

Corn Growers Break Into New Market

ST. LOUIS, Mo.—The nation's corn farmers broke ground in more ways than one in St. Louis, Mo. About 40 National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) members gathered in August for the groundbreaking ceremony of the first major metropolitan public E-85 (85 percent ethanol) refueling station in the U.S.

This is the first of 40 stations earmarked for the beginning of an E-85 refueling network throughout the Midwest.

NGCA and its state affiliates have long-supported the increased use of ethanol fuels such as E-85 through farmer-invested corn checkoff dollars.

E-85—a cleaner-burning, higher octane version of ethanol—generates tremendous environmental stewardship, said Phil Lampert, NCGA E-85 project coordinator. A 1996 Ford Taurus built to accommodate the fuel already meets Environmental Protec-

tion Agency air quality mandates for the year 2004. General Motors plans to utilize the same technology in its S-10 line of pickups beginning in 1997.

Lampert cites a number of benefits to using E-85 fuels. According to studies, drivers can expect increased mileage. Cars fueled with ethanol average five to ten percent higher mileage per gallon than gasoline-powered cars. E-85 Chevy Lumina's have been averaging 18-20 miles per gallon.

Although the E-85 fuel sold at this first station will be slightly more expensive than regular gasoline—approximately 10 cents per gallon—Lampert said it will be very competitive in reformulated gasoline markets.

"E-85 vehicles have the lowest emissions of all petroleum-derived fuel alternatives," said Ryland Utlaug, chairman of NCGA's Market

Development Committee. "When combining emissions, performance, mileage, price and cost for the delivery system, E-85 is the best alternative fuel available."

"This is really a flexible form of fuel," Lampert said. "There will be no switches, nothing to throw. The driver will have no knowledge other than a gauge that incites what percentage of alcohol is in the tank. The beauty of it is it's going to increase profitability for corn growers, we're going to be able to produce it domestically, and we're going to be able to promote energy independence."

By 2010, E-85 fuels could increase demand of corn by 500,000 bushels, Lampert said. Every 100 million bushels of corn ground for ethanol increases the price of corn by five cents per bushel.

That is definitely something Rod Gangwish, NCGA president and a farmer from Shel-



CORN TALK NEWS

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ton, Neb., can appreciate. Although percentage-wise E-85 is not a large market, it is a new market. And the more corn processed, the more dollars in the pockets of growers across the country.

"We've got a new product

with a new pump, a new supply and a new car. Who knows what could happen," Gangwish said. "We have a commitment from government to use cars, from private industry to supply fuels and from farmers to grow and promote. We have plenty backing this up."

Corn Stover — Feed For Cattle?

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — Farmers short on forage or cash may want to consider feeding corn stover (fodder minus the ears) as part of the forage ration for their cattle, especially young stock and dry cows.

It is comparable in energy content to average hay on a dry matter basis.

The biggest drawback in feeding corn stover is its physical nature.

Ensiling while it is still green or mixing dry material with higher moisture hay-crop forage after killing frosts may make it more acceptable to cattle. It also may be baled, particularly as large packaged bales, for self-feeding.

Liquid anhydrous ammonia may be applied to increase its protein equivalent content and help in preservation. Usually 20-35 pounds of liquid anhydrous ammonia may be applied

per ton of dry stover via bale injectors or equipment on the baler.

This should increase the protein content of stover to about 10-14 percent on a dry matter basis.

Because stover is relatively devoid of vitamins A and E, it is recommended that the amounts fed be limited to about 20 percent of the normal forage dry matter fed to milk cows.

Stover may provide up to 1/3 of the forage dry matter for dry cows or bred heifers until 2 to 4 weeks prior to expected calving. Then limit it to 20 percent or less.

This means a large breed cow may be fed about 5 to 6 pounds of stover dry matter while a 700-pound heifer might get 3 to 5 pounds daily.

The key to its use is to include it in a well-balanced ration with proper amounts of protein, minerals, and vitamins.



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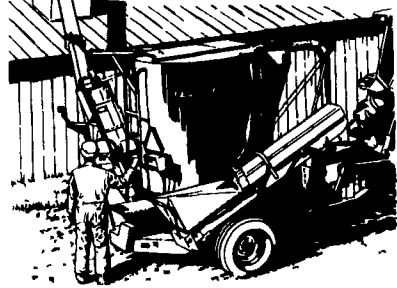
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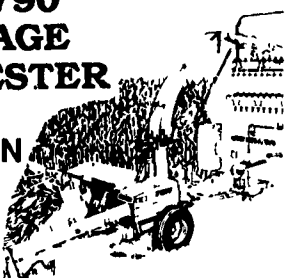
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