

From: "rlsprague@cox.net%inter2" <rlsprague@cox.net>
Subject: Farm Bill 2007 Official Comments - 10/29/2005 12:14 AM CDT
Date Sent: 10/29/2005 12:14:46 CDT
Date Received: 10/29/2005 12:15:51 CDT

Email: rlsprague@cox.net

FirstName: Ronald

LastName: Sprague

Address1: 552 E Ivy St

Address2:

City: Mesa

State: Arizona

zipcode: 85203

Question1: We seriously need to encourage farmers to plant ALL of their lands with crops that can be used as conventional market products, as animal feedstocks, AND as RENEWABLE ENERGY feedstocks. The spent mash from an Ethanol production operation has been proven to be a high protein, easily digestible animal feed. Allowing each farmer to own and maintain a fermentation and distillation plant to manufacture fuel would go a long way toward breaking the current monopoly held by the petroleum industry, and begin to develop a decentralized manufacturing and distribution system for renewable fuels. This way the farmer gets a piece of the action, and can cut his costs.

Question2: The farm bill should contain MAJOR incentives to encourage the production of BioDiesel and Ethanol.

Question3:

Question4: Encourage the planting of crops on surplus lands that normally would have been fallow, (with payments NOT to produce), with the objective of producing Ethanol and BioDiesel fuels. The use of crops for the production of renewable fuels will not deprive any one from eating, nor will it result in a net loss of energy, as some New York City "farm experts" are claiming. The energy obtained from the production of Ethanol exceeds by some 37% the energy required to sow, harvest, and distill the Ethanol product, plus the mash can be used as an animal feedstock. Similarly, the use of Rapeseed and Soybean crops can be used to produce BioDiesel fuels.

Question5: Encourage the production of Renewable Energy feedstocks! We will be on the downhill side of global peak oil production, starting in early 2007. 78% of the known oil reserves and producing wells for the world oil supply are in territories under the control of Arab nations. These people are NOT our friends. It took Brazil some 12 years to establish an alcohol based economy, using sugar beets and sugar cane as the feedstock base. We will not have that long before we start experiencing energy shortages unless we act now.

Question6: Don't study the renewable energy problem to death. do something to implement the production and distribution of renewable energy products now.

The internal combustion engines that are currently used in US vehicles will run perfectly well on straight Ethanol at 140 proof, as long as there is no residual gasoline in the fuel system to cause the separation of water from the alcohols. In very cold conditions, the engine may require priming with ether or with a small spray of gasoline in the intake manifold to start the engine. Similarly, diesel engines will run just fine on biodiesel, as long as tank and fuel line heaters are employed in cold weather climates to keep the fuel from gelling.