

Crops may be future fuel

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atter of time before the alcohol industry matures. He sees the oil companies as the only present threat to the infant business. But in some other nations, he reports, notably Brazil, gasohol research and production is going with full support. The manufacture of alcohol from crops for use as fuels was pioneered in Germany during World War II. Once the gasohol market is developed, Campbell sees it giving a sizable boost to crop demands and prices. That would mean a significant change in the farm economy. He adds, however, that the technology also being developed to produce gasohol from such unlikely sources as garbage. Even when crops are used to produce alcohol, the remainder of the crop is not necessarily wasted, he emphasized. Brewers grains, for example, are the leftovers when grains are used for alcohol production. The only difference between the alcohol produced for motor use and the kind used in drinks is that the fuel has a higher alcohol content, Campbell explained. Cars which appear annually on the Indianapolis

Motor Speedway have been running on alcohol ever since 1961, Campbell pointed out. He sees the product as having excellent energy properties.

Gasohol, by definition, is the mixture of alcohol and gasoline. Alcohol is the portion derived from crops. When the two fluids are mixed, the alcohol gives the resulting fuel - gasohol - a higher octane, Campbell explained. Although alcohol can't be produced cheaply with present systems, customers are willing to pay premium prices for gasohol, studies have shown. In one case, a service station increased its fuel sales more than six-fold once gasohol was advertised. Motorists paid as much as five cents per gallon more for gasohol, as opposed to gasoline. The study was done by the Iowa Development Commission.

According to Campbell, gasohol increases mileage ratings by about five per cent.

No problems are being reported by motorists and farmers who use gasohol in their vehicles. Theoretically, there could be some problems, such as phase separation, but none are being reported. Phase separation could

theoretically occur during low temperatures when the fuel mixture could split into its components.

Present technology yields 2.5 gallons of alcohol from one bushel of corn. The by-product could be used as cattle feed and contains 26 per cent protein, Campbell pointed out.

Campbell himself is an avid user of gasohol. He has driven his vehicle 20,000 miles in the past five months using gasohol for fuel. "I get a great response when people see it," the racing circuit representative commented.

Campbell sees the development of gasohol as bringing about a potential link between farmers and city people. He speculates that the American public could eventually regard the farmer as a soldier who is combatting the oil exporting nations with renewable fuels produced right here at home.

Campbell projects that 500 distilleries will have to be built to get the gasohol industry going full force. The price tag would be \$15 billion. The industry itself would be worth \$10 billion annually, he figures.

Farmers are playing a big role in the development of the industry, Campbell said. One big distillery being built in Rockport, Mo. is owned by a group of farmers. The American Agriculture Movement, which a year ago made national headlines as a result of its parades and protests in various political centers across the nation, is backing the gasohol movement all the way.



Gasohol - a mixture of gasoline and alcohol - is one realistic alternative to the energy crunch, according to Mo Campbell. It's a concept in which farmers would have a big stake because crops are a major source of alcohol.

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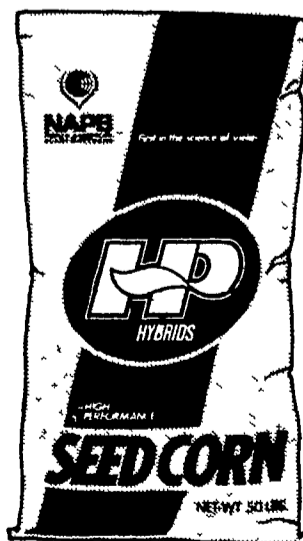
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