

CORN TALK NEWS

PENNSYLVANIA MASTER CORN GROWERS ASSOC., INC.

Corn Brief Filed On Renewable Oxygen Requirement

ST. LOUIS, Mo. — The National Corn Growers Association (NCGA), along with the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) and the American Coalition for Ethanol (ACE) filed a joint amicus curiae, "friends of the court," brief with the U.S. Court of Appeals, District of Columbia on the Renewable Oxygenate Requirement (ROR). The brief was filed to address efforts by the petroleum and methanol industries to stop the ROR.

The ROR was developed and proposed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to address various environmental, energy security and economic issues achievable with the use of renewable fuels in the reformulated gasoline (RFG) program. Without the ROR, the NCGA and others contend that the RFG program would be a one oxygenate program for methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE), a methanol based oxygenate produced by the petroleum industry.

Rod Gangwish, NCGA president and a Shelton, Neb., corn grower said, "The ROR will help to ensure a role for ethanol in RFG. The EPA promulgated this rule after careful consideration of the environmental, economic and energy security benefits that this program would help to achieve."

The brief filed by the NCGA, AFBF and ACE cites historic increasing ethanol pro-

duction trends over the last 12 years, while at the same time corn acreage has decreased. Modern farming practices and much more energy efficient equipment contribute to the net energy reduction in agriculture. In addition, statistics have shown that nearly 50 percent of present corn acres are farmed using some type of conservation tillage practices, which also reduces energy and environmental impacts. In 1994 alone, nearly 75 million gallons of diesel fuel were saved in corn production as a result of conservation tillage programs.

The brief also cites the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from the utilization of a renewable resource like corn. "Contrary to claims made by the oil and methanol industries in their brief," Gangwish said, "the EPA is convinced there are long term environmental benefits to be derived from the expanded use of ethanol. They believe the global warming impact of reduced greenhouse gas emissions achievable from ethanol use are significant and more than support its implementation."

The Court of Appeals will hear final oral arguments in January of 1995 and should deliver a decision on the case sometime in the spring. At stake is a potential future market for 800 million bushels of corn.

AFBF is the nation's largest general farm organization.

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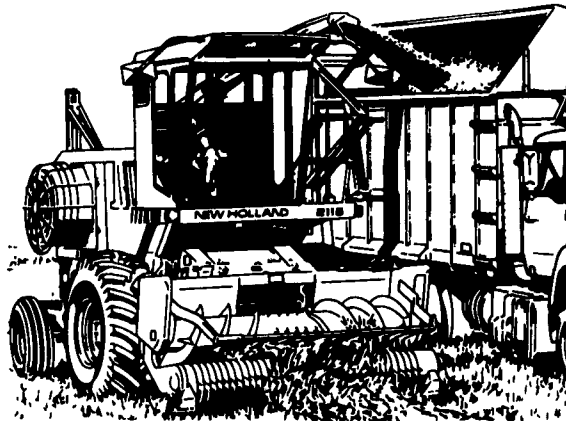
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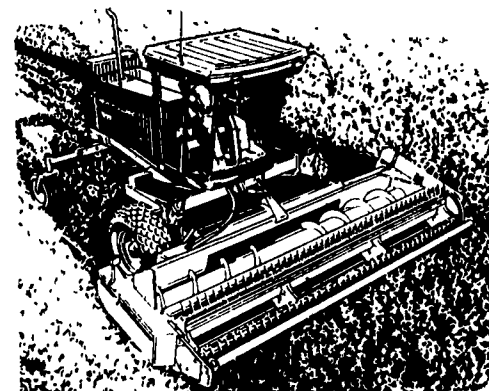
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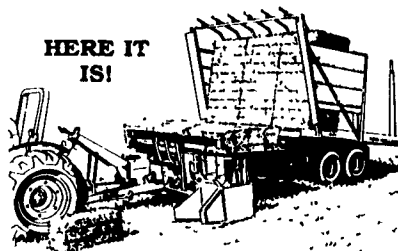


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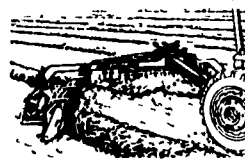
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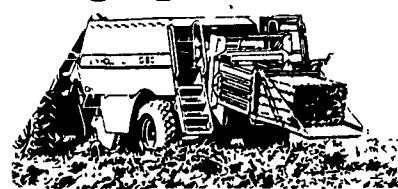
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