



Iowa Renewable Fuels Association

GREEN Team

Grassroots REnewable Energy Network

Newsletter for renewable fuels advocates

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Iowa Leaders Unite to Oppose Congressional Effort to Ban E15

IRFA Urges Congress to Reject Effort to Subvert Free Market and Curtail Consumer Choice

The Iowa Renewable Fuels Association (IRFA) recently announced that Iowa's elected leaders are united in opposing a Congressional effort to ban E15 (15% ethanol, 85% gasoline) from competing in the fuels marketplace. Recently Members of Congress from Texas and Oklahoma have introduced amendments to the FY2012 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill that would essentially ban E15, a legal competitor to petroleum based gasoline.

"We are pleased that Iowa's elected leaders are standing up for the right of consumers to choose ethanol blends like E15," stated **IRFA Executive Director Monte Shaw**. "This blatant attack on consumer freedom and America's energy security will not go unchallenged and it will not become law."

After the most extensive testing in the history of federal fuel approvals, the EPA approved the use of E15 for model year 2001 and newer passenger vehicles. **Rep. John Sullivan (R-OK) and Rep. Michael Burgess (R-TX)** introduced amendments that would prevent the EPA from using funds to implement the recent approval of E15.

"These amendments are nothing more than appropriations gimmicks designed to subvert the scientific and legal process that led to the approval of E15 as a consumer choice," added Shaw. "We are confident that Congress will ultimately stand for consumer fuel choice and enhanced energy security for America by opposing these anti-free market amendments."

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Iowa Corn Crop Expected to Exceed Last Year

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has predicted that Iowa will harvest 2.9 billion bushels of corn with an average yield at 167-bushels-an-acre. That would be up two bushels-an-acre from 2010 but down by 10 bushels an acre from their August report.

According to **Radio Iowa**, the chair of the **Iowa Corn Promotion Board, Deb Keller**, of Clarion, says that prediction keeps Iowa as the top corn producer in the nation. "I know there's been a lot of flooding in Iowa, there's been a lot of rain, there's been a drought," Keller says, "but I think biotech is the great equalizer and I think it's going to give us a pretty good corn crop."



Deb Keller
Chairperson of ICPB

Keller says in her area they will harvest the beans first, and although there are some who start early, she doesn't expect the bulk of the corn harvest to begin there until at least October.

The USDA says total U.S. corn production is predicted to be the third largest crop in history at 12.5 billion bushels.

The USDA did lower its yield projections from last month but the Iowa corn harvest will be bigger than last year. Iowa's corn plant population and ears per acre both set record highs at 30,850 and 30,100, respectively.

The USDA weekly crop report showed the corn condition improved in the state with 5% very poor, 10% poor, 28% fair, 45% good, and 12% excellent.

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The following are responses from Iowa's elected officials regarding the effort to ban E15.

Gov. Terry Branstad: "It makes no sense. We have been working for years to try to reduce our dependency on foreign oil. Through ethanol we've made some progress."

[Click here](#) for video

Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Bill Northey: "This is just wrong-headed...The least expensive energy source for liquid fuels that we have for our vehicles today is ethanol."

[Click here](#) for video

Senator Charles Grassley: "I hope it fails...I don't understand why anybody whatsoever would be against domestic, renewable, clean-burning fuel."

[Click here](#) for video

Senator Tom Harkin: "I just want to assure everyone it's not going anywhere... There are still those that are at the beck and call of the big oil companies, quite frankly. And they're going to try to stop us. But we're going to move ahead with E15 I can assure you."

[Click here](#) for video

Rep. Tom Latham: "We're going to be fighting that obviously. E15 is so important, I think, for energy independence and for the kind of clean energy we need in this country."

[Click here](#) for video

Rep. Steve King: "I'll be working very hard to oppose any of those amendments that would ban E15...This is protectionism on the part of the petroleum industry."

[Click here](#) for video

Representatives Leonard Boswell, Bruce Braley, and Dave Loebsack also oppose the effort to ban E15.

America's ethanol producers are on pace to produce nearly 40 million metric tons of livestock feed in 2011 – a volume greater than all the corn used on cattle feedlots across the country. Additionally, ethanol producers are expected to export nearly 25% of that volume to meet growing worldwide feed demand.

Blue Angels Perform with Biofuels

The **Blue Angels**, the U.S. Navy **Flight Demonstration Squadron**, performed over the Labor Day weekend using a biofuel blend at the **Naval Air Station (NAS) Patuxent River Air Expo**. All six F/A-18 legacy Hornets were powered with a 50-50 blend of

conventional JP-5 jet fuel and a camelina-based biofuel. This event marked the first time an entire unit has flown on a biofuel mix



"Changing the kinds of fuels we use and the way we use them is critical to assuring the Navy and **Marine Corps** remain the most formidable expeditionary fighting force the world has ever known," said **Secretary of the Navy, Ray Mabus**, in a press statement leading up to the air show. "The Department of the Navy will be taking another visible step toward testing biofuel in our aircraft when all six of the Blue Angels perform using the same 50/50 blend of drop-in biofuel we've used in so many of our other aircraft."

Capt. Greg McWherter, Blue Angels commanding officer/flight leader said of the show, "As public representatives of the **U.S. Navy and Marine Corps**, the Blue Angels take pride in leading the country's efforts to reduce fossil fuel consumption and increase our energy security.

McWherter, who says there is no discernible differences from the cockpit, stressed that the goal of the program was to demonstrate that there is no difference in performance between the biofuel blend and standard-petroleum-based JP-5.

During August, the Navy announced about \$1 billion worth of green energy spending, including \$510 million over three years for the private sector to produce marine and aviation biofuels for both military and commercial use.

Mabus is trying to put the Navy Department on pace to cut petroleum use in commercial vehicles in half by 2015, sail a strike group powered with a blend of alternative fuel by 2016, cut energy consumption ashore by 50 percent and make half of installations energy self-sufficient while getting half of the department's energy from alternative sources by 2020. For a video of the Blue Angels performing with Biofuels [click here](#).

Biodiesel Industry Producing Record Volumes

According to **Environmental Protection Agency** statistics, biodiesel producers in the U.S. set a new monthly high of 81 million gallons of production in June. This marks the third consecutive month of record volumes and continues the remarkable turnaround in which the industry has produced more in the first half of 2011 than in all of 2010.

The biodiesel industry is on track to produce at least 800 million gallons this year. According to a recent economic study, this year's production will support more than 31,000 U.S. jobs and generate income of nearly \$1.7 billion to be circulated throughout the U.S. economy.

Ethanol Station Kits Now Available

Retailers can go to the **Growth Energy** store and request a **FREE American Ethanol** station kit.

This kit will include an attractive, colorful pump topper and nozzle talker, bright decals for mid-level blends, and required **EPA** labels for E15 and E85. The kit will also include a brochure holder that contains literature to educate station customers about ethanol blends and let them know how their fuel is strengthening American's energy security, economy and environment. There are also pricing signs, dispenser wraps, banners and other items available for purchase with the new American Ethanol imaging. Visit the Growth Energy store and request a free American Ethanol station kit [here](#).



Iowa Farmland Values are up a Phenomenal 32.6 Percent in Past Year

According to a new survey by the **Iowa Farm & Land Chapter No. 2 Realtors Land Institute**, Iowa farmland values shot up an average of 12.9 percent during the past six months and an average of 32.6 percent for the year ended Sept. 1.

The institute placed the average value of medium quality crop land in Iowa at \$6,477 an acre, up from \$5,711 an acre in March.

“Factors contributing to the increase in farmland values include: strong commodity prices, favorable long-term interest rates and limited amounts of land for sale,” the Realtors Institute said in a statement announcing the new values. For full story and survey results [click here](#).

Another Record Month for U.S. Ethanol Exports

While oil and environmental interests seek to block the growth of the ethanol market in the United States, other nations around the world are increasing their use of American-made ethanol. According to data released by the federal government, U.S. ethanol exports in July set a new monthly record. Exports of denatured and undenatured ethanol totaled 127.4 million gallons in July, edging out the April 2011 total of 120.1 million gallons to set a new record. July exports were nearly double the amount exported in June.

Ethanol exports through July of this year total 588.5 million gallons. That is more ethanol than was exported in 2009 and 2010 combined. The U.S. is on pace to export up to 900 million gallons of ethanol in 2011.

“Unfortunately, domestic ethanol producers are forced to look at export markets as special interests and some policymakers are working overtime to prevent America from using more of its own renewable fuels,” said **Renewable Fuels Association Vice President Geoff Cooper**. “If this nation doesn’t want to harness its own renewable resources, it is evident that other nations will.”

Unprecedented U.S. ethanol exports continue to be driven by the fact that corn ethanol is currently the lowest-cost motor fuel source in the world. High sugar prices and lower-than-expected sugarcane ethanol output in South America have allowed the United States to overtake Brazil as the world's leading ethanol exporter. In fact, Brazil and Canada are neck and neck as the leading importers of U.S. ethanol so far in 2011. For a complete rundown of the export data on ethanol from RFA's Cooper [click here](#).



Register for the 2012

National Biodiesel Conference & Expo

Registration is open for the **National Biodiesel Conference & Expo**, to be held Feb. 5-8 in Orlando, Florida. Topics such as governmental policy, technical issues and marketing trends in the biodiesel industry will be explored by biodiesel decision-makers from across the world.

To register [click here](#)

Ethanol Industry says it's not to Blame for Feed Shortages

Testimony during a Sept. 14 U.S. House Committee on Agriculture subcommittee hearing pointed to ethanol as a major contributor to the current situation for the livestock and poultry industries. Even before the hearing started, representatives of the ethanol industry noted that none of the witnesses represented biofuels.

“Today’s hearing will do little more than provide a soapbox for those that falsely present domestic ethanol production as creating a choice between food or fuel,” said **Renewable Fuels Association President and CEO Bob Dinneen**.



1/3 of every bushel of corn processed at an ethanol plant converts to protein animal feed.

The witness list was a “who’s who of groups that think they are entitled to cheap corn forever,” **American Coalition for Ethanol Executive Vice President Brian Jennings** said. “But that doesn’t change the fact that corn ethanol is not the primary or even a significant source of increased feed and food prices. In fact, corn ethanol production results in feed and food production of distillers grain. Unless this hearing examines all the factors contributing to food and feed prices, it can’t be considered a serious investigation of the issue.”

According to **Growth Energy**, feed prices have increased due to many factors, including global weather patterns, the weak dollar, unchecked speculation on Wall Street and increased exports of grain overseas. Each of these factors has a greater impact on the price and availability of feed than the ethanol industry.

At today’s corn prices, a pound of pork chops that costs \$3.52 at the store contains only 30 cents of corn, less than 8 percent of the total cost, according to Dinneen. In fact, despite the currently abnormally high price of corn, many of the nation’s largest integrated livestock and meat manufacturers are raking in strong quarterly profits. “Facts matter and we hope that the members of the committee will take a comprehensive look at the issue rather than taking the word of industries seeking to return to days of subsidized corn production,” Dinneen said.

Biodiesel Workshops

The 3-Hour Biodiesel workshop shares new information about Iowa’s clean burning alternative fuel and its performance in diesel engines.

Biodiesel is easy to use, nontoxic, biodegradable, and free of sulfur and aromatics.

For Dates, Locations, and Registration [click here](#).

Free Workshop and Meal Provided by:
Iowa Biodiesel Board
Iowa Power Fund Grant
One Source Training

Report Confirms U.S. Position as World's Top Ethanol Producer

According to *Ethanol Producer Magazine*, a Washington, D.C.-based independent research firm **Worldwatch Institute** released an analysis of global biofuels production for 2010. The analysis confirms continual growth within the industry, specifically within the U.S. Global biofuels production increased by 17 percent in 2010, compared to 10 percent in 2009, according to the report. Biodiesel and ethanol production were both up, but ethanol continues to dominate worldwide, accounting for 86 billion liters (almost 23 billion gallons) of the world’s 105 billion liters (27.7 billion gallons) of biofuels produced in 2010. In the U.S., ethanol output increased by 20 percent last year to 49 billion liters (13 billion gallons), or slightly more than half of the world’s total ethanol production.

The report’s authors said at least some of that growth should be credited to oil refiners. “In the United States, the record production of biofuels is attributed in part to high oil prices, which encouraged several large fuel companies, including **Sunoco, Valero, Flint Hills and Murphy Oil** to enter the ethanol industry,” said **Alexander Ochs, director of Worldwatch’s climate and energy program**.

U.S. producers sent 1.3 billion liters (about 343 million gallons) of ethanol to other countries in 2010, a staggering 300 percent increase over U.S. export totals the previous year.

IRFA Welcomes New Member
Archer Daniels Midland