



## **FAMILY FARMING AND BIOFUELS 2019 SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS**

For over four decades, National Farmers Union and many state Farmers Union organizations have provided the education, embraced the cooperation, and championed the national and state legislation needed to create the modern 'home-grown fuels from the farm' industry. NFU continues to support renewable fuels policy and supports the increased use of higher blends of ethanol.

Domestic ethanol production helps stabilize and support prices while promoting sustainable agriculture, dramatically reducing carbon emission and improving air quality, and continuing to support this country's energy independence and security. At a time when rural America is facing a major financial crisis in the farm sector, the need to reduce the size of price-depressing surplus of corn supplies through more aggressive retail use of higher blend ethanol is paramount.

National Farmers Union continues to champion a wide range of strategies to expand the retail fuels infrastructure to provide Americans with expanded opportunities to purchase higher blends of renewable fuels including E15, E30, E85 and other blends. When it comes to the expanded retail marketing of higher ethanol blend products in the retail marketplace, National Farmers Union supports an all of the above strategy.

At the same time, NFU understands the enormous potential of ethanol's value proposition in higher octane gasoline, which automakers have been begging EPA to encourage for years. Ethanol has superior octane properties compared to oil-based and carcinogenic aromatics, it is more cost effective, it improves the nation's trade balance, and it helps clean up our cities' air and improve our children's health.

That is why NFU took the lead in derailing EPA's effort to prohibit the use of E30 "clean octane" in standard vehicles. NFU and its allies prevailed, even when EPA sent it to the White House to be codified. If NFU had not stopped EPA bureaucrats, corn farmers and ethanol producers would have been blocked from expanding to the next level, because EPA has blocked auto manufacturers from making flex fuel vehicles. There would have been many losers, including farmers, automakers, and urban Americans who are being forced to breathe toxic air.

NFU state chapters are supporting ethanol producers in SD, Nebraska, and other states who are challenging their communities to use E30 blends in their standard vehicles. Programs like the E30 Challenge in Watertown, SD, have been hugely successful, and garnered the support of leaders like SD Gov. Kristi Noem, who recently signed state proclamation declaring "E30 Day". Because E30 requires twice the volume of ethanol as E15, Watertown's ethanol demand growth has approached or exceeded that of E15.

Ethanol has been proven by government and independent laboratory studies to be the only non-carcinogenic octane enhancer for mobile liquid fuels and the only one that can meet current legislative requirements of the Clean Air Act. These studies show ethanol is the best way to improve air quality from mobile fuels.

National Farmers Union has retained a law firm to research the viability of different potential avenues for challenging and overcoming the current EPA barriers to the use of midlevel ethanol fuel blends (greater than E15) in non-FFVs, and the outdated models and reasoning supporting those rules.

National Farmers Union calls on this Administration to support rural America by removing regulatory barriers to usage of higher blends of ethanol like E30. These higher-level blends of ethanol benefit farmers, rural communities, our environment, and all consumers through lower prices at the pump. Now is the time for our nation to find and pursue bold and innovative strategies to dramatically expand the use of 'home-grown fuels from the farm'.