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RINGNECK Energy

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Work moving quickly in all areas of plant

With winter's challenges behind us, we are progressing in many areas around the plant: fermentation, process, distillation, energy center, cooling tower, tank farm, and the grains area.

Pipefitters, iron, millwrights and electrical crews are working in the fermentation and process area. Cooling tower erectors are on site.

We are receiving numerous vessels and setting them in these areas. The tank farm sub-contractor is putting the liner down and foundations for the tanks are complete.

ICM, the process provider, has mobilized and began erecting steel in the energy center.

Winbco should be finished with the fermenters by the time this newsletter is published. They are also working on the slurry tank which will be complete shortly. They will be starting the liquifaction tanks and exterior tanks soon.

In grains, the DDG building has been erected and the floor poured. J&D is working on conveyors and towers. The receiving building pit and slab has been poured. The tunnel going from receiving building to the boot pit is complete, as is the boot pit.

We are currently working on iron and decking to get ready to pour the cap over the tunnel and boot pit. We will be starting the bin foundations as soon as the backfill is complete.

David VanderGriend, right, CEO of ICM, explains the fermentation process directional hub of the ethanol process system.

Atlas has been on site to drive piles for the day bin, the holding bin that feeds the grinders, to eliminate settling as a result of the two 750,000 bushel bins. Electricians are running conduit and installing lighting in DDG building.

With so many moving parts and different crews, the site is a constant buzz of activity.

—Rob Schladetzky, Project Manager, Fagen Inc.

Ford F-150 running clean on E30

With 100,000 miles driven, Bill Paulsen's 2.7L twin turbo charged F150 looks like new, at least from the inside. That was the result when Ford and ICM scoped the late-model half-ton pickup to see how using E30 would impact engine wear. Paulsen said that the experiment, being done in conjunction with Ford, showed no carbon deposits, and as a result, very little engine wear, with the factory cross-hatching still visible on the engine's cylinder walls.

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Grassley: Ethanol essential to US energy

By Sen. Chuck Grassley in the High Plains/Midwest Ag Journal, June 3, 2018

The conflict over the Renewable Fuel Standard between the EPA, Congress and special interest groups have left hardworking people throughout rural America with a growing sense of uncertainty about their futures.

An honest discussion about this program is long overdue. In order to do that, it's necessary to understand where the RFS began, how it evolved and the role it plays in ensuring American prosperity and security.

For decades, refiners have used octane enhancers. Lead was the most common but was replaced in the late 1970s by an organic compound called Methyl tert-butyl ether (MTBE). Twenty years later, Congress passed the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990, which required the use of oxygenated gasoline in areas with high levels of air pollution. The law increased MTBE's popularity because it helped reduced tailpipe emissions.

However, when MTBE was exposed as a public health risk, its use sharply declined, leaving refiners searching for an alternative. That alternative was ethanol.

In 2005, Congress passed the Energy Policy Act, which removed the oxygenate requirement for reformulated gasoline. It also instituted the RFS. Refiners eliminated MTBE from blending operations and switched entirely to ethanol.

In 2007, the Energy Independence and Security Act passed, expanding the RFS by extending yearly volume requirements and increasing long-term blending goals. The tax credit, what many called the "ethanol subsidy," given to oil companies to incentivize blending, was then allowed to expire.

Some continue to believe there is a federal subsidy for ethanol, but that hasn't been the case. The tax credit expired in 2011. Notably, the oil industry has yet to give up any of its specific tax incentives.

Ethanol supports nearly 350,000 jobs nationwide, largely in rural communities that need them most. It's the cleanest and most affordable fuel additive on the market and reduces polluting substances like carbon monoxide, exhaust hydrocarbons and toxins from tailpipe emissions. It also reduces America's dependence on foreign oil.

The addition of ethanol into the U.S. fuel supply and advances in shale production, which I also support, allowed for increased domestic energy production. In turn, imports of foreign oil have dropped significantly—a staggering 40 percent since the RFS was implemented.

In fact, the U.S. Energy Information Administration noted in an independent analysis that in 2017, net U.S. imports of "petroleum from foreign countries were equal to about 19 percent of U.S. petroleum consumption," which was the lowest percentage since 1967.

These developments have helped give America a stronger economic and strategic advantage on the world stage, empowering presidents to stand up to oil-producing adversaries like Venezuela and OPEC.

When refiners needed a clean, healthy alternative to MTBE, they embraced ethanol. But seemingly overnight, the relationship between ethanol and fossil fuels went from collaborative to combative. Efforts to thwart the RFS began in earnest and have led many to believe that the RFS is intended to distort the market. However, that's simply not the case.

Large oil companies, such as Exxon Mobil and BP, control the process from start to finish. They own the refineries that blend fuel and the gas stations that sell it. They oversee the delivery mechanisms and distribution process as well as the marketing of fuel.

Independent gas station owners are faced with contracts from fuel marketers that explicitly limit their ability to offer higher levels of ethanol blended fuels. In other words, oil companies control access to the market. Their continued attempts to limit the availability of ethanol products show that the oil industry is simply interested in oil's market share, not consumer choice.

As a free-market conservative, I believe that competition spurs innovation, encourages dialogue and ultimately delivers the best quality products to consumers. That's one of the many reasons I believe so strongly in ethanol as part of an all-of-the-above energy strategy.

The tone of our national energy policy discussions shouldn't be "us versus them." It must focus on how traditional and renewable fuels can both work to provide efficient, cost-effective and environmentally friendly products to the American people and the world.

At the end of the day, U.S. energy policy shouldn't be determined by competing industry interests because a competitive energy strategy should be everyone's No. 1 interest.

Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-IA, is a farmer and rancher and a member of the Senate Agriculture Committee.

Original publication: http://www.hpj.com/opinion/ethanol-critical-piece-of-america-s-energy-strategy/article_cfc9c524-583a-5167-a1f4-d114921cf8af.html.

Our Mission:

To produce renewable energy that adds value to grain and livestock production, enhances the income of our investor partners, provides a safe and rewarding work environment that creates economic opportunities for the surrounding area.

Goals for the Company:

- Produce 80 million gallons per year of bio-fuel ethanol focusing on the local, regional and national markets by fourth quarter 2018.
- Produce a high-protein feed source for the local livestock.
- Return maximum profits to member investors.
- Add value to agriculture in the area.
- Meet the standard 20% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.
- Improve efficiency with the latest technology.

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News around the industry

Mexican court overturns ethanol blending injunction

A federal tribunal in Mexico earlier this month overturned an injunction blocking ethanol blending from climbing to 10% from 5.8%, two sources connected to the case told S&P Global Platts.

"Effectively, today the collegiate court decided to revoke the suspension," said Juan Machado, a partner in the law firm SOLCARGO and the attorney who led the case in favor of the suspension.

The US Grains Council, an industry group focused on expanding agricultural exports to Mexico, was not available for comment as it digested the news. The Grains Council has spoken in favor of increasing ethanol blending in Mexico and criticized the injunction in the past.

The official filing from the court will likely follow in the coming days or weeks, Machado said. He added that the reversal of this injunction did not signal the end of his clients' opposition to increasing ethanol blending in the country.

Machado argued that a higher ethanol blend would increase particulate emissions, something Mexico has been trying to combat.

US groups have argued that research shows ethanol results in lower carbon and particulate emissions, helping improve air quality.

Oil industry groups, however, have cited conflicting studies that say higher ethanol volumes could result in increased particulate emissions.

Although the injunction has been overturned, the case around ethanol's future in Mexico is ongoing.

Based on data from the Mexican government, a nationwide E10 blend could create a 1.16 billion gallon/year market for ethanol.

"The opportunity is huge," said Steve Bleyl, US ethanol producer Green Plains' vice president of ethanol marketing, during a 2016 earnings call.

F-150 runs on E-30 ... from Page 1

Paulsen, who works with Energy Management Solutions, the third-party management company working with Ringneck Energy, says that in addition to reducing engine wear, E-30, which he is able to find throughout the four-state region in which he travels, reduces air pollution and is a lower-cost fuel.

Further examination of the engine will be done when it reaches the 200,000 mile mark early next year.

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