



Iowa Renewable Fuels Association

# GREEN Team

Grassroots Renewable Energy Network

Newsletter for renewable fuels advocates

5505 NW 88th Street #100 • Johnston, IA USA 50131-2948 • 515-252-6249 • FAX 515-225-0781

December 20, 2010

Issue # 120

## IRFA Announces \$4,000 Renewable Fuels Video Contest for Iowa High School Students

The **Iowa Renewable Fuels Association (IRFA)** today announced the launch of its \$4,000 **“Fuel the Future”** video contest for Iowa high school students. IRFA is looking for the best student video highlighting the importance and benefits of renewable fuels—such as ethanol and biodiesel—to local communities, Iowa and the nation. The top four video entries will receive prizes in the amounts of \$2,000, \$1,000, \$600 and \$400 respectively; will be featured at the **2011 Iowa Renewable Fuel Summit** on January 25<sup>th</sup>; and will be posted on IRFA’s YouTube® channel. The contest opens December 15<sup>th</sup>, and all entries must be received in the IRFA office by January 17<sup>th</sup>.

“With limited job opportunities for students over Christmas break, the ‘Fuel the Future’ video contest gives high schoolers another chance to earn some money while educating their classmates and the general public about the benefits of ethanol and biodiesel in the process,” said **IRFA Biofuels Manager Grant Menke**. “IRFA encourages as many video submissions as possible. So students, if you’re bored over the break, gather your friends, get out your video camera, and earn some big bucks with biofuels!”

The “Fuel the Future” contest is limited to students currently attending high school (grades 9-12 in a public, private or home school) in Iowa. Video submissions may not exceed five minutes in length, must be saved in .mov, .avi, or mpeg format, and must be sent to IRFA on a DVD or flash drive. All completed video entries must be received in the IRFA office by January 17, 2011, to be considered for the contest.

–See **Fuel the Future**, Page 2–

## Passage of Federal Tax Package Spurs Iowa Job Creation

On December 17, 2010 the U.S. House passed a comprehensive tax package by a wide margin, voting 277 to 148 to send the bill to **President Barak Obama** for his signature. Included in the package was the retroactive extension of the biodiesel blenders tax credit through 2011. Also included was an extension of the ethanol blenders tax credit at the current rate of 45 cents per gallon through 2011.



Barack Obama

**Iowa Renewable Fuels Association (IRFA) Executive Director Monte Shaw** responded: “Last night’s action by the House sends a very strong bill for renewable fuels to the President for his signature. And even before that ink will dry the positive impact is being felt. IRFA has received word that biodiesel plants are already putting sales contracts in place and making the necessary arrangements to begin rehiring at some plants.”

Shaw continued: “At the same time, the ethanol incentive extension should keep our Iowa ethanol plants running. An abrupt end would have caused market disruptions and likely led to ethanol plant shutdowns. Today’s action sets the stage for strong renewable fuels demand. IRFA will now turn its attention to promoting state policies that put Iowa at the forefront of breaking through the E10 blend wall and jumpstarting Iowa biodiesel production.”

**For more Green Team Newsletters visit our website at:**  
[http://iowarfa.org/news\\_green.php](http://iowarfa.org/news_green.php)

For more information, including the official entry form and contest rules, please visit [www.iowarfa.org/FueltheFuture.php](http://www.iowarfa.org/FueltheFuture.php). For additional questions, please contact Grant Menke at (515) 252-6249 or [gmenke@iowarfa.org](mailto:gmenke@iowarfa.org).

IRFA also thanks the **Iowa Office of Energy Independence** for helping to make this contest possible through funding from its **Iowa Power Fund Community Grant** program.

### New IRFA Officers Announced at Annual Board Meeting



IRFA President,  
Walt Wendland

On Thursday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, the **Iowa Renewable Fuels Association** announced their officers for the new term. The **Board of Directors** elects officers for a one-year term. The officers for the fiscal year effective January 1, 2011 are:

- **President – Walt Wendland, Gold Grain Energy**
- **Vice President – Brad Albin, REG, Inc.**
- **Treasurer – Rick Schwarck, Absolute Energy**
- **Secretary – Steve Bleyl, Green Plains Renewable Energy**

Also elected to serve on the **Executive Committee** board were:

- **Past President – Bill Couser, Lincolnway Energy**
- **At-Large – Bruce Rastetter, Hawkeye Renewables**
- **At-Large – Tom Brooks, Western Dubuque Biodiesel**
- **At-Large – Brian Cahill, Southwest Iowa Renewable Energy**

### Port of San Francisco Expands into Biodiesel

The **Port of San Francisco** may be the new home to a 10 MMgy biodiesel production facility. The **Port Commission of San Francisco** recently approved a proposal by **Darling International** to convert part of a tallow rendering plant into a biodiesel facility. In 2006 there was interest in biodiesel, according to **Richard Berman, Regulatory Specialist** for the real estate division of the Port of San Francisco. “At the time, Darling International was sending tallow products off to cosmetics and soaps manufacturers, and then the company proposed to divert some of that to biodiesel,” Berman said.

“Darling International’s expansion into a biodiesel production facility at Pier 92 is another example of the commitment San Francisco is making to ensure a clean energy future,” **Mayor Gavin Newsom** said of the possible plant. “With this facility, we will be able to transform a locally generated waste into a low-carbon fuel to power local vehicles and create local green jobs. It doesn’t get much greener than that.”

A local ferry fleet that provides tours of the Bay currently uses B20 for all passenger vessels. Roughly 1,600 vehicles, 98% of San Francisco and the county’s diesel fleet, operates on a biodiesel blend. **Port Executive Director Monique Moyer** said the project is consistent and supportive of the city’s policies “to increase the recycling value of fats, oils and grease and promote the use and availability of alternative fuels.”

## 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Iowa Renewable Fuels Summit

*Thanks to our Sponsors!*

### Gold Sponsors

- \*Growth Energy
- \*McGladrey & Pullen

### Silver Sponsors

- \*American Coalition for Ethanol
- \*BetaTec Hop Products
- \*Fagen, Inc.
- \*FCStone LLC
- \*FSMember Companies/GROWMARK
- \*Iowa Corn
- \*Lallemand Ethanol Technology
- \*Pioneer
- \*Renewable Fuels Association
- \*Seneca Companies

*For sponsorship opportunities:*

<http://iowarfa.org/Summit.Sponsors.php>

## IRFA Donates to Food Bank of Iowa

With the help of donations, the **Food Bank of Iowa** is able to make the holidays brighter for local families in need. The **Iowa Renewable Fuels Association (IRFA)** as well as **Iowa Corn** were huge contributors to this seasons giving with a total of 2,057 lbs of food and \$1274 in cash donations this year. A donation of this size could help to feed a family of 4, three meals each day for 169 days. This is another example of how the biofuels industry is committed to feeding and fueling Iowa.



For more information about the Food Bank of Iowa and ways to help, visit

<http://www.foodbankiowa.org/HowtoHelp.aspx>

## New E85 Station!

*Kum & Go*

1725 NW 86<sup>th</sup> St.

Clive, IA 50325

Just north of University Ave.

(515) 223-5367

## Green Vision Group Tests Iowa Ethanol Technology

**Green Vision Group**, based in Fargo, North Dakota, is planning to open a test plant that would turn dry land sugar beets into ethanol, with future plans of building at least a dozen processing facilities throughout the state.

The biofuel would be produced from "energy beets," which are not the same as beets grown for human consumption. Energy beets are genetically bred for the making of renewable fuels, such as ethanol. Researchers involved in the project said the beets can produce two times as much ethanol as corn.

Green Vision said the demonstration facility would produce 3.5 million gallons of ethanol each year using technology developed by **Heartland Renewable Energy** of Muscatine, Iowa. The plant plans to open in 2012.

## USDA and Clean Fuels Foundation Raise FFV Awareness

Recently, the **Clean Fuels Foundation** announced that it will be working with the USDA on efforts to increase the use of ethanol blends in FFVs. A new public



awareness campaign, the **National FFV Awareness Campaign**, will aim to change the fact that as many as 75% of flex-fuel vehicle (FFV) owners don't know they

can fill their vehicles with E85. "Breaking through the blend wall begins with the 8 million FFVs on the road today, and reaching these drivers to make sure they know they can use ethanol blends up to 85 percent," said **Dallas Tonsager, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) under secretary for rural development**.

**The Governors' Biofuels Coalition** and the **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** are also supporting the awareness campaign. "More frequent use of higher blends of ethanol in flex fuel vehicles is one avenue that can further support meeting the volume requirements of the renewable fuel standard, which in turn results in additional greenhouse gas reductions," said **Paul Argyropoulos, EPA spokesperson**. "When fully implemented, the program will reduce GHG emissions equivalent to taking 27 million cars off the road. This awareness effort is another avenue which federal and private interests can work together to attain these goals."

## Weekly Ethanol Sales

According to **EIA** data, daily average ethanol production remained relatively unchanged. Average daily production for the week ending 12/10/2010 was 937,000 barrels per day (b/d), down from 939,000 b/d the previous week. The 4-week average rose to 913,000 b/d which is an annualized rate of 14 billion gallons.

Stocks for ethanol rose slightly to 16.7 million barrels, up from 16.4 million barrels.

Average daily gasoline demand also ticked higher to more than 392.6 million gallons per day. Expressed as a percentage, daily average ethanol production was 10.02% of average daily gasoline demand.

## RFA Mentors Student to Build E85 Lawnmower

Over the past several weeks, the **Renewable Fuels Association (RFA)** staff have mentored a **Washington, D.C.** high school senior at **School Without Walls**, helping him with his senior project of converting a gasoline powered lawnmower to run on E85 fuel.

The conversion required the replacement of plastic and rubber components as well as an adjustment of the fuel and air ratio within the engine itself. Over the course of the past several weeks, the student obtained the necessary parts for conversion. He replaced all of the rubber and plastic components – such as gaskets and fuel lines – with different materials capable of withstanding high alcohol blends.

Additionally, the high school student identified **George Washington University** students that helped to enlarge the jet hole thereby increasing the air/fuel ratio necessary to utilize E85. After returning the engine to proper working order, the lawnmower was able to run on E85.

## REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

### 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Iowa Renewable Fuels Summit 2011

January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011  
Polk County Convention Complex  
501 Grand Ave.  
Des Moines, IA 50309  
8:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.

*Be part of Iowa's Biofuels Revolution!  
Join industry leaders and decision makers as they discuss  
future opportunities for renewable fuels.*

**This event is FREE and open to the public**

Register at <http://www.IowaRFA.org>

#### Trade Show

Begins at 8:30 a.m. showcasing equipment and services for the renewable fuels industry

#### Program

Speakers will address various current industry issues, such as E15, the Blend Wall, and Growing Iowa's Biofuels Economy.

For any questions, call (515) 252-6249

## IRFA Letter to the Editor Regarding Ethanol Slams

Recently the **Iowa Renewable Fuels Association (IRFA)** sent a letter to the editor of the **Waterloo Courier**, regarding a column by **Jim Offner** in the Sunday issue, saying:

“The recent Sunday column by Jim Offner (Ethanol business can survive without subsidies) was a jumbled collection of off-base speculation and debunked myths. Quite frankly, the Courier can, and should, do better.

“Mr. Offner suggests that ethanol incentives are not worth the cost, while he neglects to discuss petroleum incentives. Oil industry subsidies in the US alone range from \$100-\$200 billion per year. After 100 years as the most profitable industry in the history of industries, can't Big Oil survive “without artificial props” as Mr. Offner calls them?

“Offner goes on to regurgitate debunked myths that ethanol leads to higher food prices and isn't eco-friendly. He cites no authorities for these claims. The fact is energy costs, speculation, weather events, and surges play a far greater role in food prices than ethanol. Grain used for ethanol represents just 3% of total worldwide grain use.

“Further, ethanol is eco-friendly on every imaginable level. Ethanol reduces tailpipe emissions, which is why ethanol is used in heavy smog areas. Ethanol reduces greenhouse gas emissions by more than 20% according to the EPA. Ethanol also displaces highly toxic petroleum components in gasoline.

“There is one thing that is beyond speculation. Eliminating investments in ethanol will put Iowans out of work and set back our march toward energy security. Neither is something Iowa can afford.”

*Merry Christmas & A Happy  
New Year,*



*From the Iowa Renewable Fuels  
Association!*