

# National Fuel Ethanol Panel Issues Report

ST. LOUIS, MO. — "The National Advisory Panel on Cost-Effectiveness of Fuel Ethanol Production concluded that increased use of ethanol can help our farmers, reduce oil imports, cut federal spending and improve the environment," said Keith Hora, president of the National Corn Growers Association (NCGA).

Hora, a corn farmer from Riverside, IA, noted that the seven-member panel was appointed by Secretary of Agriculture Richard Lyng in response to a law passed by the U.S. Congress and signed by the President establishing a high-level panel of agriculture, environmental and energy experts. These experts were chosen to do the following things:

- \* Review all involved in the manufacturer of ethanol (economics and cost of production) in modern ethanol production facilities.

- \* Assess the technologies that enabled the rapid growth of the ethanol industry since its inception in 1980.

- \* Assess ethanol's economic effect on U.S. agriculture.

- \* Analyze tradeoffs between federal production and marketing incentives for fuel ethanol and other agricultural programs designed to enhance farm income and adjust agricultural production.

- \* Analyze the effect of increased ethanol production on the agricultural economy.

- \* Analyze fuel ethanol's effect on agricultural prices and farm income.

- \* Analyze the effect of increased ethanol production on the balance of trade, energy security and air quality in the U.S.

In a statement delivered before the U.S. Senate regarding the Fuel Ethanol Cost-Effectiveness Study, Senator Robert Dole (R-KS) said, "As a cornerstone of U.S. energy policy, ethanol represents one of very few commercially-proven liquid fuels capable of replacing vulnerable petroleum imports in our highly oil-dependent transportation sector."

Senator Dole also said, "The Advisory Panel's report makes clear that the most important factor in determining the future growth

and development of the domestic ethanol industry is consistent and reliable public policy. Specifically, I am talking about the federal government's support for the continuation of current federal excise tax incentives."

Highlights of the report are:

- \* Increased use of ethanol will improve the farm economy, lower federal farm program costs, and cut foreign oil imports.

- \* Greater use of ethanol in the nation's gasoline supply could cut carbon monoxide emissions by 10-30 percent, substantially improving air quality in cities that exceed federal carbon monoxide levels.

- \* The cost of ethanol will probably drop in the near future due to increased production efficiency. More industry development, coupled with federal incentives, will make ethanol price competitive with gasoline.

NCGA's board of directors expressed great concern last week over the handling of the report by USDA's Office of Energy. While the U.S. Congress directed the USDA to conduct the study at the department's expense, a disclaimer appears on the report stating that the study "is not" a report of the USDA.

NCGA's leaders raised questions why the USDA has not distributed this report as aggressively as a 1986 report on the same subject.

"We hope Secretary Lyng will take appropriate action to correct the situation," added Hora.

A copy of the full report can be obtained by contacting Earle E. Gavett, Director, Office of Energy, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250. Please specify the November 1987 issue of the Cost-Effectiveness of Fuel Ethanol Production Report.



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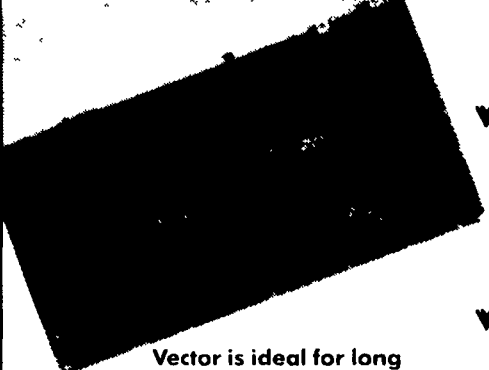


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