

Join the American Coalition for Ethanol's Letter to the Editor Campaign!

In the response to a coordinated public relations attack-campaign designed to halt ethanol's progress, the American Coalition for Ethanol (ACE) is launching a counter-offensive. Now, more than ever, it's important for ethanol supporters to take action – and nothing is more effective at shaping public opinion than a proactive grassroots PR effort!

During the month of August, lets flood U.S. newspapers with pro-ethanol letters that set the record straight on “food vs fuel” and celebrate the ethanol success story.

Visit the “Take Action” page on www.ethanol.org to send a letter to your local paper with just a few easy clicks of the mouse. Consider the samples below as a starting point for your own letter.

Blame energy, not corn

Corn and ethanol are conveniently being blamed for driving up food prices. Don't believe it. Stop and think about what input cost is common thread across all food products – energy. While corn only plays a role (and a small one at that) in the foods in which it's an ingredient, all groceries and other consumer goods are dependent upon energy prices have at least twice as much impact as corn prices in the grocery aisle.

Have we gotten so used to paying high prices for gas and diesel that we don't recognize how expensive this national addiction really is? All this outrage over a potential \$10 more a year for groceries is completely misdirected when consumers are paying an additional \$10 every week at the fuel pump due to high gas prices. Ethanol is a bright spot in an otherwise bleak energy picture, and we should be cheering on its progress of creating controversy where none exists.

Midwest, not Middle East

Ethanol is one of the best things this country has had going in years, and now those in the vocal minority are trying to tear it down. The latest argument about ethanol driving up grocery prices completely ignores the impact \$70 a barrel crude oil had on food costs. Every single item in your local grocery store had to be transported there in a truck burning gas or diesel costing more than \$3 a gallon. If you want to find the real reason behind higher food prices, don't look to corn – look to energy costs.

Ethanol is a true American success story. It increases our national fuel supply while putting Americans to work at good jobs, circulating dollars up and down Main Street, and reducing the pollution coming from our cars and trucks. It's about time we started looking with in our own borders for energy alternatives, instead of continuing buy oil and gasoline from countries that don't like us very much. I for one am glad to buy fuel from Midwestern farmers and entrepreneurs rather than from OPEC.

Have food prices gone down?

If higher corn prices were the reason for higher food prices, why didn't food prices drop after the USDA announced this year's large corn crop? Corn prices dropped by almost a dollar in one week, but grocery stores didn't budge. I think we have just seen more proof that this “food vs. fuel” debate has been manufactured without all the facts in hand – or worse yet, created for the purpose of profits.

For several months, the anti-ethanol chorus – with Big Oil cheering them on – has been getting loud, trying to convince people that ethanol's use of corn is the main reason for higher food prices. That sounds alarming, until you look at the facts. Corn is only a tiny fraction of the overall food-price picture, and while corn prices do affect some foods, energy cost affect them all.

High crude oil prices translate into high fuel costs, not only at the pump, but also in the consumer goods that are dependent upon energy for processing, packaging and transportation. If we don't continue to develop fuels like ethanol and biodiesel, there will be no end to higher fuel and food prices.