

Corn Prices Under Threat If Act Limits Ethanol Use

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Limiting ethanol's role in the Clean Air Act Amendments (CAAA) will reduce ethanol demand, cut the amount of corn needed for ethanol production and, ultimately, depress corn prices, a representative of the National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) told a House Agriculture subcommittee.

"This situation is especially discouraging for corn farmers who anticipated a significant new market for their product and to the rural communities that would gain job opportunities through value-added products. But most important is the loss of clean air benefits that can come from ethanol blends," said Missouri Corn Growers Association President Byron Fink, who testified on NCGA's behalf.

He asked the committee to consider the following, while the Environment Protection Agency (EPA) develops final rules for the CAAA reformulated gasoline program (RFG).

- The loss of the reformulated gasoline market would reduce the price farmers receive for corn by an average 24 cents per bushel.
- The impact of lower corn prices would increase government

expenditures for feed grain support programs by an average \$1.9 billion per year from 1992 through 2005.

• Farmer profitability would suffer. Despite higher deficiency payments to compensate for lower prices, net returns would be reduced by the difference between actual production and production eligible for program payments.

• The U.S. economy would suffer. The reduced value of corn output alone would cost the nation's economy \$5.6 billion per year in lower gross output. Total employment in the nation's economy would be reduced by 134,694 jobs each year between 1992 and 2005.

Since 1979, ethanol production in the U.S. has increased steadily.

In 1991, an estimated 390 million bushels of corn were converted to fuel ethanol. With the passage of the 1990 CAAA, NCGA anticipated a greatly enhanced market for ethanol blends. Corn utilization for ethanol production would more than double by 1995 because of the oxygenated fuel and reformulated gasoline program.

Critics claim ethanol increases some precursors to ozone. However, there is competent scientific evidence that has been accepted by EPA and Congress that additional evaporative emissions from ethanol blends do not contribute to ozone formation given the lower reactivity of those emissions and considering the reduction in tailpipe emissions.

PSU Offers Tours Of Research Farm

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — Penn State's Haller Livestock-Forage Farm has been the site of many innovative pasture research projects over the years, and 1992 is no exception.

Interested groups are invited to arrange tours of the facility, located near the University Park Airport between State College and Bellefonte.

"We're in the final phase of a three-year project to compare grazing systems of different intensities — including systems where animals are moved to different pastures daily, weekly, or monthly," said Dr. Lowell L. Wilson, professor of animal science in Penn State's College of Agricul-

tural Sciences.

"We've seen several advantages of shorter grazing durations, including increased animal production per acre, better sheep performance when sheep and cattle are grazed together, and several other interesting observations."

Because of the farm's research nature, 12 subfarms have been developed to allow accurate comparisons of the different management systems. The need for effective but inexpensive fencing systems to keep animals on their assigned pastures prompted farm managers to design and install state-of-the-art fencing and watering equipment.

"One experimental grazing sys-

tem tested this year was pasturing different combinations of livestock," Wilson said. "For instance, beef cows with calves and ewes with lambs are grazed on separate pastures, and then both are grazed on the same pasture simultaneously."

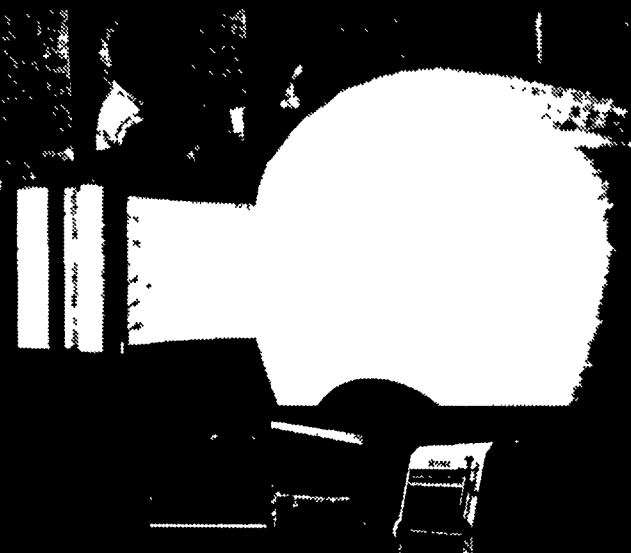
The farm's beef cow herd is crossbred Angus/Simmental/Charolais and was started 20 years ago. "The cows are bred artificially using commercially available bulls," Wilson said. "The 205-day adjusted weaning weights of the herd range from 575 to 675 pounds." The farm's sheep are from the dairy and animal science department's commercial and purebred

ewe flocks.

The farm's research and demonstration projects make it popular with visitors. According to Peter LeVan, research assistant, and Richard Todd, research aide, more than 500 people have visited the farm to see the fencing and watering systems, to observe the selection and breeding methods used in the beef herd, and to learn more about the efficiency of different grazing management systems.

Tours of the Haller Farm can be arranged by contacting Dr. Lowell L. Wilson, 324 Henning Building, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA 16802, (814) 863-3659.

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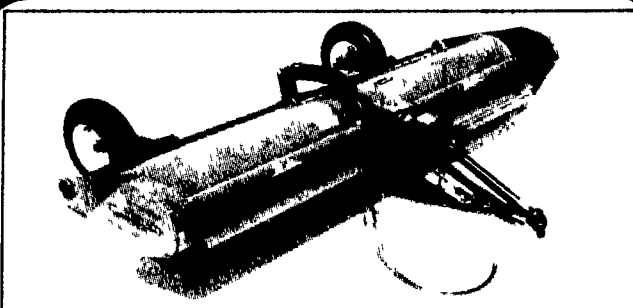
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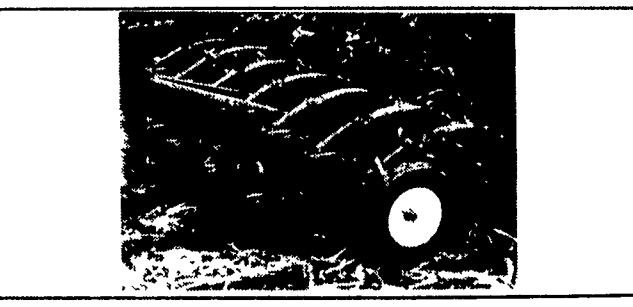
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