



For Immediate Release
May 13, 2010

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Ethanol Saves Consumers Money!

LANSING, MICH. – Gasoline prices continue to rise, but not to the heights they would without ethanol, a homegrown, renewable biofuel made from corn. Ethanol producers in the United States are continuing to meet the demand for ethanol to help reduce the cost consumers are paying for fuel at the pump. Consumers are not the only ones benefiting from ethanol's extension of the U.S. fuel supply; virtually every sector of the American economy is positively impacted.

“Many consumers are frustrated over the high price of gasoline, but the cost of filling up their tanks would be even higher if gas was not being blended with ethanol,” said Jody Pollok-Newsom, Corn Marketing Program of Michigan (CMPM) executive director.

In fact, the head of commodities research for Merrill Lynch, Francisco Blanch, told the *Wall Street Journal* that because of biofuels, a gallon of gasoline costs 15 percent less. That means consumers are saving up to 45 cents per gallon of gasoline, assuming gas is \$3.00 a gallon. The U.S. Energy Information Administration calculated that Americans used 378 million gallons a day, or 138 billion gallons of gasoline in 2008. With the cost benefit from biofuels, Americans are saving \$62 billion each year at the gas pump!

Ethanol saves consumers money as it extends our fuel supply when blended with gasoline. The most common consumer use of ethanol is E10, a blend of 10 percent ethanol and 90 percent gasoline. Many companies choose to blend ethanol because it provides consumers with a cleaner-burning, high-octane fuel. Currently, all automobile manufacturers warrantee the use of E10 in their vehicles. It is not required to label a pump enriched with ethanol in Michigan, so if you would like to know if the gasoline you are purchasing is blended with ethanol, simply ask the gasoline retailer. According to the Renewable Fuels Association, more than 90 percent of the gasoline in the Michigan is blended with ethanol at the 10 percent level.

Another ethanol blend of fuel available to consumers is E85, a blend of 85 percent ethanol and 15 percent gasoline. E85 can be used in flexible fuel vehicles (FFVs). FFVs have modified engines with the capability to run on varying octane levels, from gasoline at 87 octane up to E85 at 105 octane. A current list of FFVs and E85 pump locations can be found at www.e85fuel.com.

As you head out to visit family and friends this upcoming holiday weekend, keep in mind that the farmers you see hard at work in the fields are busy planting the corn which is used to make more than 600 different products, including one we can put in your car! Whether you're filling up with E10 or E85, you're using America's renewable resource – corn!

Headquartered in Lansing, the CMPM is a legislatively-established statewide program that utilizes one-cent per bushel of Michigan corn sold. Investments are made in the areas of research, education, market development, and new uses in an effort to enhance the economic position of Michigan corn farmers. The CMPM works cooperatively with the Michigan Corn Growers Association (MCGA), a grassroots-membership association representing the state's corn grower's political interests since the 1970's. Michigan's corn industry adds more than one billion dollars to the state's economy annually and in 2009, Michigan's corn farmers harvested a record setting crop of more than 309 million bushels. For more information, visit the website of the MCGA and the CMPM at www.micorn.org.