

# CORN SQUEEZE-UMS FOR YOUR CAR

## QUICK STATS

- ✘ **CONFERENCE:** Spending
- ✘ **TEAM:** Department of Agriculture
- **FUMBLE:** \$100 million in renewable energy research
- **HOW TO RECOVER THE BALL:** Congress should stop forcing Americans to buy more of a product they do not want

Over the past six years, USDA spent \$332 million on renewable energy research and recently decided to spend another \$100 million.<sup>389</sup> On May 29, 2015, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced USDA would invest up to \$100 million in a Biofuels Infrastructure Partnership to make more renewable fuel options available to American consumers.<sup>390</sup> Specifically, USDA will administer competitive grants to match funding for state-led efforts to test and evaluate innovative and comprehensive approaches to market higher blends of renewable fuel (such as E15 and E85). Americans have access to gasoline for their cars, but USDA and EPA want Americans to buy more corn ethanol instead of gasoline.

Creating new, higher ethanol blends will require developing and installing new gas pumps that are equipped to handle such high levels of ethanol. Currently typical gas pumps can deliver fuel containing up to ten percent ethanol (E10) and no more.

USDA also incentivized more than 850 growers and landowners, farming nearly 48,000 acres, to establish and produce dedicated, non-food energy crops for delivery to energy conversion facilities. The \$332 million invested over the last six years was used to accelerate research on renewable energy—from genomic research on bioenergy—from feedstock crops to development of biofuel conversion processes

and cost-benefit estimates of renewable energy production. In comparison to the initial investment and efforts toward more renewable fuel sources, \$100 million is just pocket change, right? Hard-working American taxpayers probably do not think so.

## RECOVERY

Do American families, farmers, and manufacturing industries really want more options at the gas pump? Americans are already offered “environmentally friendly” vehicle and fuel options. Developing the infrastructure to utilize and maintain those fuel options will cost billions of dollars.

The RFS has been a regulatory disaster with missed deadlines, increased fuel costs, and confused consumers. Most vehicles on America’s roads will void their warranty if they use more than E10 gasoline for fuel. But that has not stopped EPA from trying to force them to use it. Environmental groups have now rejected increasing ethanol use because of the massive water requirements and increased ozone production. Congress should stop federal mandates on fuel options and allow the market to move low-cost energy to consumers. In many regions of the U.S., ethanol is very affordable; in some regions it is not affordable. The federal government must stop forcing taxpayers to subsidize ethanol everywhere.

***For more information, please visit:***

[USDA: USDA to Invest Up to \\$100 Million to Boost Infrastructure for Renewable Fuel Use, Seeking to Double Number of Higher Blend Renewable Fuel Pumps](#)

[Agri-Pulse: USDA seeks to boost availability of E15, E85 at the pump](#)