


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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Lift your face to the sun and shine. The purpose of the life of a sunflower--beauty, animal feed, biofuel feedstock, provider of pollen, gathering CO2, releasing oxygen, object of serene contemplation.

**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](#).

**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.

### 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? [Tax credits](#), [oil subsidies](#), [Renewable Fuel Standard](#), and attempts to limit [military use of biofuels](#).

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).

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#### [40-Plus Groups Call on Congress to End Tax Breaks for Big Oil](#)

July 17, 2016 – 7:08 pm |

by Ron Kotrba (Biomass Magazine) More than 40 national organizations have called on Congress to end more than a century of tax breaks for the oil industry. In a letter to U.S. legislators, a diverse ...

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#### [Bill Intro'd in Senate to Reform, Extend Tax Credit through 2019](#)

July 15, 2016 – 5:54 pm |

by Ron Kotrba (Biodiesel Magazine) A bill was introduced in the U.S. Senate to extend the \$1-per-gallon biodiesel tax credit through 2019 and restructure the incentive from a blenders credit to a domestic production credit. ...

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#### [Renewable Biofuels Are Vital to an All-of-the-Above Energy Strategy](#)

July 1, 2016 – 4:52 pm |

by William Feehery (The Hill/DuPont Industrial Biosciences) ... One of the most vital and immediate tools at our disposal in the campaign for energy independence is renewable fuel. It is the only technology that can ...

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#### [LaHood: Raise the Gas Tax or America's 'One Big Pothole'](#)

June 30, 2016 – 11:21 am |

by Alex Guillén (Politico Pro) Lawmakers must raise the gas tax and index it to inflation, or "America's going to continue to be one big pothole," former Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood said today, using one ...

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#### [RFS Hearing Finds New Issues to Dig into](#)

June 27, 2016 – 7:46 pm |

by Spencer Chase (Agri-Pulse) ... When it comes to land use, Colin O'Mara, president and CEO of the National Wildlife Federation, testified that a University of Wisconsin study had shown that 7.3 million acres of land had ...

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#### [Proposed Bill Expands Tax Credit to Biogas-Based RNG](#)

June 27, 2016 – 7:19 pm |

by Anna Simet (Biomass Magazine) A bill (H.R. 5489) recently introduced to the House Ways and Means Committee on Space, Science and Technology would add more biogas applications to the list of technologies that qualify for ...

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#### [Industry CEO Asks Senate to Extend Tax Credits for Biogas](#)

June 22, 2016 – 6:18 pm |

by Cole Rosengren (Waste Dive) Steve Miller, CEO of Oregon-based Bulk Handling Systems, testified in favor of more tax credits for biogas at a U.S. Senate Finance Committee hearing last week. Miller advised a five-year energy ...

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### **[NBB to Congress: Biodiesel Is Advanced Biofuel Success Story](#)**

June 22, 2016 – 11:22 am |

(National Biodiesel Board) Biodiesel is delivering the vast majority of Advanced Biofuel under the Renewable Fuel Standard and is poised for continued growth with strong policy, National Biodiesel Board Vice President of Federal Affairs Anne ...

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### **[NFU Urges Military Biofuels Exemption to Be Removed from Defense Spending Bill](#)**

June 21, 2016 – 2:43 pm |

(National Farmers Union) Repeated attempts to undermine the national security benefits of advanced biofuels through previous defense spending bills have been unsuccessful. As House lawmakers meet today to debate the Department of Defense Appropriations Act ...

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## **Latest Federal Regulation Posts**



This month features the just-released draft Technical Assessment Report for the mid-term evaluation of the U.S. national program for greenhouse gas emissions and fuel economy standards for light duty cars and truck.

The other hot regulatory topics continue to be the RVO (renewable volume obligation) and calls for 'obligated party' reform.

The [value of ethanol's octane](#) and its ability to replace carcinogenic aromatics also get attention in this month's online articles. Sulfur, animal feed/food safety, TSCA and biogenic emissions also claim brain space.

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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### **[US EPA, US DOT, California's Air Resources Board Issue Draft Technical Assessment Report of Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Fuel Economy Standards for Model Year 2022-2025 Cars and Light Trucks](#)**

July 18, 2016 – 4:03 pm |

(U.S. Department of Transportation) The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the California Air Resource Board (CARB) today took the first step in the mid-term evaluation of the National ...

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### **[Sulfur Compounded in Ethanol Regulations](#)**

July 18, 2016 – 12:21 pm |

by Susanne Retka Schill (Ethanol Producer Magazine) As the Tier 3 deadline approaches, it's important to understand the difference between EPA and ASTM treatments of the element. — The U.S. EPA's Tier 3 rules are ...

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### **[Repeat After Me: High Octane, Low Carbon](#)**

July 18, 2016 – 11:14 am |

by David VanderGriend (Urban Air Initiative/ICM/Governors' Biofuel Coalition) The signs are everywhere highlighting our product and how it can find its true value as an octane enhancer while lowering carbon emissions. Using our research at the Urban Air ...

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### **[5 Signs Your Current Good Manufacturing Processes Are Ready for the Food Safety Modernization Act](#)**

July 18, 2016 – 11:04 am |

by Phil Cleary (Christianson & Associates/Biofuels Digest) The Food Safety Modernization Act covers the operation of

a facility that manufactures, processes, packs, or holds animal food for sale in the United States.

Renewable fuels facilities producing feed ...

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### **DOE Issues Update to Its Loan Guarantee Programs**

July 15, 2016 – 7:39 pm |

by Jim Lane (Biofuels Digest) The Loan Program Office of the U.S. Department of Energy recently introduced a number of important updates to the Loan Guarantee Solicitation for Applications for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency ...

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### **RFA to EPA: Raise the Conventional Renewable Fuel 2017 RFS RVO to Statutory Requirement**

July 15, 2016 – 5:48 pm |

(Renewable Fuels Association) The Renewable Fuels Association (RFA) submitted comments today to EPA on its proposed 2017 Renewable Fuel Standard renewable volume obligations (RVO), urging the agency to raise the requirement for conventional renewable fuel ...

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### **17 House Biofuels Caucus Members Urge EPA to Finalize Strong RFS**

July 15, 2016 – 3:57 pm |

(Renewable Fuels Association) Today, 17 members of the House Biofuels Caucus sent a letter to EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy, urging the agency to complete its 2017 Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) "in a manner consistent with ...

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### **2022: A Cliff for Clean Fuels and the RFS?**

July 8, 2016 – 6:08 pm |

by David Cox (Biomass Magazine/Renewable Natural Gas Coalition) ... It says that "for calendar years after the calendar years specified in the tables," (i.e., after 2022), the EPA administrator will set applicable volumes using specified criteria, which ...

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### **A Simple Regulatory Solution for Biogenic Emissions**

July 8, 2016 – 6:01 pm |

by Bob Cleaves (Biomass Magazine/Biomass Power Association) ... Also at the top of the list is how the plan will eventually treat biomass. For us, there is a very simple solution: If fuel is derived from ...

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### **Renewable Fuel Standard Helps Keep Summer Fuel Prices Low**

July 6, 2016 – 1:16 pm |

(Convenience Store Decisions) High-octane ethanol gasoline blends are helping American's to enjoy low fuel prices this summer. The Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) is proving to be beneficial to Americans in more ways than just providing a ...

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### **No Surprise: RFS Missing Its Target**

July 6, 2016 – 1:12 pm |

by Howard Gruenspecht (U.S. Department of Energy Energy Information Administration/Iowa Farmer Today) ... Substantially increased use of biofuels can only occur if they can be used in forms other than low-percentage blends of ethanol and biodiesel that ...

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### **How Detroit Is Dealing With Cleaner Car Standards**

July 5, 2016 – 10:39 am |

by John Lippert (Bloomberg/IndustryWeek) Fuel economy standards will increase a projected 53% to 54.5 miles per gallon within the next decade, and tailpipe emissions will need to fall. What does Detroit think about the pending ...

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### **Bergeson & Campbell, P.C. Launches TSCAblog.com to Provide News and Analysis on TSCA Reform Implementation and Related Legal and Policy Developments**

July 3, 2016 – 1:12 pm |

(Bergeson & Campbell) Bergeson & Campbell, P.C. (B&C®) announced today the launch of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) Blog (TSCAblog™) to track and report regulatory, scientific, legal, and policy developments under the "new TSCA." ...

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### [Renewable Biofuels Are Vital to an All-of-the-Above Energy Strategy](#)

July 1, 2016 – 4:52 pm |

by William Feehery (The Hill/DuPont Industrial Biosciences) ... One of the most vital and immediate tools at our disposal in the campaign for energy independence is renewable fuel. It is the only technology that can ...

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### [LaHood: Stick with Final 54.5 mpg Standards](#)

June 30, 2016 – 11:27 am |

by Alex Guillén (Politico Pro) Former Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood is optimistic that auto manufacturers can meet the Obama administration's goal of lifting the nation's fuel economy standard to 54.5 miles per gallon by 2025. "I ...

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### [TSCA Reform: EPA Publishes First Year Implementation Plan](#)

June 30, 2016 – 10:38 am |

(Bergeson & Campbell) On June 29, 2016, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) posted an Implementation Plan that outlines EPA's plans for early activities and actions under the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st ...

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### [US Biofuels Supporters Push Back against MOVES Model](#)

June 27, 2016 – 7:59 pm |

by Josh Pedrick (Platts) ... "We should have included T70 as a metric in the model, it entirely changes the perception of the model," said Shon Van Hulzen, director of quality control at US ethanol producer ...

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### [RFS Hearing Finds New Issues to Dig into](#)

June 27, 2016 – 7:46 pm | [No Comment](#)

by Spencer Chase (Agri-Pulse) ... When it comes to land use, Colin O'Mara, president and CEO of the National Wildlife Federation, testified that a University of Wisconsin study had shown that 7.3 million acres of land had ...

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### [Big Soy Crop No Help for U.S. Biofuel Makers Overrun by Imports](#)

June 27, 2016 – 7:37 pm |

by Mario Parker (Bloomberg) Biodiesel plants idled as shipments from Asia, Argentina jump; Foreign supplies cheaper or cleaner than fuel from Midwest soy — Makers of renewable fuels derived from the vast soybean fields across the ...

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### [House Hearing Focuses on RFS Implementation](#)

June 27, 2016 – 7:09 pm |

by Erin Voegele (Ethanol Producer Magazine) On June 22, the House Energy and Commerce Committee's Energy and Power Subcommittee held a hearing on the renewable fuel standard (RFS). The event featured testimony from government officials, ...

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### [Letter: Don't Believe Scare Tactics against Vehicular Use of Ethanol](#)

June 27, 2016 – 6:44 pm | [No Comment](#)

by Robert Miller (TC Palm) ... The oil industry doesn't want ethanol to go away, but it doesn't want to give up any more market. It needs the low-cost oxygenate as refineries have been retooled to run ...

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### [Exxon, ConocoPhillips Top List of Methane Polluters](#)

June 27, 2016 – 5:06 pm |

by Katie Fehrenbacher (Fortune Magazine) This is how much methane pollution that eleven oil and gas companies emit annually. Eleven oil and gas giants in the U.S. leak so much of a potent green house gas into ...

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### [Dozens of Senators Push EPA for Higher Ethanol Mandate](#)

June 27, 2016 – 1:25 pm |

by Devin Henry (The Hill) A bipartisan group of senators on Friday chided federal regulators for pulling back on the federal ethanol mandate.

In a letter to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Gina McCarthy, the 39 ...

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### **Renewable Diesel Proves Viable for Construction Trucks and Equipment**

June 23, 2016 – 2:05 pm |

(Gas & Electricity) By now, most are familiar with biodiesel. It is a cost-effective and more environmentally friendly alternative to conventional petroleum-based diesel fuels when used in the correct applications.

...

However, there are limitations when compared ...

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### **'Threat Map' Aims to Highlight the Worst of Oil and Gas Air Pollution**

June 22, 2016 – 5:01 pm |

by Zahra Hirji (Inside Climate News) Two activist groups used government data to show 12.4 million people in the U.S. live within a half-mile of an oil and gas facility—and its pollution. — Environmentalists have ...

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### **EPA Pushing Outdated, Costly Ethanol Fuel**

June 22, 2016 – 1:36 pm |

by Ryan Rowden (Missouri Petroleum Council/Kansas City Star) ... It's good to be the world's leading oil and natural gas producer. But an obsolete law passed before the U.S. energy resurgence could interfere.

...

The problem could be ...

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### **Congressmen Seek E15 Reprieve from EPA Following National Marine Manufacturers Association Lobbying**

June 22, 2016 – 1:03 pm |

by Meghan Sapp (Biofuels Digest) In Washington, following a lobbying push by the National Marine Manufacturers Association, 45 congressmen have sent a letter to the EPA administrator voicing concerns about the 2016 blending mandate under ...

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### **RFS Policy Instability Continues to Chill Investment in Advanced Biofuels, BIO Says**

June 22, 2016 – 12:37 pm | [No Comment](#)

(Biotechnology Innovation Organization) EPA's new methodology for setting annual Renewable Fuel Standards continues to chill investment in advanced biofuels, the Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO) finds in a new analysis released today. Investment patterns clearly demonstrate ...

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## **Latest Federal Litigation Posts**



Fraud tops the federal litigation posts this month, along with litigation to light a fire under EPA on NOx and SOx standards. Federal litigation news sometimes overlaps with Federal Regulation items, so check both sections.

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

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### **Greens Sue EPA to Force New NOx, SOx Standards**

July 8, 2016 – 5:32 pm |

by Alex Guillén (Political Pro) ... The two standards were last reviewed in 2010 – meaning EPA is currently a year behind the five-year review schedule for those standards set under the Clean Air Act.

The Center ...

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### **CEO of Former Michigan Biofuels Company Charged with \$2 Million Tax Scheme**

June 30, 2016 – 1:38 pm |

by Emily Monacelli (Michigan Live) The chief executive of a former Southwest Michigan biofuels company has been indicted in what federal prosecutors allege was a scheme to defraud the government out of \$2 million in ...

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### **Volkswagen's Diesel Settlement Will Fund Range of Clean Air Efforts**

June 28, 2016 – 11:49 am |

by David Shepardson and Joel Schectman (Reuters) German automaker Volkswagen AG (VOWG\_p.DE) will pay more than \$15.3 billion to settle charges that it cheated on U.S. diesel emissions tests, an agreement that will fund buybacks for ...

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### **Two Florida Men Plead Guilty to Multi-State Biodiesel Fraud Scheme**

June 27, 2016 – 3:08 pm |

(U.S. Department of Justice) Thomas Davanzo, of Estero, Florida, and Robert Fedyna, of Naples, Florida, pleaded guilty today for their participation in a multi-state scheme to defraud biodiesel buyers and U.S. taxpayers by fraudulently selling ...

## **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 Resources**

***Presentations for Public Use***



Just a reminder: In the [Biofuels Basics](#) section of the Advanced Biofuels USA website, you can find PowerPoint presentations for use "as is" or as resources for your own slide show.

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## ***Educational News***

### **[AMERGreen Energy Lets Students Find #Energy Solutions](#)**

July 8, 2016 – 2:29 pm |

by Joanna Schroeder (Energy.AgWired.com) Students of all ages were able to voice their ideas on America's energy future in AMERGreen Energy's Video Essay Challenge. Students ranging in grades 1st-12th, as well as undergraduate college students ...

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### **[Meet the US Farmers Turning Their Tobacco into Airplane Fuel](#)**

July 6, 2016 – 6:27 pm |

by Jodi Helmer (The Guardian) As the demand for tobacco declines in the US, farmers in Virginia are experimenting with turning the crop into viable biofuel — ... One two-acre plot stands apart from the rest, ...

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### **[EPA Awards Environmental Education Grants in 26 States](#)**

July 5, 2016 – 7:46 pm |

(U.S. Environmental Protection Agency) The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced the completion of grant awards under the 2015 Environmental Education (EE) Grants Program. EPA will award grants under the 2016 EE Grants Program later this year.  
Projects ...

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### **[FFA Educates #NASCAR Fans about #E15](#)**

July 1, 2016 – 2:03 pm |

by Joanna Schroeder (Energy.AgWired.com) The Twin Cedars FFA Chapter was out in en mass during the recent American Ethanol E15 250 presented by Enogen to educate race fans about ethanol and E15. Chuck hung out with ...

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### **[BBI Announces Kathy Bryan Memorial Scholarship Recipients](#)**

June 27, 2016 – 7:04 pm |

by Ann Bailey (Ethanol Producer Magazine) BBI International has awarded the 2016 Kathy Bryan Memorial Scholarship to Donald Jackson and Patrick Thimes.

The two \$2,000 memorial scholarships are awarded annually to students pursuing degrees that may ...

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If you can help students attend conferences, please do. It's an incredibly valuable experience.

## Scholarships and Competitions

[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, ...

## Grant Opportunities

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

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