology that enables vehicles that are normally fueled with gasoline to be powered with biomass materials, such as wood, switchgrass, crop residues and chicken litter. His “gasifier” is mounted on a 1991 Dodge Dakota V8 pickup, which travels about one mile per pound of wood and can reach 80 miles per hour.

Auburn University is partnering with Renewable Energy Systems in a Coast-to-Coast and Back Renewable Energy Tour in this Bio-Truck. On Sept. 29, Auburn University Professor David Bransby and Wayne Keith will begin the nationwide tour in the vehicle to raise public awareness of renewable energy and its economic, environmental and social benefits. Keith then will participate in a road race from Berkeley, Calif., to Las Vegas for vehicles powered by non-commercially available fuels.

The Sept. 29-Oct. 8 part of the tour will start in Charleston, S.C., on the east coast and take a southern route to San Diego, then north to Los Angeles and San Francisco, stopping along the way to “refuel” with wood and other biomass. At each stop, a small-scale stationary gasifier will also be operated on biomass to demonstrate electric power production from these materials.

The Bio-Truck will then participate in a road race for vehicles powered by non-commercially available fuels from Berkeley, Calif., to Las Vegas in a three-day event, Oct. 11-13. Bransby and Keith will return home Oct. 17.

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