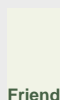




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Happenings on Capitol Hill, at the White House and in Federal Agencies

Latest Federal Legislation Posts



Ready, Set, ... Farm Bill proposals, listening sessions and strategy sessions have commenced.

And a few articles with a more historical bent.

And the E15 debates rage on.

For more legislative news (including Executive Orders), [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.

['Imperative' for Fruit and Nut Orchards to Be Included in US Bioenergy Programmes](#)

August 15, 2017 –(Bioenergy Insight) The Almond Alliance of California has called for increased funding from the Farm Bill in order to help develop bioenergy outlets for almond biomass and byproducts in the state.

Kelly Covello, president of the Almond ...

[Legislation Aims to Repeal Energy Title of 2014 Farm Bill](#)

August 11, 2017 – by Erin Voegele (Ethanol Producer Magazine) In late July, Rep.

Andy Biggs, R-Ariz., introduced legislation that aims to repeal bioenergy programs contained under Title IX of the 2014 Farm Bill.

The bill, titled "Farewell to Unnecessary Energy ...

[Ethanol Fueling Rural Revival](#)

August 10, 2017 – by Erica Quinlan (AgriNews) ... Kip Tom, a corn and soybean farmer in Kosciusko County, thinks the benefits of ethanol need to be talked about more. ... "The consumer is saving money in their transportation fuel ...

[Column: Keeping Minnesota Agriculture and Rural Communities Strong](#)

August 9, 2017 –by Senator Al Franken (D-MN) (The Globe) ... That's why I pushed back hard when President Trump recently proposed more than \$230 billion in Farm Bill cuts, including \$29 billion in cuts to the crop insurance ...

[Remembering the Original RFS](#)

August 9, 2017 – by Cindy Zimmerman (Energy.AgWired.com) Renewable Fuels Association (RFA) president and CEO Bob Dinneen keeps a signed copy of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, which included the original Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS), hanging on the wall ...

[How Fossil Fuel Money Made Climate Change Denial the Word of God](#)

August 9, 2017 – by Brendan O'Connor (Splinter News/Special Projects Desk of Gizmodo Media Group) In 2005, at its annual meeting in Washington, D.C., the National Association of Evangelicals was on the verge of doing something novel: affirming science. ...

[Summer Farm Bill Road Trips: Ag Secretary Kicks off RV Tour as House Committee Continues its Listening Tour](#)

August 2, 2017 – by Chris Clayton (DTN The Progressive Farmer) ... The House Agriculture Committee has its road trip, labeled "Conversations in the Field," which included a field hearing in Texas on Monday and another one at Farmfest in ...

[Assessing the Pulse of the Next Farm Bill Debate](#)

August 1, 2017 – by Carl Zulauf, Gary Schnitkey, David Orden (FarmDocDaily)
Thirteen agricultural economists put together short papers describing issues that will surface during the writing of the next farm bill. For each issue, the author describes the "policy ...

[House Committee Debates Future Federal Support of Biofuels](#)

July 28, 2017 – by Sara Taginawa (Environmental and Energy Study Institute) On Tuesday, July 25, the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology held a hearing examining the future of biofuels and the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS). According to ...

[Senate Panel Won't Vote on Bill to Boost Ethanol](#)

July 24, 2017 – by Timothy Cama (The Hill) A Senate committee won't hold a vote next week on legislation that would have allowed higher ethanol concentrations in some gasoline.

The legislation had been pushed for months by corn-state senators ...

Latest on Federal Regulation



And you thought summer was for vacations. Oh, no. Get your pencils out. This year August is public comment season.

The public comment period on the latest renewable volume obligations for the Renewable Fuel Standard, are due Aug. 31.

Sugar beet/energy beet comments to EPA are due August 25.

EPA is re-opening comments for the Corporate Average Fuel Economy Standards, too.

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.

[New Analysis Shows Fuel Economy and Emissions Standards Enhance Auto Industry Financial Prospects](#)

August 11, 2017 – (Ceres) Financial risks faced by legacy automakers due to evolving marketplace, not fuel economy standards — As disruption from new technologies, mobility models and global trends threaten financial prospects for legacy automakers, national fuel economy ...

[EPA Interpretation of the "Inadequate Domestic Supply" Waiver for Renewable Fuels Ruled Invalid: Where to from Here?](#)

August 11, 2017 – by Scott Irwin and Darrel Good (FarmDocDaily/University of Illinois) Three words—inadequate domestic supply—have taken center stage in the implementation of the RFS since 2014. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) used a controversial definition of this ...

[EPA Chief: 'Production Levels & Demand Matter' in RFS Decision](#)

August 11, 2017 – by O. Kay Henderson (Radio Iowa) ... (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Secretary Scott) Pruitt said he doesn't want his agency "being used" to spur the expansion of biofuel facilities. [READ MORE](#)

[Environmentalists Are Urging the USDA to Reject This Genetically Engineered Eucalyptus Tree](#)

August 10, 2017 – by Chelsea Harvey (The Washington Post) A genetically

engineered, freeze-tolerant eucalyptus tree is moving closer to receiving approval from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, amid concerns about the tree's possible negative effects on the environment.

[EPA Administrator Signs Federal Register Notice Opening Comment Period for Mid-term Evaluation Reconsideration](#)

August 10, 2017 – (Environmental Protection Agency) Today EPA Administrator Pruitt has signed a Federal Register notice announcing that EPA is reconsidering whether the light-duty vehicle greenhouse gas standards previously established for model years 2022-2025 are appropriate under section ...

[Ethanol Fueling Rural Revival](#)

August 10, 2017 – by Erica Quinlan (AgriNews) ... Kip Tom, a corn and soybean farmer in Kosciusko County, thinks the benefits of ethanol need to be talked about more. ... "The consumer is saving money in their transportation fuel ...

[My Voice: EPA's 'Dirty Rotten Scoundrels'](#)

August 10, 2017 – by Doug Sombke (South Dakota Farmers Union/Argus Leader) ... On behalf of rural communities and family farmers, I am calling out the EPA and those who still drink the Kool-aid of EPA's fraudulent assessments that E30 is ...

[Application of America-First Approach to RVOs Well-Intended, But Misses the Mark](#)

August 9, 2017 – by Donnell Rehagen (National Biodiesel Board) The first action by the Trump administration on the Renewable Fuel Standard was much anticipated. The National Biodiesel Board and the entire biofuels industry eagerly awaited the 2018 renewable ...

[Democrats Look to Fit Electric Car Credits into EPA's Ethanol Mandate](#)

August 7, 2017 – by John Siciliano (Washington Examiner) The Environmental Protection Agency's renewable fuel mandate could get a whole lot more complicated if Democrats are able to add electric cars to a credit program designed to boost corn ...

[Processing Pathways](#)

August 4, 2017 – by Lisa Gibson (Ethanol Producer Magazine) Interest in cellulosic ethanol from corn fiber is piqued, as technology providers improve on their processes, increasing revenue stream possibilities for producers. — Some producers and technology developers in the ...

[A Better Fuel Mix Can Be 'Made in America'](#)

August 4, 2017 – by Rick Santorum (Des Moines Register/Americans for Energy Security and Innovation) ... American ethanol now replaces more than 500 million barrels of imported oil annually and shields drivers from price manipulation by hostile forces within the ...

[EPA Will Reject Change that Trump Backer Icahn Sought](#)

August 3, 2017 – by Eric Wolff (Politico) The Trump administration plans to reject a proposal that would let oil refiners off the hook for complying with the federal ethanol

mandate, a senior administration official told POLITICO, dashing the ...

[RFA Chief Says He's Still Concerned RINs Market Is Being Manipulated](#)

August 3, 2017 –by Jeff Barber (Oil Price Information Service) The head of the Renewable Fuels Association (RFA) says the ethanol industry group remains concerned that “market manipulation” is a “significant factor” driving the price of Renewable Identification ...

[RNG Stakeholders Testify at EPA Renewable Fuel Volume Standard Hearing](#)

August 3, 2017 – by Lauren Tyler (NGT News) Several renewable natural gas stakeholders attended the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) public comment hearing today on the 2018 Renewable Fuel Volume Standard Proposed Rule to advocate for RNG transportation fuel under ...

[Make-Ready: Decision Time at the Bioeconomy's Gettysburg](#)

August 2, 2017 – by Jim Lane (Biofuels Digest) ... Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds and Nebraska Governor Pete Ricketts are the headliners in a battle in and about Washington DC this week. You can call it what you want: it's ...

[RFA Urges EPA to Increase Cellulosic Ethanol RVO](#)

August 1, 2017 – by Cindy Zimmerman (Energy.AgWired.com) Renewable Fuels Association (RFA) President and CEO Bob Dinneen today urged the Environmental Protection Agency to increase its proposed cellulosic ethanol requirement to reflect growing bolt-on technologies at existing ethanol plants.

“We understand ...

[NBB Has Strong Showing at RFS Public Hearing, Calls for Higher Biodiesel Volumes](#)

August 1, 2017 – (National Biodiesel Board) Today the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) held a public hearing on the proposal for the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS). The National Biodiesel Board (NBB) had several witnesses testify before the EPA ...

[Why Ethanol Is in Gas](#)

July 31, 2017 – by Robert White (Yakima Herald) To the editor — The Renewable Fuel Standard, which requires refiners to blend an increasing amount of ethanol and other biofuels into petroleum, was enacted in part to help bring ...

[Notice of Opportunity To Comment on an Analysis of the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Attributable to Production and Transport of Beta vulgaris ssp. vulgaris \(Sugar Beets\) for Use in Biofuel Production](#)

July 28, 2017 – (Environmental Protection Agency/Federal Register) In this notice, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is inviting comment on its analysis of the upstream greenhouse gas emissions attributable to the production of Beta vulgaris ssp. vulgaris (sugar beets) for use ...

[The Time Has Come for RFS Reform](#)

July 26, 2017 – by Mike McAdams (Advanced Biofuels Association/Biofuels Digest) In December of 2007, President Bush—with overwhelming bipartisan support—signed the RFS2 into law. Since that time, it has become clear the law has worked for first-generation corn ethanol and ...

[Proposal on Biodiesel Regulations Concerning to Ethanol Producers](#)

July 25, 2017 – by Russell Hubbard (BH News Service/Daily Nonpareil) ... But it is the biodiesel part that really has people asking what is going on. The EPA has proposed that 2.1 billion gallons of diesel produced from sources ...

[Top 10 Storylines: Heard on the Floor at the 2017 BIO World Congress](#)

July 25, 2017 – by Jim Lane (Biofuels Digest) Industrial biotech's biggest and grandest show, the World Congress on Industrial Biotechnology, opened today in Montreal and BIO itself was in the newsframe with a striking report debunking myths around ...

[OUR OPINION: EPA's RFS Proposal Is Mixed Bag for Farm States](#)

July 24, 2017 – (Sioux City Journal) Announcement earlier this month by the Environmental Protection Agency on new volumes under the Renewable Fuel Standards program produced a mixed bag of news for farm states like Iowa, Nebraska and South ...

[Ethanol Blog: RFS Public Comment Period Opens Friday](#)

July 21, 2017 – by Todd Neeley (DTN The Progressive Farmer) The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will officially open a public comment period on Friday on the latest renewable volume obligations for the Renewable Fuel Standard, with the comment ...

Latest in Federal Litigation



Federal litigation news sometimes overlaps with Federal regulation or legislation items, so check both sections.

The verdict against EPA's interpretation of "inadequate domestic supply" re-seeds the playing field.

Variations on the theme of "fraud" this month, with the continuing story of Carl Icahn's possible self-benefiting influence on Renewable Fuels Standard policy; along with renewable energy and biodiesel fraud appear in this month's news.

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

[Acton Couple Arrested for Defrauding the Treasury Department of Over \\$50 Million](#)

[in Tax Free Energy Grants](#)

August 15, 2017 – (U.S. Department of Justice) An Acton couple was arrested today and charged with defrauding the U.S. Treasury Department of more than \$50 million in tax free energy grants as part of the American Recovery and ...

[EPA Interpretation of the “Inadequate Domestic Supply” Waiver for Renewable Fuels Ruled Invalid: Where to from Here?](#)

August 11, 2017 – by Scott Irwin and Darrel Good (FarmDocDaily/University of Illinois) Three words–inadequate domestic supply–have taken center stage in the implementation of the RFS since 2014. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) used a controversial definition of this ...

[Court Tells EPA to Enforce Obama Methane Pollution Rule](#)

August 7, 2017 – by Timothy Cama (The Hill) A federal court told the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Monday that it has to enforce an Obama administration methane pollution rule.

The order from Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia ...

[New York Man Pleads Guilty to Multi-State Biodiesel Fraud Scheme](#)

August 4, 2017 – (Department of Justice) Andre Bernard, of Mount Kisco, New York, pleaded guilty today for his participation in a multi-state scheme to defraud biodiesel buyers and U.S. taxpayers by fraudulently selling biodiesel credits and fraudulently claiming ...

[EPA Will Reject Change that Trump Backer Icahn Sought](#)

August 3, 2017 – by Eric Wolff (Politico) The Trump administration plans to reject a proposal that would let oil refiners off the hook for complying with the federal ethanol mandate, a senior administration official told POLITICO, dashing the ...

[Federal Court Hands Ethanol Industry Big Victory on EPA Fuel Mandate](#)

July 28, 2017 – by John Siciliano (Washington Examiner) A federal appeals court on Friday handed the ethanol industry a major victory, ruling that the Environmental Protection Agency under the Obama administration fundamentally misinterpreted its authority under the national ...

Advanced Biofuels USA Current Policy Analyses and Suggestions

Links to policy papers, statements and handouts can be found on the
Advanced Biofuels USA home page. Or, [READ MORE](#)

In case you missed it, some Advanced Biofuels USA News:

[Dr. Lais Forti Thomaz Joins Advanced](#)

Biofuels USA Board of Directors, Bringing International Perspective to the Organization



Dr. Lais Forti Thomaz, a researcher at Sao Paulo State University (Unesp) specializing in International Relations and Foreign Trade, is joining the Advanced Biofuels USA board of directors. Advanced Biofuels USA, an educational nonprofit dedicated to the understanding, development and use of advanced biofuels, welcomes Thomaz, a long-time correspondent for the organization, contributing [articles](#) about biofuels conferences in her native Brazil, as well as thought-pieces about, for example, analyzing the multiple causes of the 2007 Mexican tortilla crisis, dispelling allegations of that event as an example of a food vs. fuel conflict.

Fluent in Portuguese, English and Spanish, Thomaz has also spent time in China, earning a diploma in Chinese culture and Mandarin; and attended the American University's Public Affairs and Advocacy Institute in Washington and in Brussels. She teaches and conducts research in international economy at Sao Paulo State University, Unesp, Brazil, in the National Institute of Science and Technology for Studies on the United States. She also serves as Foreign Trade Advisor.

Thomaz has engaged with Advanced Biofuels USA since 2014/2015 when she was a visiting scholar at Georgetown University in Washington, DC, working on her thesis which focused on the role of advocacy groups in shaping trade and energy policies. She brings a wealth of experiences writing weekly articles and monthly analyses on international trade and energy policies, assessing trade documents, assessing trade barriers, trends and reports, that will benefit Advanced Biofuels USA as it enters its tenth year and plans for the future. [READ MORE](#)

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