



FAMILY FARMING AND BIOFUELS 2021 SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

National Farmers Union (NFU) has been a strong supporter of increased use of biofuels such as ethanol, biodiesel, and cellulosic ethanol as an important and vital component of this nation's energy policy.

Ethanol is a cost-effective means of achieving required and improved octane levels. Higher ethanol blends can increase fuel octane without expensive refinery upgrades. In addition to its higher-octane level, ethanol also features high sensitivity and high heat of vaporization, which increase engine and vehicle efficiency and, thereby, provide greater reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, particularly as the carbon intensity of gasoline may continue to increase with greater use of unconventional fossil fuels.

The time has come to leverage ethanol's benefits by increasing to higher-level blends of fuel. NFU supports higher-level ethanol blends that can replace petroleum-based octane additives with a cleaner renewable fuel that would reduce emissions of particulate matter and air toxics such as benzene, toluene, and xylene. Ethanol is proved to reduce harmful greenhouse gasses that have been shown to cause many health conditions and cancer. In short, consumers would benefit from projected fuel cost savings, reduced price volatility, increased torque in performance applications, and the energy security and environmental attributes of mid-level ethanol blends.

The use of biodiesel in fuel blends also offers multiple advantages over using fully petroleum-based fuels. Reductions in particulate and hydrocarbon emissions help to reduce smog and promote healthier air. Biodiesel also offers the advantage of being able to be produced from multiple existing and readily available renewable fuel stocks to adapt to market conditions. One of the biggest advantages of biodiesel is its ability to serve as a fuel for applications where no other suitable alternative energy sources currently exist. Applications that require high torque such as farm machinery, locomotives, ships, and semi-trucks are examples of such uses. The increased use of biodiesel in these applications would cause a significant reduction in lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions compared to the use of petroleum-based fuels alone.

The wholesale granting of Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) waivers should be strongly reconsidered. Over the past four years a total of 88 waivers were granted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which has reduced biofuel demand by 4 billion gallons

and created a significant lost opportunity to the American biofuels industry and the farmers that produce the grain. Finally, these RFS waivers harm U.S. efforts to achieve energy independence and create an even bigger hurdle to achieving lower levels of greenhouse gas emissions to meet national and global climate change goals.

NFU calls on this Administration to support rural America by removing regulatory barriers to usage of higher-level blends of ethanol and establishing a high-octane fuel standard. Higher-level ethanol blends and increased use of biodiesel would benefit farmers, rural communities, our environment, and all consumers through lower prices at the pump. Now is the time for our nation to find and pursue bold and innovative strategies to dramatically expand the use of biofuels.