

Corn Growers Help To Secure Ethanol's Future

ST. LOUIS, Mo. — Corn growers, though busy with field work, are showing support for ethanol and a potential 500 million bushel market for the crop they are planting.

"Since corn farmers all across the country are now either in the field or getting ready to go, we thought it would be ideal to let the President know just how important this ethanol market is by sending seed tags from the farm with a handwritten note," said Pete Wenstrand, an Essex, Iowa corn farmer and president of the National Corn Growers Association (NCGA).

By June, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is expected to issue a final rule on the Renewable Oxygenate Requirement (ROR) of the Clean Air Act's Reformulated Gasoline (RFG) program. The RFG program requires major urban areas to reduce carbon monoxide levels to acceptable tolerances. Under ROR, the Clinton Administration is proposing that 30 percent of the oxygenates required in reformulated gasoline come from renewable fuels such as ethanol. NCGA estimates ROR may generate additional demand for ethanol requiring as much as 500 million bushels of corn.

"This is a unique opportunity to expand consumer demand for ethanol," said Pete Wenstrand. "It's critical that corn growers fully demonstrate their support for the ROR initiative. Even at this late date, 'big oil' and petroleum

interests would love to derail ethanol. Already attempts are being made to 'water down' or eliminate the ROR. Corn growers aren't going to let this happen. Ethanol, a renewable fuel with proven environmental benefits, has earned the right to compete fairly in the marketplace."

NCGA, along with 24 state-affiliated corn grower associations and numerous other farm organizations, is sponsoring a seed tag drive. From Minnesota to Mississippi, corn growers plan to flood the White House with corn seed tags bearing words of support for ethanol. Many of the messages point out that each bag of seed corn represents more than 750 gallons of ethanol.

Farmers are encouraged to send notes that say something like, "Mr. President, the seed from this bag will produce 750 gallons of renewable ethanol. We support your proposal, don't let us down." Or, "Mr. President, each tag represents about 300 bushels of corn. Renewable ethanol provides a market for that corn, please don't let us down."

Corn growers are encouraging agribusinesses to support the seed tag drive. In Iowa, elevators are displaying posters urging farmers to participate. Also, seed companies are alerting their customers to the pressing need to support ethanol. "The Clinton Administration needs to know farmers are monitoring progress on the ROR initiative even during the busy

planting season," said Wenstrand.

Also, Congress is learning the "good word" about ethanol. On April 18, NCGA, the American Farm Bureau Federation, the National Farmer's Union are co-sponsoring an ad in Washington, DC's "Roll Call" newspaper. The

ad reminds legislators that 'Renewable,' (the 'good word' in the Renewable Oxygenate Requirement), provides substantial benefits including economic security, support for American agriculture, cost effectiveness and safety, more American jobs and cleaner

air. In addition to the seed tags and the ad, NCGA leaders are sending President Bill Clinton a personal letter expressing appreciation for his longstanding support for ethanol and emphasizing the crucial need for a strong ROR initiative.

Bottle Bill Backer Urges Use Of Deposits

ALBANY, N.Y. — One of the key players in the fight for the original bottle bill is saying that the unreclaimed bottle deposits should be used for solid waste management and water quality initiatives.

The 23,000-member New York Farm Bureau believes that the unreclaimed 5-cent bottle deposits — estimated to be more than \$70 million a year — should be used to fund county recycling programs, landfill closures, and the state's non-point source pollution control program.

"Reducing the waste stream through local recycling efforts and funding non-point source pollution programs are important environmental priorities that should be addressed," said NYFB President Charles Wille. "Farmers are this country's original environmentalists and believe strongly in pro-

tecting the environment for future generations. That is why Farm Bureau has been so pro-active in areas like recycling, water quality and reducing ag chemical usage through integrated pest management."

According to Wille, "The unreclaimed 5 cent per bottle deposit monies have been lost since the Bottle Bill was signed into law over a decade ago. It would not only be advantageous but appropriate that these dollars be used to help fund solid waste management and water quality efforts through the newly-created Environmental

Protection Fund.

"Farm Bureau has long fought for a pay-as-you-go approach for addressing the state's most pressing environmental concerns like solid waste management and water quality," said Wille. "We led the fight against the 1990 Environmental Bond because it would have sent the state deeper in debt."

Wille went on to say that Farm Bureau is pleased that Governor Cuomo is fighting to get the unreclaimed bottle deposit refunds for the protection of our environment.



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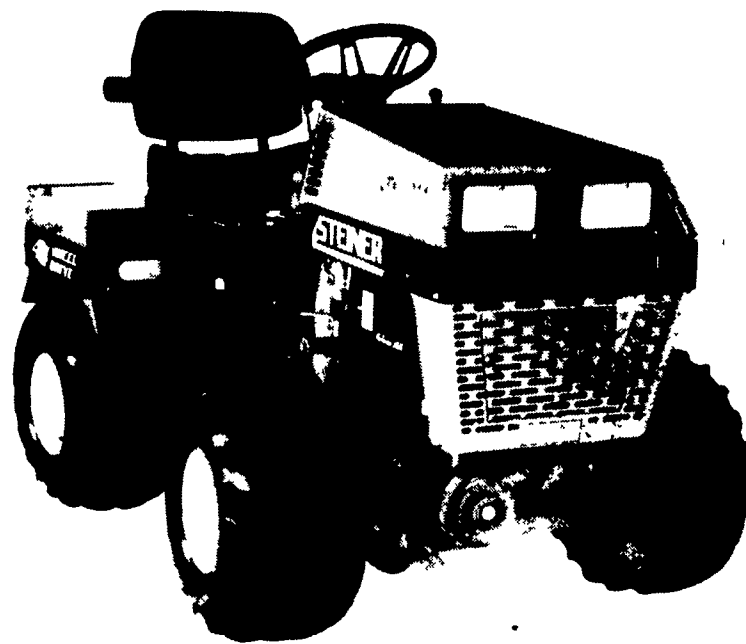
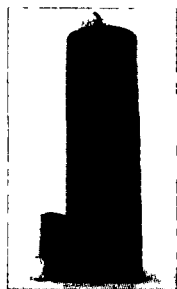
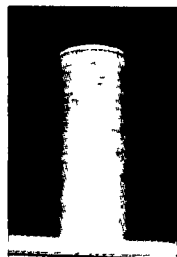


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