



CORN BITS

Ethanol Supporters Urge Passage Of Reformulated Fuels Act

NCGA and the Renewable Fuels Association recently urged President Clinton and his administration to support passage of the Federal Reformulated Fuels Act (S. 2962) before the conclusion of the 106th Congress.

The bill, which was approved Sept. 7 by the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, would ban MTBE in four years and create a national program requiring the use of renewable fuels.

In a Sept. 19 letter to Clinton, NCGA President Lynn Jensen and RFA President Eric Vaughn wrote, "There has never been a more pressing need to promote the increased value-added production of domestic, renewable fuel ethanol.

They noted that the Clean Alternative Fuels Program proposed in S. 2962 would generate jobs, increase farm income, reduce farm program expenditures, and reduce U.S. dependence on imported oil.

It's time to turn up the heat and tell Congress to pass renewable fuels legislation this year. Visit NCGA's home page (www.ncga.com)

for more information on how you can help.

Corn Checkoff Dollars Launch Fiber Research Project

The NCGA and Archer Daniel Midland (ADM) on Sept. 15 announced the beginning of a new two-year research project partnership that is expected to expand corn markets.

The goal of the research is to create a commercial manufacturing process that converts corn fiber or bran into higher valued products. These would include chemical feedstocks such as ethylene glycol and propylene glycol for antifreeze, and fuels such as ethanol.

Corn fiber or bran is an abundant by-product of the wet milling industry and is used as low-priced feed. The project won't provide a quick-fix to the current low prices corn growers are facing because of the nation's 10 billion-bushel corn crop. But it is another example of how NCGA has been using grower checkoff dollars to fund research that creates higher valued products from corn.

Producing the higher valued products will grind more corn, and reducing the supply of corn ultimately im-

proves prices. Growers will benefit from the entire project and leverage their investment of checkoff dollars 10-to-1.

In the \$2.5 million project, NCGA, as the project manager, will contribute \$250,000 in staff management and ADM will provide about \$600,000 in researcher time and other resources. DOE has awarded a \$1.7 million grant for the research. Battelle Pacific Northwest National Laboratory of Richland, Wash., is a subcontractor for the project.

This is another milestone on the road to biobased industries and new markets for renewable resources. DOE's Vision for the Agricultural Industry of the Future program has a goal of having renewable resources provide 10 percent of the consumer chemical feedstock market by 2020. The \$1.7 million DOE grant is part of DOE's Bioproducts and Bioenergy Technology program, a new effort that develops opportunities in bioproducts, biopower and biofuels.

NCGA Welcomes EPA Report Showing No Risk To Butterflies From Bt Corn

The NCGA welcomed a report recently by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that refutes claims about biotech's alleged impact on Monarch butterflies.



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PENNSYLVANIA MASTER CORN GROWERS ASSOC., INC.

In August, research by two Iowa State University entomologists suggested that *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) corn pollen might have an adverse impact on Monarch butterfly populations. However, the EPA said that tests performed on Bt corn, cotton, and potato crops confirm the agency's original findings that there are "no unreasonable adverse effects from these products."

"Overall, the available information indicated a very low probability of risks to Monarchs in areas beyond the near-edge of cornfields," the EPA noted. The agency concludes that the published preliminary Monarch toxicity information is not sufficient to cause undue concern of widespread risks to Monarch butterflies.

'Know Where to Go' With Biotech Grain

Recently, Genetic ID announced it had detected Cry9C in Taco Bell taco shells.

Cry9C, or StarLink, a biotech protein developed by Aventis Corp., has not received approval for food use

in the U.S. or abroad.

NCGA is skeptical about the report for several reasons: less than one-half of one percent of total 2000 U.S. corn acreage is planted to biotech corn containing Cry9C, and NCGA questions the validity of Genetic ID's findings, largely because of its own skepticism of biotechnology, the antibiotech stand of the group that ordered the testing, and its past record of drawing conclusions about the presence of genetically modified materials that were later proven inaccurate.

Regardless of the alleged findings, NCGA is stepping up its "Know Where To Go" campaign for harvested biotech corn, reminding all participants in the food production chain to take special care in handling hybrids contain StarLink and any corn grown within 660 feet of it.

According to the licensing agreement, grain from StarLink hybrids is to be directed into domestic feed and non-food industrial markets. Likewise, this grain is not approved for export sale, and must be kept out of these markets.

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