


Federal legislation, regulation, litigation. Policy. Scholarships and Competitions. Plus Educational Resources. And Advanced Biofuels USA activities.


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*Advanced Biofuels USA, a nonprofit educational organization, advocates for the adoption of advanced biofuels as an energy security, economic development, military flexibility and climate change solution.*



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A tumble of pumpkins. Happy Halloween!

**Reminder - Advanced Biofuels USA Split Newsletter into Two Parts: *Conference Calendar*, which is sent separately; and *Policy, Legislation, Regulations and Happenings*—this one.** All can be found archived on our [NEWS page](#). Watch for news about new newsletter formats and subscription options coming this fall.

## Happenings on Capitol Hill, at the White House and in Federal Agencies

**New Tags:** [2016 US Presidential Campaign](#) and [2016 US House and Senate Campaigns](#)

**ELECTION  
2016**

*During the Presidential and Congressional campaign season, Advanced Biofuels USA is following comments by candidates to help **you** make sustainable renewable transportation fuels part of the 2016 campaign conversation. Click on these tags to keep in touch with the latest: [2016 US Presidential Campaign](#) and [2016 US House and Senate Campaigns](#). To find tags on [our website](#), just scroll down to the*

*bottom of the right margin.*

*MAKE YOUR THOUGHTS KNOWN! This is the year members of Congress listen especially well.*

### Latest Federal Legislation Posts



We follow proposed and actual federal legislation. Here are some key stories as we head to the final laps of this legislative session.

Key issues? It's the end of the year, so [Biodiesel tax credits](#) are in the mix. Carbon tax, carbon cost, carbon price, are brought up as ways to recognize externalities of fossil fuel and to level the playing field.

For more legislative news, [click here](#).

We also follow [policy developments](#) in the US, other countries and states. For more information on those topics, click on the name of the country or state that appears along the right margin of our website at [www.AdvancedBiofuelsUSA.org](http://www.AdvancedBiofuelsUSA.org).

### What's Up with RINs Prices?

October 7, 2016

by Scott Irwin (Farm Doc Daily/University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign) RINs prices have been making headlines in recent months, with prices at times crossing the psychologically important \$1 per gallon mark. Echoing earlier complaints (farmdoc ...

### It's Time to End the Myth That High RIN Prices Prove Existence of the Blend Wall

October 4, 2016

by Brent Erickson (Biotechnology Innovation Organization/Biofuels Digest) ... Data recently released by EPA refutes the widely held assumption that reaching and exceeding the blend wall caused the 2013 rise in RIN prices. This newly available ...

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### **Conservatives Call For Repeal of RFS**

**October 1, 2016**

(WHOTV.com) The Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank, last week released a sweeping critique of U.S. agriculture policy.

In a 148 page report, the foundation called for Congress to revamp crop insurance and food standards. It also ...

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### **Biodiesel Tax Credit Positioning Intensifies as Expiration Nears**

**September 29, 2016**

by Ron Kotrba (Biodiesel Magazine) ... The U.S. biodiesel industry, through its trade association the National Biodiesel Board, joined a broad coalition of 50-plus industry groups calling for action on tax extenders this year by sending ...

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### **Congress Should Not Be Allowed to Gut Fuel Efficiency Standards**

**September 28, 2016**

by Rep. Scott Peters (D-Calif.) ... Automakers have adapted innovations more quickly than anticipated. They implemented technology that wasn't even anticipated just four years ago and exceeded regulatory targets. As of last year, vehicles sold under ...

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### **Making the Case for Young Farmers**

**September 23, 2016**

by Keith Norman (The Jamestown Sun) ... Kasey Bitz was one of 44 farmers participating in the North Dakota Farmers Union legislative fly-in that returned from Washington, D.C., on Sept. 14. Members of the group met ...

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### **Rep Black Intros Biodiesel Tax Credit Extension Bill**

**September 22, 2016 –**

by Joanna Schroeder (Energy.AgWired.com) Another federal bill has been introduced to extend the biodiesel tax credit. Rep. Diane Black (R-Tenn.) has introduced the "Biodiesel and Renewable Diesel Incentive Extension Act of 2016" (H.R. 5994). The ...

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### **Like Consumer Choice at the Pump? Don't Back Blend Wall Bill**

**September 21, 2016**

by Rachel Gantz (Renewable Fuels Association) If legislation was introduced that would prevent the latest iPhone from being sold and instead require users to return to the days of big brick phones and other technology relics, ...

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### **ACE Ad Buy Urges Congress to Act on RVP Legislation**

**September 21, 2016 –**

(American Coalition for Ethanol) The American Coalition for Ethanol (ACE) kicked-off a two week ad campaign today in Environment & Energy Publishing (E&E), a Washington DC-based media outlet with five daily online publications and a ...

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## Latest on Federal Regulation



On the top this month are the EPA's proposed REGS regs. That is the Renewables Enhancement and Growth Support Rule. Once it is published in the Federal Register, you have 60 days to comment. One concern is an awful lot of attention given to expanding a fuel category that only flex fuel vehicles can use-- while at the same time knowing that auto manufacturers are halting production of FFVs (vehicles that can pass emissions standards when using any fuel from E0 to E85) due to expiring incentives in the CAFE standards.

Speaking of which, see also the articles about comments submitted in September on those CAFE standards.

Scroll down for information about regulations related to these topics and others among our [latest postings](#). Others you'll find in the [Federal Regulations](#) category online.

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### [EPA's Plan for Electric Vehicles Could Upend RFS Politics](#)

October 14, 2016 –

by Eric Wolff (Politico/Governors' Biofuels Coalition) The Obama administration's newest plan to stimulate sales of electric vehicles could deliver a political boost to supporters of the Renewable Fuel Standard, aligning automakers with biofuel backers against ...

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### [Fed Approval Paves Way for Low-Cost Cellulosic Ethanol Production](#)

October 12, 2016 –

by George Lurie (The Business Journal) In a first-of-its-kind ruling, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has approved Pacific Ethanol's registration of its Stockton ethanol plant to generate valuable credits by producing cellulosic ethanol with ...

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### [Biogenic CO2 Coalition Launches Grassroots Outreach: Urges EPA to Remove its Regulatory Roadblock to Development of the Bioeconomy](#)

October 12, 2016 –

(Biogenic CO2 Coalition) Today (October 6, 2016), a coalition of major agricultural groups launched a grassroots campaign to urge the Environmental Protection Agency to remove its regulatory roadblock to development of the emerging bioeconomy.

The Biogenic ...

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### [Recharge Wrap-up: VW Beetle EV? EPA Could Allow Higher Ethanol Blends](#)

October 11, 2016 –

by John Beltz Snyder (AutoBlog) Neste will sell its 100-percent renewable diesel at certain stations in Finland. Produced from renewable ingredients (including waste products), the company's NEXBTL fuel has a lower carbon footprint and fewer emissions than ...

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### [Drop-In Biofuel Developers See Promise in US EPA Rule Change](#)

October 11, 2016 –

by Meghan Gordon (Platts) US advanced biofuels production could get a boost under a rule change the Environmental Protection Agency is considering that would allow conventional refineries to receive renewable fuel credits for using drop-in biofuels ...

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### [EPA Proposes Poplar, Willow Trees for Ethanol in U.S. Biofuel Rule Tweak](#)

October 10, 2016 –

by Michael Hirtzer (Reuters) The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on Monday proposed tweaks to its Renewable Fuel Standard that would allow biofuels to be processed at more than one location and would allow cellulosic ethanol to ...

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### **Jolt of Electricity for RFS**

**October 10, 2016 –**

by Anthony Adragna (Politico's Morning Energy) The Obama administration's latest effort to stimulate sales of electric vehicles could deliver a political boost to supporters of the Renewable Fuel Standard, aligning automakers with biofuel backers against the ...

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### **Ethanol Industry Says Ethanol Can Help Meet CAFE, GHG Standards**

**October 6, 2016 –**

by Erin Voegele (Ethanol Producer Magazine) Ethanol industry leaders have weighed in on a draft technical assessment report for the midterm assessment on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and CAFE standards for model year 2022-2025 light-duty ...

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### **EPA's Proposed Enhancements to RFS Program Not a Surprise: RFA**

**October 6, 2016 –**

(Oil Price Information Service) EPA's move Monday proposing enhancements to its Renewable Fuel Standards program was "not at all unexpected," according to a Renewable Fuels Association (RFA) official.

"EPA has been very transparent about this particular ...

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### **The Road to High Octane Fuels**

**October 6, 2016 –**

by Jeremy Martin (Union of Concerned Scientists) ... 9 things you need to know about high octane fuel, and my perspective on a path forward.

High octane fuel enables more powerful or more efficient engines

... But in the context ...

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### **EPA Proposes Major Updates to RFS Regulations**

**October 4, 2016 –**

by Erin Voegele (Biomass Magazine) ... Within the proposed rule, the EPA explains that the RFS registration, reporting, recordkeeping and product transfer document (PTD) requirements were designed with the general expectation that renewable biomass would be ...

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### **Clinton's Plan to Reduce US Oil Consumption Likely Won't Work**

**October 4, 2016 –**

by Tom DiChristopher (CNBC) ... Clinton says she would extend standards for vehicle fuel efficiency, methane emissions, building codes and appliance standards that President Barack Obama implemented or supported, according to a campaign spokesperson. Clinton supports ...

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### **EPA Releases Ethanol Flex Fuel Rule/(REGS) Rule**

**October 4, 2016 –**

(Fuel Marketer News) Today, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released their proposed rule for Ethanol Flex Fuel and Renewable Enhancement and Growth Support (REGS) Rule. This proposal intends to provide regulatory clarification for ethanol blends ...

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### **Proposed Renewables Enhancement and Growth Support (REGS) Rule**

**October 4, 2016 –**

(Environmental Protection Agency) EPA is proposing enhancements to its Renewable Fuel Standards

(RFS) program and other related fuel regulations to support market growth of ethanol and other renewable fuels in the U.S. These proposed changes ...

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### **[“The Myth of High RIN Prices As Proof of the Blend Wall”: New Report](#)**

**October 4, 2016 –**

by Jim Lane (Biofuels Digest) In Washington, the Biotechnology Innovation Organization released the new white paper, “The Myth of High RIN Prices As Proof of the Blend Wall,” analyzing data recently released by EPA on ...

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### **[It’s Time to End the Myth That High RIN Prices Prove Existence of the Blend Wall](#)**

**October 4, 2016 –**

by Brent Erickson (Biotechnology Innovation Organization/Biofuels Digest) ... Data recently released by EPA refutes the widely held assumption that reaching and exceeding the blend wall caused the 2013 rise in RIN prices. This newly available ...

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### **[Americans Deserve Fuel Choices at the Pump](#)**

**October 3, 2016 –**

by Liz Mathis (Marion Times) Here in Iowa, we encourage gas stations to install flex fuel pumps and other equipment to offer homegrown, renewable ethanol and biodiesel. The Legislature’s investment of \$3 million this year ...

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### **[Letter: Will Renewable Fuel Standard Hurt Economy?](#)**

**October 3, 2016 –**

by Dirk Lohry, McCook Lake (Argus Leader) ... Sen. Mike Rounds is questioning corn ethanol’s future under the RFS. I know that seems counterintuitive, but in 2023, the Environmental Protection Agency will take control of the ethanol ...

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### **[USDA Results: Powering America with a More Sustainable Energy Future](#)**

**October 3, 2016 –**

(U.S. Department of Agriculture) ... The Obama Administration has pursued a carefully balanced approach, deploying technologies that improve the very best of our existing energy sources, while rigorously implementing policies that invest in the second and ...

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### **[Letter: A Big Vision Business Plan](#)**

**October 1, 2016 –**

by Jason Frerichs (Argus Leader) ... As a state senator, I am hopeful we can generate bi-partisan support for putting S.D. state-owned undesignated flex fuel autos on E30. Then, adjoining state leaders will be encouraged to ...

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### **[Sensenbrenner Extends RFS Debate to Number of Hoses at Gas Stations](#)**

**September 30, 2016 –**

by Jack Fitzpatrick (Morning Consult) Rep. Jim Sensenbrenner (R-Wis.) is concerned that drivers who want to avoid a 15 percent ethanol blend of gasoline won’t be able to, he said in a letter to Environmental ...

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### **[Advanced Biofuels USA Submits Comments on CAFE Standards Midterm Review](#)**

**September 30, 2016 –**

(Advanced Biofuels USA) Advanced Biofuels USA fully supports meeting the 2022 CAFE standards. It is our understanding that the key to vehicle manufacturers meeting these standards rests on the ability to use high levels of ...

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### **#Ethanol Groups Submit CAFE Comments**

**September 30, 2016 –**

by Joanna Schroeder (Energy.AgWired.com) Comments regarding the goals of the CAFE-GHG standards were due yesterday (September 26, 2016) to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and ethanol organizations made their voices heard.

Comments submitted by the ...

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### **ACE's New E15, Flex Fuel Retailer Roadmap**

**September 29, 2016 –**

by Ron Lamberty (American Coalition for Ethanol/Ethanol Producer Magazine) With high-profile convenience store chains announcing the addition of E15 and flex fuels to their traditional fuel slates, other chains and individual station owners increasingly are ...

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### **Will Changing the Point of Obligation Improve the RFS?**

**September 29, 2016 –**

by John Campbell (Biodiesel Magazine/Ocean Park Advisors) The U.S. EPA has set off a debate within the petroleum industry by suggesting that the point of obligation for compliance with the renewable fuel standard (RFS) be moved ...

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### **Do We Still Need a Renewable Fuel Standard?**

**September 23, 2016 –**

by Anne Steckel (National Biodiesel Board/The Hill) Headlines tell us the world is awash with oil. Gas costs less than bottled water in many places, and petroleum markets are in a prolonged slump that's wreaking ...

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### **Summer Is Over: Bring on the Pumpkin Spice and the E15**

**September 23, 2016 –**

by Rebecca Chillrud (Environmental and Energy Study Institute) September 22 marks the autumnal equinox and the official end of summer. But for approximately 330 gas retailers, the season ended last week, on September 16—a day ...

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## **Latest in Federal Litigation**



Federal litigation news sometimes overlaps with Federal Regulation items, so check both sections. [Fraud](#) once again gets attention from the courts.

Find more items about federal litigation on our website, click [here](#).

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### **Owners of Biofuel Company Plead Guilty to Conspiracy and Fraud Charges**

**October 13, 2016 –**

(U.S. Department of Justice) The owners of an Indiana biofuel producer pleaded guilty to conspiracy, fraud and false statements for participating in a scheme that generated over \$60 million in fraudulent tax credits and U.S. ...

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### **U.S. Files Complaint, Announces Settlement to Address Alleged Renewable Fuel Standard Violations by NGL Crude Logistics and Western Dubuque Biodiesel**

**October 5, 2016 –**

(Environmental Protection Agency) The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S.

Department of Justice today announced the filing of a complaint against NGL Crude Logistics, LLC and Western Dubuque Biodiesel, LLC and a settlement ...

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### **Minnesota #Biodiesel Mandate Stands Firm**

**October 1, 2016 –**

by Joanna Schroeder (Energy.AgWired.com) Minnesota has been and continues to be a leader in the support of biofuels and was the first state to pass a biodiesel mandate requiring B20 (20 percent biodiesel, 80 percent ...

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### **API Says Biodiesel Groups Can't Weigh In On EPA Fuel Row**

**September 30, 2016 –**

by Adam Lidgett (Law360) The American Petroleum Institute said Wednesday a swath of biodiesel industry groups shouldn't be able to chime in on a set of consolidated appeals in the D.C. Circuit challenging the U.S. ...

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### **Chemoil Must Pay Largest Settlement in History of EPA's Fuel Programs**

**September 30, 2016 –**

(Farm Futures) EPA and DOJ allege Chemoil exported biodiesel, but failed to retire RINs. — Chemoil Corporation is required to retire 65 million renewable fuel credits to resolve alleged violations of the Renewable Fuel Standard ...

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### **SEC Charges Alternative Fuels Company and Former Executive for Key Omissions Regarding Technology**

**September 29, 2016**

(U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission) On September 26, 2016, the Securities and Exchange Commission charged Texas-based Mard, Inc., formerly known as KiOR, Inc., ("KiOR"), and its former CEO and President Fred Cannon for failing to ...

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### **USDOJ: Owner of Biofuel Company Pleads Guilty to Conspiracy and Obstruction**

**September 29, 2016 –**

(MediaAlerts) The owner and manager of a New Jersey feedstock collector and processor pleaded guilty to conspiracy and obstruction for his role in a scheme that generated over \$6 million in fraudulent tax credits and ...

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### **Court Rules Several GS Cleantech Patents Unenforceable**

**September 23, 2016 –**

by Erin Voegele (Ethanol Producer Magazine) Sept. 15, the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Indiana issued an order finding problems with certain GS CleanTech Corp. patents that are subject to multiple lawsuits ...

## **Advanced Biofuels USA Current Policy Analyses and Suggestions**

### ***Disappearing Fee on Non-Renewable Carbon Emissions***

On occasion, Advanced Biofuels USA develops policy analyses and suggestions. Over the past year, our focus has been on how to even the playing field among fossil fuels and renewables; how to recognize



costs of externalities such as environmental damage; and how to weigh in on conversations about carbon taxes.

One suggestion we have proposed is a fee on the non-renewable portion of transportation fuel; a fee that would NOT apply to the renewable portions of the fuel. We believe this will both create a revenue source for research, development and deployment of renewable fuels AND give market-based incentives for transitioning to renewables.

Most recently, BioFuelNet Canada published a summary of these ideas in their blog post: <http://www.biofuelnet.ca/2016/06/21/disappearing-non-renewable-carbon-user-fee/>

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### ***After the Fall: Rebuilding US Liquid Fuel Production – Invest in Our Land or the Shale Oil Fields?***

Every day that oil prices remain below the approximately \$55/barrel breakeven point to produce US shale oil, the probability of restarting the US shale oil industry with private capital decreases. Not only are oil service industry companies going out of business and laying off well-paid workers (oil well drilling is running at about 29% of the 2014 maximum, 467 versus 1609 rigs), but the industrial infrastructure is closing down as well.

When world oil prices return to levels that would make fracking oil drilling profitable, should the US government pay Wall Street for their bad bets of over \$200 billion while also providing financing to the drillers to restore US liquid fuel production of 2-3 million barrels/day?

Or, should the US invest a small portion of the past debt bailout in a US advanced renewable biofuel industry that would be more sustainable, significantly reduce GHG emissions, and create and retain more jobs than the boom-and-bust US oil industry?

**Robert Kozak** explores three strong arguments for the US to invest in the biobased renewable fuel industry to produce these liquid fuels instead of restarting shale oil production with US taxpayer money. <http://advancedbiofuelsusa.info/after-the-fall-rebuilding-us-liquid-fuel-production-invest-in-our-land-or-the-shale-oil-fields-part-2-of-2/>

## **More Educational News and Resources**

### ***Educational Tours***



**Minnesota Bio-Fuels Association** regularly organizes tours of biorefineries for high school students. Here's the latest:

[NRHEG High School Students Visit Guardian Energy](#)

(Minnesota Bio-Fuels Association) Thirty-five students from NRHEG (New Richland, Hartland, Ellendale, Geneva) High School visited Guardian Energy yesterday to gain a better understanding of clean Minnesota-produced renewable energy.

The students, from the seventh and eight grade, ...

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### [Kerkhoven-Murdock-Sunburg High School Visits Chippewa Valley Ethanol Company](#)

(Minnesota Bio-Fuels Association) Twenty-one high school students from Kerkhoven-Murdock-Sunburg (KMS) High School visited the Chippewa Valley Ethanol Company plant today to get a better understanding of how clean homegrown renewable energy is produced.

The students, which included ...

**AND, don't forget the educational value of international trade exchanges.**

### [USGC Hosts Southeast Asian Industry Representatives on an Ethanol Tour](#)

(Biofuels International) The US Grains Council (USGC) recently hosted a team of car, fuel, and ethanol industry representatives from Southeast Asia to engage in a fact finding mission about higher blends of ethanol in the ...

## ***Scholarships and Competitions***

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### [Young Scientists Scholarship to National Biodiesel Conference](#)

by Jamie Johansen (Energy.AgWired.com) College science students interested in learning about all aspects of the biodiesel industry can apply for a travel scholarship to attend the National Biodiesel Conference & Expo, Jan. 16 – 19 in San ...

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### [NIFA Announces \\$3.1 Million in Available Funding to Train the Next Generation of Agricultural Leaders](#)

(U.S. Department of Agriculture) The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) today announced the availability of \$3.1 million to train the next generation of agricultural leaders. This funding is ...

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### [Ciba Travel Awards in Green Chemistry](#)

This annual green chemistry award sponsors the participation of students—from high school through graduate school—to attend an American Chemical Society (ACS) technical meeting, conference, or training program, having a significant green chemistry or sustainability component. ...

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[CBMNet Funding Announcements: Includes Undergraduate Vacation Scholarships](#) Various deadlines (Crossing Biological Membranes Network) At CBMNet we foster collaborations between academia and industry to tackle research challenges in Industrial Biotechnology and Bioenergy (IBBE). We are working to understand the mechanisms by which substances are transported into, ...

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[The Young African Leaders Initiative \(YALI\)](#) is a signature effort to invest in the next generation of African leaders. President Obama launched YALI in 2010 to support young African leaders as they spur growth and prosperity, strengthen democratic governance, and enhance peace and security across Africa.

The [Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders](#) brings 500 dynamic young African leaders, ages 25-35, from across the continent to the United States for 6 weeks of leadership training and mentoring at twenty U.S. universities and colleges in three areas: business and entrepreneurship, civic engagement and public administration. In 2014, the Fellows were also hosted in Washington, D.C. for a three-day Presidential Summit featuring a Town Hall with President Obama. Following their in-depth academic coursework and leadership training, some Fellows remained in the United States to participate in eight-week professional internships with American NGOs, private companies, and governmental offices. Selected from nearly 50,000 applications, participants in the 2014 Mandela Washington

Fellowship for Young African Leaders represent the extraordinary promise of an emerging generation of entrepreneurs, activists, and public officials. Upon returning to their home countries, the Fellows have access to professional development opportunities, mentoring, networking and training, and seed funding to support their ideas, businesses, and organizations.

## Grant Opportunities

For a list of grant opportunities, [CLICK HERE](#).

## Help Us Continue to Provide Outstanding Service. Please DONATE!



Advanced Biofuels USA, a 501(c)3 nonprofit educational organization (NOT a trade organization) relies on Individual Contributions, Corporate Donations, In-Kind Donations and the Work of Many Volunteers to enable this organization to promote the understanding, development and use of advanced biofuels and to inspire action.

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You can make your gift in memory or in honor of someone special. Just let us know. Call (301-644-1395) or send an email: [info@AdvancedBiofuelsUSA.org](mailto:info@AdvancedBiofuelsUSA.org). We'll send a special card acknowledging your gift.

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