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With low commodity prices jeopardizing the farm economy, ethanol stands as a pillar of strength, providing a value-added market that continues to rejuvenate rural communities. With gasoline prices rebounding and vexing consumers once again, ethanol remains the lowest-cost octane on the planet, providing savings to both refiners and consumers. With the U.S. stepping away from global climate agreements, ethanol is reducing carbon emissions anyway—by at least 43 percent compared to gasoline. And, with U.S. crude oil imports on the rise again, ethanol production is hitting new heights, representing a critical backstop for energy security. Indeed, faced with challenges to America's economic, environmental, and energy security, the United States remains Ethanol Strong.

While the industry has been challenged by stubbornly high stocks, protectionist trade barriers, and policy uncertainty, the long-term market fundamentals remain solidly bullish and producers are facing the new year with confidence.

Part of that optimism is attributable to a new President whose steadfast support has reassured the market that the Renewable Fuel Standard is truly back on track, whose commitment to regulatory reform promises to reduce costs and open new market opportunities, and whose "America First" approach to trade has provided refreshing advocacy for ethanol in addressing a myriad of unfair trade barriers. The chaos and drama in Washington, D.C. may provide fodder for political pundits, but the business of Washington, D.C. is still getting done and providing investors and consumers with renewed enthusiasm for domestic renewable fuels.

Still, as always, there are challenges that remain, necessitating the industry's vigilance and attention. We must continue to build demand, here and abroad, to assure future growth. That means securing fair treatment in the regulation of higher-level ethanol blends so that consumers can choose the fuel that makes the most sense for their cars and their wallets - be it E15 or blends for flex fuel vehicles like E25, E30 and E85. That also means addressing the troubling protectionist winds blowing across international biofuels markets. We need to stem these destructive efforts, lest consumers across the globe be denied access to the world's lowest cost ethanol and U.S. farmers be denied the export opportunities that often mean the difference between profit and loss. We must also continue to work toward a more united industry-speaking as one voice on major policy and marketplace issues, and encouraging a more constructive dialogue with our customers that recognizes the need for mutual success.

This year's Outlook provides the statistics, analyses and technical underpinning for the debates ahead. It reflects an industry that is poised for continued success, sober about the challenges we face, but confident in the knowledge that we remain now, and always, Ethanol Strong.

Sincerely,

Bob Dinneen, President & CEO

2017 ETHANOL PRODUCTION STRONGER THAN EVER

he strength of America's ethanol industry was on full display in 2017, as producers battled through adversity to achieve new records for both production and demand.

Located in 28 states, 211 ethanol biorefineries produced a record 15.8 billion gallons of renewable fuel in 2017, along with 41.4 million metric tons of animal feed and 3.6 billion pounds of distillers oil. A wave of new construction and expansions also swept across the industry in 2017, as investors showed renewed confidence in ethanol's future.

Ethanol's superior octane value, exceptional emissions benefits, and favorable blending economics drove consumption to new heights both in the U.S. and abroad. And, for the first time since 2013, the Renewable Fuel Standard's (RFS) conventional biofuel requirement was enforced as intended by Congress, leading to unprecedented consumption of E15 and blends for flex fuel vehicles like E25, E30, and E85. Even in the face of new trade barriers in key markets, ethanol exports surged to a record level. Undeniably, more nations around the world are embracing U.S. ethanol as a proven tool for reducing carbon emissions.

Meanwhile, by creating value-added markets for nearly 5.5 billion bushels of corn, ethanol helped strengthen and stabilize a farm sector facing historic grain surpluses, decade-low commodity prices, and global trade uncertainties. Despite these headwinds, American farmers achieved a record average corn yield and harvested the second-largest crop in history—demonstrating once again they are the most productive and efficient in the world.

Overall, 2017 was a year of both challenge and triumph, and America's ethanol industry emerged stronger than ever.



U.S. ETHANOL	PRODUCTION	CAPACITY	BY STAT
	(Million Gallons per	Year)	

	Existing Production Capacity	Operating Production	Under Construction/ Expansion	Total Capacity
lowa	4,177	4,127	120	4,297
Nebraska	2,229	2,176	-	2,229
llinois	1,779	1,679	-	1,779
Minnesota	1,217	1,177	105	1,322
Indiana	1,173	1,173	-	1,173
South Dakota	1,080	1,080	80	1,160
Ohio	548	548	80	628
Kansas	516	491	70	586
Wisconsin	583	583	-	583
North Dakota	465	465	-	465
Texas	385	385	-	385
Michigan	354	354	-	354
Missouri	276	261	-	276
Tennessee	225	225	-	225
California	223	218	-	223
Oregon	162	42	-	162
New York	150	150	-	150
Colorado	127	127	-	127
Georgia	120	120	-	120
Pennsylvania	110	110	-	110
Virginia	64	64	-	64
daho	60	60	-	60
North Carolina	60	-	-	60
Mississippi	54	54	-	54
Arizona	50	50	-	50
Kentucky	36	36	10	46
Wyoming	10	-	-	10
Florida	8	-	-	8
TOTAL U.S.	16,241	15,755	465	16,706

Source: RFA, as of January 2018

HISTORICAL BIOREFINERY COUNT AND PRODUCTION CAPACITY

Biorefineries Production Capacity (MGY)

Installed

Ethanol

1992	59	1,335	22.6
1997	56	1,790	32.0
2002	66	2,707	41.0
2007	136	7,437	54.7
2012	213	14,837	69.7
2017	211	16,241	77.0

Total

Installed

Average

Capacity

per

Biorefinery

(MGY)

....

CA

Source: RFA

*As of December for each year specified

PRODUCTION FACILITIES

"Rest assured that your President and this Administration value the importance of renewable fuels to America's economy and to our energy independence. Renewable fuels are essential to America's energy strategy."

 President Donald J. Trump, in letter addressed to attendees of RFA's 2017 National Ethanol Conference



U.S. FUEL ETHANOL BIOREFINERIES BY STATE

Installed Ethanol Biorefinery
 New Biorefinery Under Construction*
 *Excludes expansion projects

AZ

THE ETHANOL PROCESS HOW IT'S MADE

hile ethanol's use as a motor fuel dates back to the days of farm stills and Henry Ford's Model T, the modern ethanol production process is light years ahead of its humble beginnings. Today, high-tech biorefineries use state-of-the-art processes to convert grain starch, beverage and food waste, cellulosic biomass, and other feedstocks into high-octane ethanol and a variety of valuable co-products.

Two processes are used for making fuel ethanol—dry milling and wet milling. Nearly 90 percent of the ethanol produced today comes from the dry milling process, with the remaining 10 percent coming from wet mills. In **dry milling**, the entire grain kernel is first ground into "meal," then slurried with water to form a "mash." Enzymes are added to the mash to convert starch to sugar. The mash is cooked, then cooled and transferred to fermenters. Yeast is added and the conversion of sugar to alcohol begins. After fermentation, the resulting "beer" is separated from the remaining "stillage." The ethanol is then distilled and dehydrated, then blended with about 2 percent denaturant (such as gasoline) to render it undrinkable. It is then ready for shipment. The stillage is sent through a centrifuge that separates the solids from the solubles. These co-products eventually become distillers grains, as well as corn distillers oil. In **wet milling**, the grain is first separated into its basic components through soaking. After steeping, the slurry is processed through grinders to separate the corn germ. The remaining fiber, gluten and starch components are further segregated. The gluten component (protein) is filtered and dried to produce animal feed. The remaining starch can then be fermented into ethanol, using a process similar to the dry mill process.





ON AVERAGE,1 BUSHEL OF CORN (56 POUNDS) PROCESSED BY A DRY MILL ETHANOL BIOREFINERY PRODUCES:

- 2.87 gallons of denatured fuel ethanol
- 16.4 pounds of distillers grains animal feed (10% moisture)
- 0.75 pounds of corn distillers oil
- 16.5 pounds of biogenic carbon dioxide

In 2017, ethanol biorefineries captured more than 2.5 million tons of CO_2 , which was used for bottling, food processing, dry ice production and other uses.

Source: RFA

Ethanol-Blended

Gasoline to Consume Wet Distillers Grains

Ethanol to Market



ETHANOL'S ECONOMIC IMPACT FUELING THE HEARTLAND

ural America continued to struggle with a host of economic challenges in 2017. According to Creighton University, bank loan volumes in the Midwest region were down, hiring dropped off, retail sales decreased, and land values were lower. In the farm sector, decade-low commodity prices, historically high grain stocks, and rising input costs dramatically affected bottom lines.

Fortunately, ethanol biorefineries provided a lifeline in communities across the Heartland, helping to stabilize commodity markets and stem further economic losses. As incremental growth in ethanol production continues, the industry is attracting new investment, generating new employment opportunities, stimulating the tax base, and crucially adding value to farm products.

Overall, the production of 15.8 billion gallons of ethanol in Surveys show that workers in the ethanol industry are well 2017 directly employed 71,906 American workers. In addition, compensated, satisfied with their jobs, and proud of the the ethanol industry supported 285,587 indirect and induced jobs across all sectors of the economy. The industry created \$24 billion in household income and contributed \$45 billion to the national Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Moreover, are veterans of the U.S. military, underscoring the strong ethanol producers paid nearly \$10 billion in federal, state sense of patriotism and American pride that percolates and local taxes, and spent \$32 billion on raw materials, through the industry. inputs, and other goods and services.

Ethanol's Value-Added Proposition

Based on average prices and product yields in November 2017, an Iowa dry mill ethanol plant was adding \$2 of additional value—or 63%—to every bushel of corn processed.

Dollars

Million

	VALUE OF OUTPU	TS PER BUSHEL
Γ	Ethanol	\$4.02
L :	Distillers Grains	\$0.98
	Corn Distillers Oil	\$0.20
	TOTAL	\$5.20

A recent study published in the American Journal of Agricultural Economics found that "the current RFS orogram considerably benefits the agriculture sector." Key conclusions included:

- **\$14.1 billion boost** in the value of the U.S. farm sector in 2015, or \$6,800 per American farm.
- Corn prices averaged \$3.68 per bushel in 2015, but would have averaged just **\$2.75 per bushel** without the RFS and a robust ethanol industry.

larket and Welfare Effects, American Journal of Agricu Jume 99, Issue 5, 1 October 2017, Pages 1117–1142

In 2017, the production of 15.8 billion gallons of ethanol and 43 million metric tons of co-products and distillers oil had substantial economic impacts, including:

- 71,906 direct jobs
- 285,587 indirect and induced jobs
- \$45 billion contribution to GDP
- \$24 billion in household income
- \$10 billion in tax revenue

Source: ABF Economics

ETHANOL INDUSTRY WORKFORCE DEMOGRAPHICS

	Ethanol Industry	Petroleum Fuels Industry	National Workforce (All Industries)	
GENDER Female Male	30%	25% 75%	53% 47%	
55 AND OVER 23%		22%	22%	
UNIONIZED	8%	12%	11%	
MILITARY VETERANS 19%		10%	11%	
AVERAGE HOURS/WEEK	40.4	42.4	40.1	

Sources: U.S. Dept. of Energy; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics





CORN COS

PER BUSHE

\$3.20

contributions they make to our nation's environmental quality and energy security. In fact, a new U.S. Department of Energy survey revealed that 19 percent of ethanol sector employees

> "Producing renewable fuel from crops grown on American family farms allows us to continue honoring a commitment to make our nation stronger and more independent. Veterans working in the ethanol industry take great pride in knowing we are improving our nation's energy security, economic vitality and environmental quality each and every day."

> Tony Leiding, Director of Operations, Trenton Agri-Products, LLC and former U.S. Army Captain

ETHANOL AND THE U.S. FUEL MARKET **DRIVING CHANGE**

he emergence of ethanol as a major gasoline component has unquestionably revolutionized our nation's motor fuel market. Today, ethanol is blended into gasoline from coast to coast and border to border, extending domestic fuel supplies and lowering consumer prices.

In 2017, ethanol accounted for slightly more than 10 percent of the U.S. gasoline pool, marking the second year in a row that the blend rate exceeded the fictional "blend wall" perpetuated by ethanol opponents. In fact, several states saw average ethanol blend rates well above 10 percent in 2017. Minnesota led the nation with an average

ethanol content near 13 percent, while Iowa was second at approximately 12 percent. This clearly dispels the oil industry myth that ethanol should be limited to 9.7 percent of the gasoline pool.

Nationally, ethanol consumption has grown from 1.7 billion gallons (bg) in 2000 to 14.4 bg in 2017—a 750 percent increase. Meanwhile, gasoline blendstock consumption has stagnated, registering at 128.6 bg in 2000, dipping as low as 121 bg in 2012, and recently rebounding to 2000-era levels. When these dramatic shifts in market share are considered, it's easy to understand why many in the oil industry oppose further growth in renewables.

"Having an extra 10 percent of our gasoline provided by ethanol is increasing the total amount of fuel available while eliminating the need for other oxygenates and octane boosters, thus exerting a downward pressure on petroleum prices."

- Asst. Prof. Daniel Ciolkosz, Ph.D., P.E., Penn State University

Not only has increased ethanol use kept gasoline consumption in check, it has also resulted in lower fuel prices for American families. Even in an era of relatively inexpensive crude oil, wholesale ethanol was priced 8 percent below gasoline blendstock on average in 2017, with the spread widening to as much as 23 percent late in the year.

As the evolution of our transportation sector continues, ethanol will continue to drive positive change for consumers across the country.

COMPOSITION

OF U.S. GASOLINE



Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration and RFA *Estimated based on Jan.-Oct. 2017 data

A recent study published in the American Journal of Agricultural Economics found that ethanol consumption under the RFS resulted in the following benefits to the U.S. economy in 2015:

- **\$17.8 billion** savings on gasoline spending, equivalent to **\$142** per household
- 9.5% reduction in gasoline prices, equivalent to \$0.18 per gallon

Source: G. Moschini, H. Lapan, H. Kim; The Renewable Fuel Standard in Competitive Equilibrium: Market and Welfare Effects, American Journal of Agricultural Economics, Volume 99, Issue 5, 1 October 2017, Pages 1117-1142

COMPARISON OF 2017 WEEKLY GASOLINE AND ETHANOL **FUTURES PRICES**



Source: CME Group

AVERAGE ETHANOL

CONTENT OF





*Estimated based on EIA Nov. 2017 Short-Term Energy Outlook



ETHANOL'S OCTANE ADVANTAGE FULL-STRENGTH FUEL

he message from automobile manufacturers could not be clearer: they want—and need—more octane. As automakers introduce more efficient engine technologies, the demand for higher-octane fuels continues to grow. In fact, sales of premium gasoline hit a 15-year high in 2017. But traditional petroleum-based octane boosters are expensive and in short supply.

Fortunately, ethanol stands ready to deliver. With a blending emissions at the refinery. octane rating of 114, ethanol is the cleanest and most affordable source of octane on the planet. Ethanol's role as an octan

In the past, refiners produced all the octane they needed from hydrocarbons. But refinery processes to increase octane are costly and energy intensive. Thus, as ethanol availability

"Transitioning the fleet to higher-octane gasoline would result in significant economic and environmental benefits through reduced gasoline consumption."

– Massachusetts Institute of Technology

has grown, refiners have optimized operations to reduce hydrocarbon octane production and take advantage of ethanol's superior octane properties.

Most refiners today produce gasoline blendstock with an octane rating of 84, then upgrade it to 87 (the minimum allowed in most states) by adding 10 percent ethanol. This offers significant savings, reduced energy use, and lower emissions at the refinery.

Ethanol's role as an octane source has an even brighter future. Already, E15 offers an octane rating of 88, giving consumers an added boost at a lower cost. Moreover, a future high-octane fuel like E20-E40 could deliver the same—or better—fuel economy as regular gasoline when paired with an optimized engine, but with less energy expended per mile and fewer emissions. That's why automakers view ethanol-based high-octane fuels as a winning strategy for compliance with more stringent future fuel economy and emissions standards.

In addition to ethanol's economic benefits as an octane source, it is also the cleanest and safest option available. Aromatic hydrocarbon octane boosters like benzene are toxic and worsen air pollution.

ETHANOĽS BLENDING OCTANE NUMBER

Ethanol's pure component octane number is **100 AKI**.

But its blending octane number is **109-119 AKI**, depending on the octane of the finished fuel.

Ethanol's blending octane number is highest when used with lower-octane hydrocarbon blendstock.





Source: MathPro, Inc.





Gasoline n-Butane Alkylate Benzene Toluene Xylene MTBE Ethanol Met Blendstock

Source: U.S. Department of Energy and MathPro, Inc.

WHAT IS OCTANE AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

A fuel's octane rating is the measure of its ability to resist "knocking" in the engine, which is caused when the air/fuel mixture detonates prematurely during combustion. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, "Using a lower octane fuel than required can cause the engine to run poorly and can damage the engine and emissions control system over time. It may also void your warranty."



Source: Argus Media

INTERNATIONAL ETHANOL TRADE A GLOBAL FORCE

merica's ethanol industry exerted itself as a global force in 2017, with ethanol exports surging to a new record of more than 1.3 billion gallons. Thus, the United States was not only the world's top ethanol producer and consumer in 2017, but it was also the world's top exporter by far.

U.S. ethanol remained the lowest-cost source of octane on the planet, resulting in both increased exports to longtime customers as well as shipments to new destinations. For the third year in a row, Brazil and Canada were the top two markets for U.S. exports, receiving roughly 60 percent of 2017 shipments. India, the Philippines, the United Arab Emirates, Peru, and South Korea were other leading destinations in 2017.

Meanwhile, U.S. ethanol imports continued to languish. While not cost competitive with U.S.-produced corn ethanol, roughly 80 million gallons of Brazilian sugarcane ethanol were imported only because it receives favorable treatment under the California Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS) and RFS.



Global fuel ethanol production hit a new record of more than 27 billion gallons in 2017, with the United States again accounting for nearly 60 percent of the world's production.

Unfortunately, with record exports came a raft of new trade barriers and unprecedented protectionism in 2017. The year began with China—the third-largest export market in 2016 raising tariffs on U.S. ethanol imports. In response, exports to China collapsed in 2017. In the fall, Brazil implemented a tariff rate quota and 20 percent tariff on ethanol imports. Finally, the European Union remained effectively closed to U.S. ethanol due to its long-running import tariff.

As 2018 began, RFA continued to work with its partners to resolve these barriers and stimulate growth in the global ethanol marketplace.

"We are facing an acute problem of pollution due to the use of crude oil. And due to the unavailability of jobs in the rural sector, people are migrating to cities. Diversification of agriculture towards energy and power is the solution to all these issues. An integrated approach needs to be brought as far as the use of ethanol in India is concerned."

- Nitin Gadkari, India's Minister of Road Transport and Highways



Sources: U.S. Dept. of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau, Foreign Trade Statistics *2017 estimated based on Jan.-Nov. 2017

TOP DESTINATIONS FOR U.S. ETHANOL EXPORTS IN 2017





(Country; million gallons; share of global production) Source: RFA analysis of public and private data sources

Sources: U.S. Dept. of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau, Foreign Trade Statistics *2017 estimated based on Jan.-Nov. 2017

ANIMAL FEED PRODUCTION PROTEIN POWER

nce considered "byproducts" of ethanol production, distillers grains and other co-products have since evolved into a critical component of the global animal feed market—and a vital contributor to the industry's bottom line. In 2017, the U.S. ethanol industry generated a record 41.4 million metric tons (mmt) of distillers grains, gluten feed and gluten meal. In addition, the industry also produced nearly 3.6 billion pounds of corn distillers oil, used as a feed ingredient or biodiesel feedstock.

Far from creating a "food or fuel" dilemma, the ethanol process creates both fuel and high-protein animal feed. Indeed, onethird of every bushel of grain that enters the ethanol process is enhanced and returned to the feed market, most often in the form of distillers grains. Only the starch portion of the grain is made into ethanol; the remaining protein, fat, and fiber pass through to the co-products.



Swine

31%

CORN DISTILLERS **OIL PRODUCTION** 4 000 3,500 3,000 2,500 ē 2,000 1,500 1.000 500 2014 2013 2012 2011 2011 2010 2009 201; 201(2007 2008 201 2005

Source: RFA based on U.S. Dept. of Agriculture data

*Estimated



Source: RFA and U.S. Dept. of Agriculture Note: All co-products converted to 10% moisture basis



Modified Wet Distillers Grains (MWDG)

As demand for protein and caloric energy continues to grow both in the U.S. and internationally, America's ethanol producers stand ready to meet the needs of a growing population.



Sources: U.S. Dept. of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau, Foreign Trade Statistics *2017 estimated based on Jan.-Nov. 2017



Feeding the World

TOP DESTINATIONS FOR U.S. DISTILLERS GRAINS EXPORTS IN 2017

THE RENEWABLE FUEL STANDARD **STRENGTH AND STABILITY**

he Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) has been the single most successful clean fuels policy in the United States, helping to generate jobs, revive rural economies, reduce oil imports, lower gasoline prices, reduce air pollution and cut greenhouse gas emissions. First enacted in 2005 and expanded in 2007, the RFS has ushered in tremendous growth in the U.S. biofuels sector.

In 2017, the expanded program (often called "RFS2") celebrated its 10th anniversary. A decade after the RFS2 was adopted, enormous progress has been made toward achieving the objectives of this landmark policy. America's dependence on petroleum—particularly imports—is down significantly. Greenhouse gas emissions and harmful tailpipe pollution from the transportation sector have fallen. The value of agricultural products and farm income have been buoyed. And, communities across the country have benefited from the job creation, increased tax revenue, and heightened household income that stem from the construction and operation of a biorefinery.

Meanwhile, the doomsday outcomes threatened by opponents of the RFS2 simply have not materialized. U.S. cropland continues to shrink as forestland and grassland expand, Amazon deforestation rates continue to decline, and U.S. and global food price inflation rates are lower than before the RFS was adopted.

The biofuels industry needs consistent policy in place for continued growth and innovation, and the first year of the Trump administration indeed brought that stability. For 2018, EPA finalized a slight increase in the total RFS volume and maintained the statutory 15-billion-gallon allotment for conventional biofuel. The 2018 RFS requirements provide certainty, while continuing to offer consumers greater access to cleaner, lower-cost biofuels.



WHAT **IS A RIN CREDIT?**

A Renewable Identification Number (RIN) is a numbered credit assigned to each gallon of biofuel for the purpose of tracking its production and use under the RFS. Obligated parties (refiners and importers) turn in RINs to EPA to demonstrate that they fulfilled their annual renewable fuel blending obligations. Obligated parties who do not wish to blend renewable fuels may instead purchase RINs from other parties who blended more than their obligated volume. As RFS requirements escalate, RIN supplies tighten and RIN prices rise. This creates greater incentive to blend more renewable fuels.

WHAT HAPPENS TO THE RFS AFTER 2022?

Contrary to a popular myth, the RFS does not "phase out" or "sunset" at the end of 2022. In adopting the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (EISA), Congress specified RFS volumetric requirements through the year 2022 for total renewable fuels, advanced biofuels, cellulosic biofuels, and biomass-based diesel. For years after 2022, the law clearly states that required volumes of each renewable fuel shall be determined by the EPA Administrator, in coordination with the Secretary of Energy and the Secretary of Agriculture. In other words, the law requires EPA to set RFS volumes for 2023 and beyond, according to certain criteria defined in the statute.

WHAT HAS HAPPENED SINCE THE RFS2 WAS ADOPTED IN 2007?

The number of ethanol plants has almost doubled...



Corn production is up 12%...



U.S. forest and grassland has expanded...



Crude oil imports are down...



GHG emissions from transportation are falling...



Sources: RFA, ABF Economics, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Energy Information Administration, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

...and ethanol industry jobs are up nearly 50%



...but land dedicated to growing corn is down 3%



...as total cropland has fallen 7%



...and so are gasoline imports



...and household spending on fuel is down



E15 MARKET UPDATE **GAINING GROUND**

onsumers found greater choice at the pump in 2017, Chrysler, General Motors, Ford, Toyota, Honda, Hyundai/Kia, as the number of retail gas stations offering E15 more than doubled from the previous year. Thanks to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Biofuels Infrastructure Partnership grant program and ethanol industry initiatives like Prime the Pump, E15 was available at more than 1,200 stations across 29 states as 2018 began.

E15 was found in both major metropolitan areas and in small towns across the Heartland. And leading retailers, including Sheetz, Kum & Go, Murphy USA, RaceTrac, Thornton's, and QuikTrip, added E15 to their slate of fuel offerings.

Meanwhile, progress continued on automaker approval of E15, with 90 percent of new 2018 model year vehicles explicitly approved by the manufacturer to use E15. For the first time, Nissan Motor Company approved the use of E15 in most of its model year 2018 vehicles. Nissan joins Fiat-

Volkswagen, and other automakers in approving E15. EPA's fuel waiver allowing the use of E15 in all vehicles built in 2001 or later means approximately 90 percent of the vehicles on the road today are legally approved to use E15.

However, widespread consumer access to E15 remained hampered by nonsensical and outdated fuel volatility regulations. EPA's decades-old Reid vapor pressure (RVP) regulations essentially prohibit retail gasoline stations from selling the fuel blend in more than two-thirds of the nation's gasoline market during the summer months. Whether through administrative or legislative action, the RFA is working to secure parity in the volatility regulation of E10, E15, and other ethanol blends.



2017 1,215



U.S. RETAIL STATIONS OFFERING E15



E15 APPROVAL STATUS FOR CONVENTIONAL (NON-FFV) AUTOMOBILES

	2012	2013
iroup		
*		
(Mercedes-Benz)		
nrysler, Dodge, Fiat, Jeep, Ram)		
otor Company (Ford, Lincoln)		
Motors (Buick, Cadillac, Chevrolet, GMC)		
Motor Company (Honda, Acura)		
i Motor Company (Hyundai, Kia)***		
shi Motors Corporation		
Motor Company (Nissan, Infiniti)		
otors (Jaguar, Land Rover)		
Motor Corporation		
a		

loyota	
Volkswagen Group	
Audi	
Porsche	
Volkswagen	
Volvo Car Group	
All Others	



BMW G

BMW

Mini*

Daimle

FCA (C

Ford M

Genera

Honda

Hyunda

Mazda Mitsub

Nissan

Subaru

Tata Mo

Toyota

Lexus

Toyo

E15 Approved by Automaker in ALL Models



Automaker in SOME Models



E15 Approved by EPA only; Not Approved by Automaker

Source: RFA

MODEL YEAR						
3	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	U.S. Market Share*
_						
						1.7%
						0.3%
						2.1%
						11.9%
						14.9%
						17.2%
						9.5%
						7.5%
						1.7%
						0.6%
						9.3%
						3.7%
						0.6%
						44.00/
						14.2%
						1.3%
						0.3%
						2.0%
						0.5%
						0.7%

** Approved the use of up to 25% ethanol blends

*** Approved the use of E15 for all models except Hyundai Sonata

In the six years since E15 was formally approved for use by EPA, American drivers have logged approximately 2.2 billion miles on the fuel without a single reported case of "engine damage," misfueling, or inferior performance.

E85 AND FLEX FUELS FLEXING FUEL CHOICE

he market for E85 and other flex fuels achieved two key milestones in 2017. First, the number of flex fuel vehicles (FFVs) in the U.S. auto fleet hit 24 million, meaning one out of every 10 vehicles on the road today is approved to use E85 and other flex fuels. Second, the number of retail gas stations selling flex fuels topped 4,000, giving consumers greater access than ever before.

Flex fuels could be found in 45 states across the country in 2017. Minnesota continued to lead the nation with 422 stations, but states outside the Corn Belt, including California, Texas, Florida, North Carolina and Pennsylvania, experienced significant growth. Most of these new stations also offered E15 and mid-level ethanol blends like E20, E30 and E40, providing drivers with even more choice at the pump.

E85 was the lowest-priced motor fuel on the planet in 2017, with FFV drivers experiencing unprecedented savings on their fuel purchases. Thanks to low ethanol prices and the effect of RIN (Renewable Identification Number) credits, consumers saw E85 priced at a 20 percent discount to E10 on average in 2017.

What's more, E85 and other flex fuels continue to deliver significant emissions benefits, from reducing greenhouse gas emissions to lowering carbon monoxide, air toxics, and other harmful pollutants.



WHAT ARE FLEX FUELS?

Flex fuels are gasoline-ethanol blends containing between 51-83 percent ethanol (excluding denaturant). Flex fuels are intended for use in flex fuel vehicles (FFVs) only. Historically, flex fuels had been commonly referred to as "E85" because prior to 2012, the fuels were limited to 70-85 percent denatured ethanol and E85 was the most popular blend. Today, the actual amount of ethanol in the flex fuel depends on economics.

CAN YOU FLEX FUEL?

The following model year 2018 vehicles are available as Flex Fuel Vehicles (FFVs)

Chevrolet Express (6.0L) Chevrolet Impala (3.6L) Chevrolet Silverado (4.3L, 5.3L) GMC Sierra (4.3L, 5.3L) Chevrolet Silverado HD (6.0L) GMC Sierra HD (6.0L) Dodge Grand Caravan (3.6L) Dodge Journey (3.6L) Dodge Ram 1500 (3.6L) Ford Escape (2.5L) Ford Explorer (3.5L) Ford F-150 (3.5L, 5.0L) Ford F-Series Super Duty (6.2L) Toyota Sequoia (5.7L) Ford Taurus (3.5L) Ford Transit Connect (2.5L)

Ford Transit T150 (3.7L) GMC Savana (6.0L) Jeep Cherokee (2.4L) Jeep Renegade (2.4L) Mercedes-Benz CLA250 (2.0L) Mercedes-Benz GLA250 (2.0L) Mercedes-Benz GLE350 (3.5L) Nissan Frontier (4.0L) Toyota Tundra (5.7L)

Available for Fleet Purchase Only:

Chevrolet Suburban (5.3L) Chevrolet Tahoe (5.3L) Chrysler 300 (3.6L) Dodge Charger (3.6L) Ford Police Interceptor (3.5L, 3.7L) GMC Yukon (5.3L) GMC Yukon XL (5.3L)

Is your pre-2018 vehicle an FFV? Find out at www.e85vehicles.com **U.S. RETAIL STATIONS OFFERING E85 AND OTHER FLEX FUELS**



Source: RFA and U.S. Dept. of Energy



Source: E85prices.com



ETHANOL AND ENERGY SECURITY SECURING OUR FUTURE

dependence on imported petroleum continued to wane in 2017, thanks • to booming domestic production of both renewable fuels and crude oil. Net U.S. imports of crude oil and petroleum products fell to their lowest level since the early 1980s, as ethanol production hit a new record and U.S. oil output rebounded from a lull in 2016.

On a net basis, U.S. dependence on imported crude oil and petroleum products fell to just 20 percent in 2017. However, without the addition of 15.8 billion gallons of ethanol to the domestic fuel supply, U.S. net import dependence would have been above 27 percent. In fact, an additional 560 million barrels of imported crude oil would have been needed to produce an amount of gasoline equivalent to last year's record ethanol production. While the United States has made great strides in improving its energy security, challenges and risks remain. On a gross basis, the United States imported more than 2.9 billion barrels of crude oil in 2017, meaning 42 percent of the oil processed by U.S. refineries was imported. Moreover, 45 percent of our oil imports came from OPEC nations. That means the U.S. economy sent some \$63 billion—or nearly \$500 per American household—to countries like Iraq, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, and Venezuela in 2017 to pay for oil.

Meanwhile, a series of hurricanes racked Gulf Coast oil refineries in 2017, sending gas prices higher and reminding American consumers once again about the dangers of overreliance on a single fuel source. Fortunately, increased ethanol production continues to help diversify our nation's fuel pool and dampen the impacts of petroleum market shocks.



urce: RFA based on U.S. Dept. of Energy data

*Estimate

U.S. PETROLEUM NET IMPORT DEPENDENCE WITH AND WITHOUT ETHANOL



---- Actual Net Import Dependence ----- Net Import Dependence without Ethanol

On a net basis (i.e., after accounting for U.S. exports), the United States relied on imports to meet 20% of its petroleum demand in 2017. Without the contribution of 15.8 billion gallons of ethanol, U.S. import dependence would have been equivalent to 27% of petroleum demand.

Source: RFA based on U.S. Dept. of Energy data

*Estimated

"While our demand has basically been flat, oil is a global commodity and imports have long been ingrained in our own market, so we still import about 35-50% of the oil that we use. The main reason U.S. imports are still very high is because our shale oil boom and the light oil surge hasn't been a great match for our refiners."

– Forbes Magazine



While U.S. crude oil production has increased to nearly 300 million barrels per month, our nation still imports about 240 million barrels per month on a gross basis.

Transferring American Wealth to OPEC

Even though U.S. oil production has increased in recent years, our nation's economy still transfers tens of billions of dollars every year to the OPEC cartel. In 2017 alone, the U.S. sent some \$63 billion—or \$500 per American household—to OPEC nations to pay for crude oil imports.

OPEC Nation	U.S. Spending on (B	Crude Oil Imports illion \$)
Saudi Arabia	\$	19.4
Venezuela	\$	12.8
Iraq	\$	11.9
Nigeria	\$	5.9
Ecuador	\$	4.0
Kuwait	\$	3.0
Angola	\$	2.6
Algeria	\$	1.5
Libya	\$	1.1
Other OPEC	\$	0.8
TOTAL	\$	63.0

Source: RFA based on U.S. Dept. of Energy data

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CELLULOSIC AND ADVANCED BIOFUELS GEARING UP FOR GROWTH

he ethanol industry's evolution continued in 2017. Once thought of simply as "ethanol plants," facilities across the country are quietly transitioning into "integrated biorefineries" capable of processing multiple feedstocks into a diverse array of biofuels and bioproducts.

Last year, dozens of existing biorefineries across the country began to adopt "bolt-on" technologies allowing them to produce ethanol from the cellulosic fibers found in the corn kernel. These facilities can produce both cellulosic ethanol and starch-based ethanol from the same feedstock. If universally adopted across the existing fleet of biorefineries, these low-cost technologies could add roughly 1 billion gallons of cellulosic biofuel to the nation's fuel supply.

Cellulosic ethanol from corn kernel fiber offers a new economic opportunity for ethanol producers, as the fuel's superior GHG performance rating under both state Low Carbon Fuel Standards (LCFS) and the federal Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) results in substantial price premiums. While corn kernel fiber technologies made headlines in 2017, ethanol producers also continued to seek out other advanced and low-carbon biofuel opportunities. Onsite production of biodiesel and renewable diesel from corn distillers oil continued at several ethanol biorefineries, while others pursued carbon capture and sequestration as another means of adding value and lowering carbon intensity. Meanwhile, progress continued toward commercial production of cellulosic ethanol from crop residues at stand-alone facilities in Iowa and Kansas.

Like all nascent technologies, cellulosic and advanced biofuels need steady and reliable policy. Unfortunately, the 2018 RFS volume requirements for cellulosic biofuels represented a step backward for these emerging technologies, as EPA slightly reduced the 2018 volume from the 2017 final requirement.

One Feedstock, Multiple Biofuels

Dozens of existing biorefineries are investing in technologies to produce both conventional starch-based ethanol as well as cellulosic ethanol from the same corn kernel. Other facilities are making biodiesel or renewable diesel from the oil found in the corn kernel. On a dry basis, starch makes up about 75 percent of the corn kernel, while cellulosic fiber accounts for about 9 percent. Protein, oil, ash and sugars make up the remainder.







Source: California Air Resources Board



The endosperm makes up 82% of the corn kernel by weight and is mostly starch.

The pericarp, or seed coat, makes up 6% of the kernel and is mostly cellulosic fiber.

The germ makes up 11% of the kernel and contains oil, cellulosic fiber, protein and starch.

The tip cap makes up 1% of the kernel and is mostly cellulosic fiber

Source: Bunge North America



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ETHANOL AND FOOD/FEED MARKET IMPACTS SHATTERING MYTHS

ny remaining embers of the outrageous "food vs. fuel" myth were decisively extinguished in 2017, as record grain supplies, historic grain surpluses, and low food prices put to rest any notion that biofuels somehow adversely affect feed and food markets. In reality, the U.S. ethanol industry adds to the world feed supply by stimulating increased grain production and generating nutrient-dense animal feed co-products.

In the United States, farmers produced the second-largest corn crop ever, trailing only the record harvest of 2016. As a result, more corn and co-products were available to livestock and poultry feeders than ever before in 2017, and the corn surplus remaining after all demands are met is projected to hit a 30-year high.

Meanwhile, retail food price inflation rates continued to trend lower, with food prices just 1 percent higher in 2017 than in 2016. Annual average food price inflation has averaged just 2.3 percent since 2005 when the RFS was

enacted, compared to an annual average of 3.0 percent in the 20 years leading up to RFS adoption.

Globally, the supply of coarse grains, wheat and rice was also the second-largest ever, falling only slightly behind the record 2016 supply. On a net basis, the U.S. ethanol industry used less than 3 percent of the world grain supply, and grain available for feed and food use hit a new high. Additionally, the United Nations reports that global food prices remain well below the oil price-induced highs of 2008-2014, while malnourishment rates continued to fall.

In the end, the events of 2017 provided even more evidence that the U.S. ethanol industry creates a "food and fuel" dynamic, not a "food vs. fuel" dilemma.



WORLD OIL PRICES DRIVE GLOBAL FOOD PRICES



What Does \$1 Spent on Food Really Pay For?



fewer people suffered from hunger and undernourishment in 2015 than a decade earlier. Over the same decade, biofuel production expanded rapidly along with the number of people suffering early mortality and disease from consuming too much of the wrong foods. Despite a rapid increase in biofuel production, there is no evidence of biofuel impacts on food-related health."

Oak Ridge National Laboratory, World Bank, International Food Policy Research Institute, Imperial College London, University of Saõ Paulo, Delft University of Technology, University

ETHANOL AND THE ENVIRONMENT CLEAN FUEL, CLEANER AIR

ver the past four decades, ethanol has served as an affordable and effective tool for reducing harmful emissions from the transportation sector. Because ethanol is a pure compound that is 35 percent oxygen, it burns more cleanly and completely than gasoline, which can contain as many as 1,000 unique compounds.

By displacing hydrocarbon substances like aromatics in gasoline, ethanol helps reduce emissions of air toxics, particulate matter, carbon monoxide, nitrous oxides, and exhaust hydrocarbons. These pollutants cause smog and ground-level ozone and adversely affect human health. Reducing these emissions means fewer cases of respiratory illness and asthma, heart disease, lung disease, cancer, and even fewer premature deaths.

Ethanol also serves as a low-cost option for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from transportation.

Plants that are ultimately made into biofuels absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere as they grow, and that same amount of carbon dioxide is re-released when the biofuel is combusted in an engine. In this way, ethanol and other biofuels are simply recycling atmospheric carbon.

According to the U.S. Departments of Energy and Agriculture, corn ethanol from a typical dry mill reduces GHG emissions by 40-45 percent compared to gasoline—even when hypothetical land use change emissions are included. But data from EPA show that agricultural land use is actually shrinking and forest and grassland are expanding, undermining the land use change theory.

As emissions standards tighten and nations around the world prioritize GHG reduction, ethanol can play an even larger role in cleaning our air.

U.S. EPA DETERMINATION OF AGRICULTURAL LAND USE VS. 2007 BASELINE



Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Clearing the Air with ETHANOL

"The use of oil transfers into today's atmosphere GHGs that had been sequestered and secured for millennia and would have remained out of Earth's atmosphere if not for human intervention. A bioenergy cycle can be managed while maintaining atmospheric conditions similar to those that allowed humans to evolve and thrive on Earth. In contrast, massive release of fossil fuel carbon alters this balance, and the resulting changes to atmospheric concentrations of GHGs will impact Earth's climate for eons."

 Duke University, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, and the University of Minnesota

"Numerous studies in which ethanol was splash-blended with a fixed gasoline blendstock have demonstrated reductions of vehicle exhaust emissions, particularly particulate matter (PM), non-methane hydrocarbons (NMHC), and the air toxics 1,3-butadiene and benzene."

 Ford Motor Company, General Motors, and AVL Powertrain In addition to reducing GHG emissions, ethanol is the best tool available to reduce tailpipe emissions of other harmful pollutants. Adding ethanol to gasoline reduces tailpipe emissions of the following pollutants, among others:

- Carbon monoxide, which can cause harmful health effects by reducing oxygen delivery to the body's organs.
- Exhaust hydrocarbons, which contribute to ozone, irritate the eyes, damage the lungs, and aggravate respiratory problems.
- Air toxics like benzene, which can cause cancer and reproductive effects or birth defects.
- Fine particulate matter, which can pass through the throat and nose and enter the lungs, causing serious health effects.



The use of ethanol in gasoline in 2017 reduced CO_2 -equivalent greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector by 53.5 million metric tons. That's equivalent to removing 11.4 million cars from the road for an entire year, or eliminating the annual emissions from 13 coal-fired power plants.

SOURCE: RFA analysis using U.S. Dept. of Energy GREET model

RFA COMMITTEES, EDUCATION AND OUTREACH ACTION, ADVOCACY, AND EXPERIENCE

ince 1981, the RFA has proudly served as the ethanol **The RFA Co-Products Committee** focuses on issues industry's national trade association. The Association advances policy and regulatory initiatives that support distillers grains, corn distillers oil, corn gluten, carbon industry growth, educates key decision-makers, serves as the voice of the industry through public and media relations efforts, and provides the technical foundation to move the industry forward. RFA's Board of Directors is solely comprised animal nutrition, and animal feed safety. of ethanol producers who are ascribed one vote per company. In addition, a broad cross-section of RFA producer, associate, and supporting members participate on standing committees that address issues important to the industry.

The RFA Technical Committee focuses on fuel specifications and standards development by ASTM International, National Conference of Weights and Measures, regulatory bodies, and other organizations. Committee members monitor technical issues impacting day-to-day plant operations, such as storage and handling, transportation, and fuel quality, as well as state and regional regulations and international blending practices.

Committee Chair: Cathy Woodliff, The Andersons Albion

relevant to co-products from ethanol production, including dioxide and other products. Committee members address operational and regulatory issues concerning production, storage and handling, transportation, international trade,

Committee Chair: Sean Broderick, CHS, Inc.

The RFA Plant & Employee Safety Committee

leads the industry in advocating safe practices in ethanol production, storage and handling, transportation, and use. Committee members monitor and share information on hazardous materials, safety standards, and federal and state safety regulations. The Committee also supports continuing education for every link of the ethanol supply chain. Committee Chair: Joe Oswalt, E Energy Adams, LLC

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The RFA Environmental Compliance Committee

examines and educates industry stakeholders on the implementation of environmental regulations for production, storage and handling, and transportation of ethanol. The committee tackles complex regulatory issues and provides guidance to members.

Committee Chair: Steve Schleicher, Pinnacle

The RFA Export Committee assesses opportunities and challenges in growing international demand for U.S. ethanol. The group advocates for free and fair trade policies, examines technical and regulatory barriers, interacts with U.S. trade officials, and monitors data and trends in the global trade.





The Renewable Fuels PAC builds a stronger voice for American-made renewable fuels on Capitol Hill. Organized and operated by RFA members and staff, this Political Action Committee promotes consistent and forward-looking public policy essential to the growth and evolution of the industry by focusing on federal election activity.

Committee Chair: Randall Doval, Al-Corn Clean Fuel, LLC

Navigating the Regulatory Landscape

Nearly every facet of the ethanol industry—from production at the facility to consumption in the vehicle—is affected by a plethora of federal and state regulations. Ethanol producers face a multitude of registration, reporting, recordkeeping, and compliance requirements, and the regulatory landscape is constantly changing and is becoming more complex. Providing analyses of important regulations and technical issues has long been a hallmark of the RFA, and we strive to ensure our member companies know exactly how their operations—and industry—will be affected by new, pending, or amended regulations. On behalf of its members, RFA staff frequently interact with the following regulatory bodies (among others): OCTANE

- Alcohol Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB)
- Federal Trade Commission (FTC)
- Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA)
- U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)
- U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC)
- U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)
- U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT)
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

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RFA RENEWABLE FUELS ASSOCIATION

Our Mission

Drive expanded production and use of American-made renewable fuels and bio-products worldwide.

Our Expertise

Public Policy & Regulation Fuel Ethanol Technical Issues Trade Policy & Export Promotion Safety Training & Emergency Response Ethanol Market Development Research & Analysis Communications, Media & Public Relations Consumer Advertising, Promotions & Education

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Hawkeye Gold LLC, a subsidiary of J.D. Heiskell & Co. www.hawkgold.com

Hydro-Klean, LLC www.hydro-klean.com

ICM, Inc. www.icminc.com

Innospec Fuel Specialties, LLC www.innospecinc.com

INTL FCStone, Inc. www.intlfcstone.com

Iowa Renewable Fuels Association www.iowarfa.org

Iowa Corn Growers Association

Corporation

Jamestown/Stutsman Development

Kentucky Corn Promotion Council

Kentucky Energy and Environment

Cabinet-Department for Energy

Development and Independence

Kansas Corn Commission www.kscorn.com/kcc

Supporting Members

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Distillers Grains Technology Council

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Great Falls Development Authority

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Food, and Resource Economics

Minnesota Department of Agriculture



www.renewablefuels-foundation.org

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Mission

Meet the research and education needs of the U.S. fuel ethanol industry.

Focus

Collaboration with academia, industry, and public policymakers on new uses, feedstocks, and technologies to promote a growing and sustainable renewable fuels industry. KATZEN International, Inc. www.katzen.com

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