POCKET GUIDE TO ETHANOL 2019
The Pocket Guide to Ethanol

is a quick reference of significant statistics for American-made fuel ethanol. It is a companion to the Renewable Fuels Association’s (RFA) more comprehensive Annual Ethanol Industry Outlook publication. Find both resources online at https://EthanolRFA.org/resources/publications.

RFA has been the leading trade association for America’s fuel ethanol industry for nearly 40 years. Our focus is on advancing the development, production and use of ethanol and bio-products worldwide. RFA’s membership includes grain-based and advanced ethanol producers, the ethanol value chain, academia, and industry advocates.

Geoff Cooper
RFA President & CEO
WHAT IS ETHANOL?

Ethanol is a biodegradable, high-octane motor fuel derived from the sugars, starches, and cellulosic matter found in plants. Most U.S. ethanol today is made from corn through the dry mill process. Corn production in 2018 neared record highs, but land dedicated to growing the feedstock has moved lower.

The industry continues to evolve with some plants adopting “bolt-on” technologies and integrating new process/refining technologies to capture more value-added co-products.

U.S. Ethanol Production Capacity by Feedstock Type

- Corn Starch 94.3%
- Corn/Sorghum/Cellulosic Biomass 2.9%
- Corn/Sorghum 2.1%
- Cellulosic Biomass 0.5%
- Food/Beverage Waste 0.2%

Source: RFA

U.S. Fuel Ethanol Production by Technology Type

- Dry Mill 91.1%
- Wet Mill 8.9%

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

The United States led the world in ethanol production in 2018 with a record output of 16.1 billion gallons. In fact, output was double the volume generated by Brazil—the world’s second largest producer.

Historic U.S. Fuel Ethanol Production

Source: RFA and U.S. Energy Information Administration

*Estimated
There are 210 ethanol biorefineries located in 27 states. Iowa, Nebraska, and Illinois account for half of production capacity.

2018 Global Fuel Ethanol Production by Country

(Underline)

Brazil; 7,950; 28%
United States; 16,100; 56%
European Union; 1,430; 5%
China; 1,180; 4%
Canada; 480; 2%
Thailand; 390; 1%
India; 330; 1%
Argentina; 290; 1%
Rest of World; 550; 2%

Source: RFA analysis of public and private data sources
POWERFUL NUTRITION

The ethanol industry generated a record 41.3 million metric tons of distillers grains and gluten feed/meal. These co-products are a consistent and cost-effective input for animal feed around the world.

U.S. Ethanol Industry Co-product Animal Feed Output

- Distillers Grains
- Corn Gluten Feed
- Corn Gluten Meal

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

On average, 1 bushel of corn (56 pounds) processed by a dry mill ethanol biorefinery produces:

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

Source: RFA based on data from U.S. Dept. of Agriculture
Biorefineries produced a record 4 billion pounds of corn distillers oil, used as a feed ingredient or biodiesel feedstock.

**Corn Distillers Oil Production**

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**Distillers Grains Consumption by Specie**

- **Beef Cattle**: 46%
- **Dairy Cattle**: 31%
- **Swine**: 15%
- **Poultry**: 7%
- **Other**: 1%

*Estimated

Source: Distillers grains marketing companies
ENERGIZING GLOBAL MARKETS

In 2018, U.S. ethanol exports swelled 20% to a new record high of 1.6 billion gallons worth an estimated $2.7 billion. This means 1 of every 10 gallons produced was shipped outside our borders, with half of exports destined for Brazil and Canada.

TOP 5 Destinations for U.S. Ethanol in 2018

Brazil, Canada, India, South Korea, Netherlands

Sources: U.S. Dept. of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau, Foreign Trade Statistics  *Based on Jan.-Sep. 2018

U.S. Ethanol Exports and Imports

Sources: U.S. Dept. of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau, Foreign Trade Statistics  *Based on Jan.-Sep. 2018
U.S. biorefineries satisfied growing domestic feed needs while also exporting nearly 1 of every 3 tons of distillers grains, or 12.1 million metric tons. In 2018, 4 countries purchased half of all U.S. DDGS exports while remaining volumes shipped to another 60 around the globe.

**TOP 5 Destinations for U.S. Distillers Grains in 2018**

- Mexico
- South Korea
- Turkey
- Vietnam
- Thailand

*Sources: U.S. Dept. of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau, Foreign Trade Statistics  *Based on Jan.-Sep. 2018

**U.S. Distillers Grains Exports**

*Sources: U.S. Dept. of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau, Foreign Trade Statistics  *Based on Jan.-Sep. 2018
ETHANOL’S REFINERY POWER

Ethanol is increasingly becoming a valuable octane source with an octane rating of 114. Most refiners add 10% ethanol to upgrade gasoline blend-stock from 84 octane to 87 octane—the minimum allowable for “regular” grade gasoline.

Octane Blending Value vs Market Price

Source: Argus Media

Premium Gasoline: Share of Sales and Price Difference vs. Regular

Source: RFA based on U.S. Energy Information Administration data
Ethanol blending has broken through the so-called “blend wall” and hit a record 10.75% blend rate in January 2018. However, demand destruction caused by EPA’s “small refinery exemptions” dropped the average blend rate below 10% for much of the year.

**Blending Octane Ratings of Various Gasoline Octane Boosters**

- **Gasoline Blendstock**: 84
- **n-Butane**: 95
- **Alkylate**: 101
- **Benzene**: 104
- **Toluene**: 107
- **Xylene**: 110
- **MTBE**: 110
- **Ethanol**: 114
- **Methanol**: 117

*Source: Department of Energy*

**Why is the Value of Octane Increasing?**

**CONSTRAINED SUPPLY**
- Increased volume of light tight oil (LTO) and condensate
  *Produces lower quality gasoline blendstock (more low-octane naptha)*
- Octane loss from tighter sulfur standards
- Refining industry slow to add octane-producing capacity

**INCREASED DEMAND**
- Higher domestic demand for **all** gas grades
- Demand for premium is rising (as share of total)
  *Higher compression and turbo charging*
- Increased export demand for gasoline and high-octane blendstocks

*Source: EIA, MathPro Inc.*
EMPOWERING E15

Since its approval by U.S. EPA, more than 5 billion trouble-free miles have been driven on E15. In 2018, access to E15 increased 33% as nearly 1,600 stations offered the fuel in 30 states. President Trump issued a directive to U.S. EPA to initiate a rulemaking allowing the year-round use of E15. If implemented, E15 sales could grow significantly in 2019, perhaps approaching 800 million gallons.

Source: RFA
FLEXING MUSCLE

Flex fuel consumption hit new heights in 2018. Nearly 1 of every 10 vehicles is a Flex Fuel Vehicle (FFV) approved to use Mid-Level Ethanol Blends (20-50% ethanol) and E85 (51-83% ethanol). Roughly 4,500 stations in 2,500 cities across America have blender pumps offering flex fuels.

U.S. Retail Stations Offering E85 and Other Flex Fuels

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

National Average Retail Prices for E10 and E85

Source: E85prices.com
RENEWING THE RURAL ECONOMY

The U.S. ethanol industry provides a critically important market for corn and sorghum producers, a consistent low-cost feed source for livestock, bio-products for industrial uses, and feedstock for biodiesel.

Ethanol’s Value-Added Proposition

Based on average prices and product yields in 2018, a typical dry mill ethanol plant was adding nearly $2 of additional value—or 55%—to every bushel of corn processed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VALUE OF OUTPUTS PER BUSHEL</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ethanol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distillers Grains</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corn Distillers Oil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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CORN COST PER BUSHEL

$3.35

Source: U.S. Dept. of Agriculture
The ethanol industry yields tremendous economic impacts for the rural economy and America as a whole. And 1 in 4 employees is a military veteran—four times the national average.

In 2018, the production of 16.1 billion gallons of ethanol and 43 million metric tons of co-products and distillers oil had substantial economic impacts, including:

- 71,367 direct jobs
- 294,516 indirect and induced jobs
- $46 billion contribution to GDP
- $25 billion in household income
- $10 billion in tax revenue
EMPOWERING CONSUMERS

In 2018, U.S. farmers harvested the second-largest corn crop ever. On a net basis, the U.S. ethanol industry used less than 3% of global grain supplies. More corn and co-products were available to livestock and poultry feeders than ever before. Meanwhile, average annual food inflation has averaged just 1.7% over this decade. The debunked “food vs. fuel” myth drifts another year further into the rearview mirror.

U.S. Food Price Inflation and Ethanol Production

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and RFA

*Estimated
POWERING ENERGY DOMINANCE

Energy security is one of the main drivers behind the RFS. In 2018, the addition of 16.1 billion gallons of ethanol to the U.S. fuel supply displaced an equivalent 550 million barrels of oil. Without the contribution of 16.1 billion gallons of ethanol, U.S. import dependence would have been equivalent to 20% of petroleum demand.

**Historic Oil Import Displacement by Ethanol**

![Graph showing the displacement of million barrels of oil from 2007 to 2018.](source)

**U.S. Petroleum Net Import Dependence with and without Ethanol**

![Graph showing the net import dependence from 2002 to 2018.](source)
CLEARING THE AIR

Ethanol displaces hydrocarbon substances like aromatics in gasoline, helping to reduce emissions of air toxics along with particulate matter, carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, and exhaust hydrocarbons. These pollutants cause smog and ground-level ozone and adversely affect human health.

Emissions from All Highway Vehicles

![Graph showing emissions from all highway vehicles from 1990 to 2017. The y-axis represents emissions in thousands of tons, and the x-axis represents years. The graph shows a decrease in CO & NOx emissions over time.]

Improvements Since Passage of the RFS2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GHG Emissions Avoided from using Ethanol</td>
<td>12.7</td>
<td>55.0</td>
<td>+291%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(million tons CO2e)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carbon Monoxide Concentration (parts per million)</td>
<td>1.91</td>
<td>1.34</td>
<td>-30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ozone Concentration (parts per million)</td>
<td>0.078</td>
<td>0.067</td>
<td>-13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coarse Particulate Matter Concentration (micrograms per m3)</td>
<td>71.83</td>
<td>69.82</td>
<td>-3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fine Particulate Matter Concentration (micrograms per m3)</td>
<td>11.93</td>
<td>8.02</td>
<td>-33%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: U.S. Dept. of Energy and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Corn ethanol from a typical dry mill has 40-45% lower greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions than gasoline (this includes theoretical land use change emissions). As a result, the industry has contributed extensively to meeting California’s Lower Carbon Fuel Standard.
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