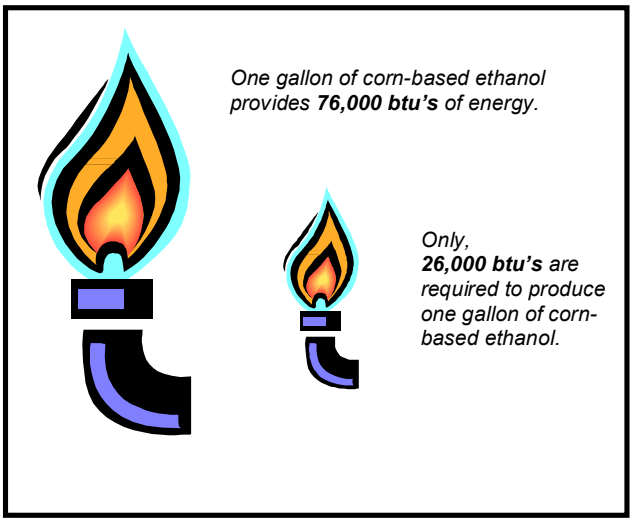
Ethanolôs Incredible Efficiency Gains | 2010

Faced with criticism that ethanol required more energy to produce than it contained, Steffen Mueller, University of Illinois Chicago, conducted a study on this very topic. This research ultimately puts to rest once and for all the huge myths concerning the net energy balance of corn-based ethanol.



Ethanol produces 292% more energy than it consumes.

According to the research, ethanol produces much more energy than it consumes. And even factoring all the farm input energy to grow, store, and transport the corn to the ethanol plant, there is still a net energy gain of at least 185% (41,000 btuôs to produce 1 gallon of ethanol).

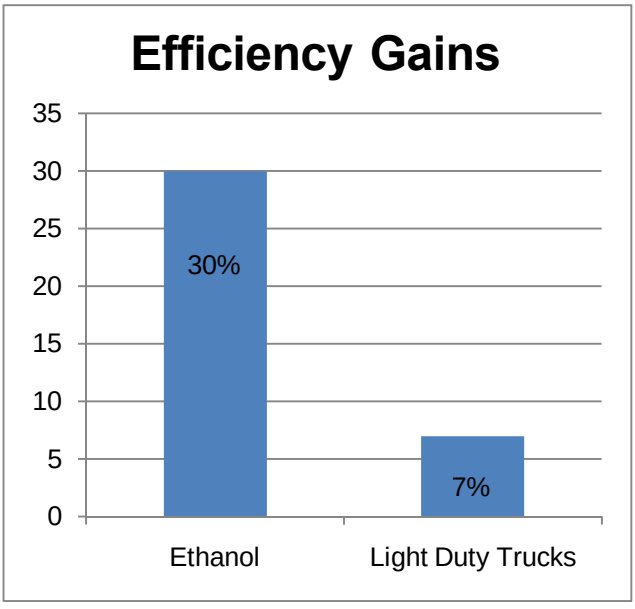
Conservatively speaking, corn-based ethanol doubles the energy.

In addition, the study indicated tremendous efficiency gains in US corn-based ethanol plants in the last 7 years, increasing the industryôs efficiency by 30%. By comparison, the US Corporate Average Fleet Efficiency for Light Duty Trucks was 20.7 MPG in 2001, increasing to 22.2 MPG in 2008, realizing only a 7% gain in the same time period.

From 2001 to 2007:

- Ethanol yield per bushel of corn went from 2.64 to 2.78 gallons, a 5.3% increase.
- Water needed to produce one gallon of ethanol decreased from 4.5 gallons on the high side to just 2.7 gallons on average.

Corn-based ethanol is a viable source for domestic, renewable fuel. Corn-based ethanol has a tremendous efficiency story to tell. Corn-based ethanol deserves to be considered an advanced biofuel.



2008 National Dry Mill Corn Ethanol Survey, Steffen Mueller, University of Illinois Chicago
Full study available at www.ilcorn.org, "Research" Tab, "Exploding Ethanol Myths"