

Bioenergy Situation and Outlook

The Situation

The development of the corn-ethanol and biodiesel industries has resulted in large, new markets for North Dakota-grown corn and oilseeds.

Commercialization of next generation biofuels may require production of new dedicated energy crops, sustainable harvesting of crop residue, and collection of other biomass.

Farmers, lenders, and others involved in agriculture need a basic understanding of energy and biofuels markets, technology, and policy concepts as well as accurate, timely information to identify and evaluate possible opportunities and to make production and financial decisions.

Extension Response

NDSU Extension has responded to these needs by delivering Bioenergy Situation and Outlook talks across North Dakota.

These talks, given by David Ripplinger, Bioenergy/BioProducts Economics Specialist with NDSU Extension, introduce energy and biofuels market, policy, and technology concepts for participants to understand the current situation and outlook for biofuels.

Each talk is tailored to the specific audience and includes up-to-date information on energy markets, policy, and technology as well as short and long-term outlooks for biofuels and how North Dakota may be impacted.

During 2015, current issues discussed included global petroleum markets and their impact on domestic energy prices including biofuels, growing domestic gasoline use and its impact on ethanol consumption, and the impact of the Renewable Fuel Standard on biofuel use and production, with special attention given to the expected growth of biodiesel production and its impact on oilseed markets in the United States.

Impacts

More than 500 individuals attended bioenergy situation and outlook sessions in 2015. Participants in the Ag Lenders deliveries in Grand Forks, Minot, Bismarck, and Fargo were surveyed after the program was delivered. Respondents reported and increased understanding of the topic (from an average of 2.7 to 3.5/5.0). Three times as many reported that they expected to use the information as those that did not.

Feedback

Participants stated:

"Very thorough and unbiased."

"Face-to-face is best."

"I learned the most in the energy outlook."

"In-depth and adapted to this region."

Public Value Statement

Timely information and correct understanding of agriculture and energy markets are critical to North Dakota farmers.

Contact

David Ripplinger
Bioenergy/Bioprodukt Economics Specialist
614F Barry Hall NDSU
701.231.5265
david.ripplinger@ndsu.edu