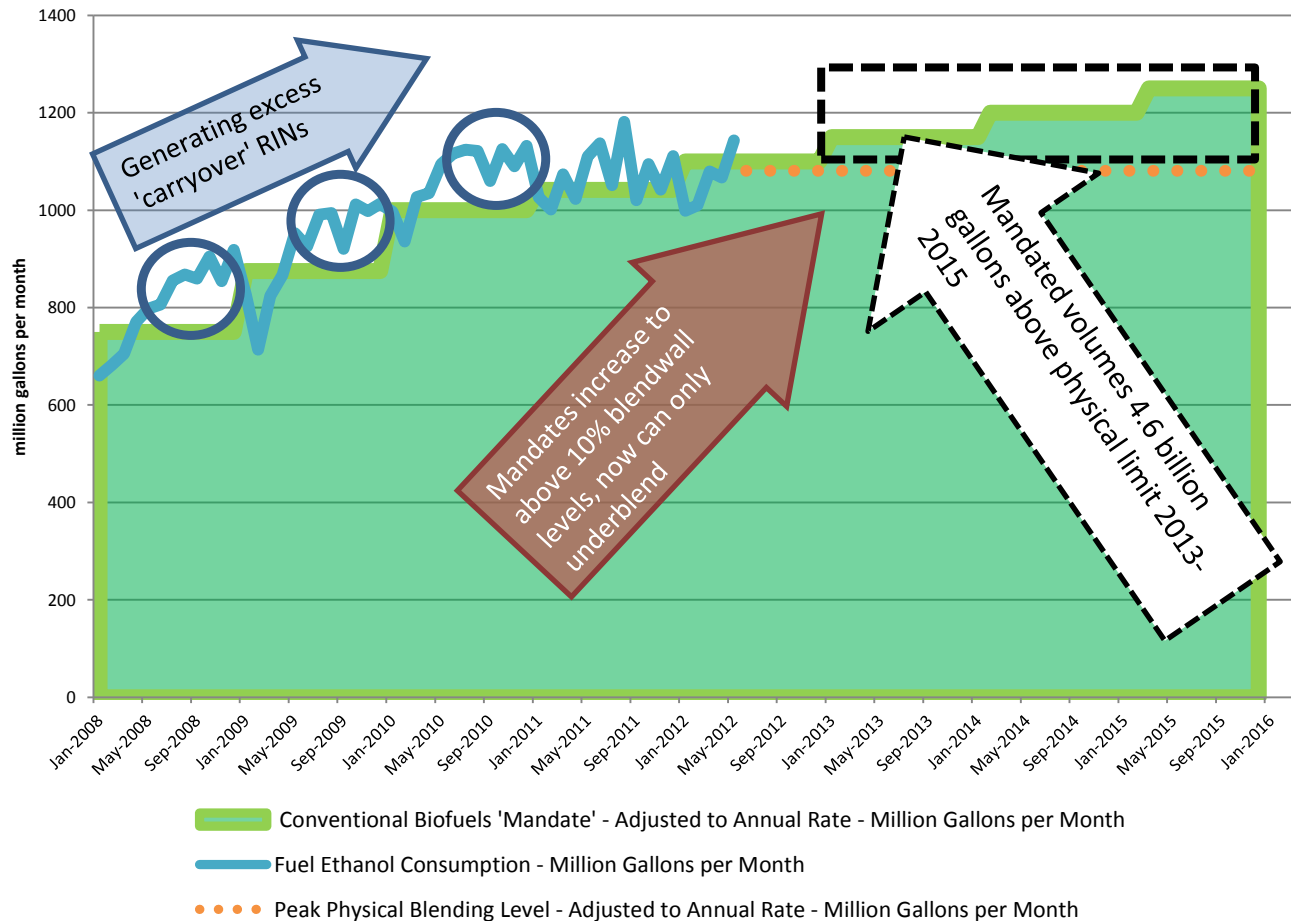


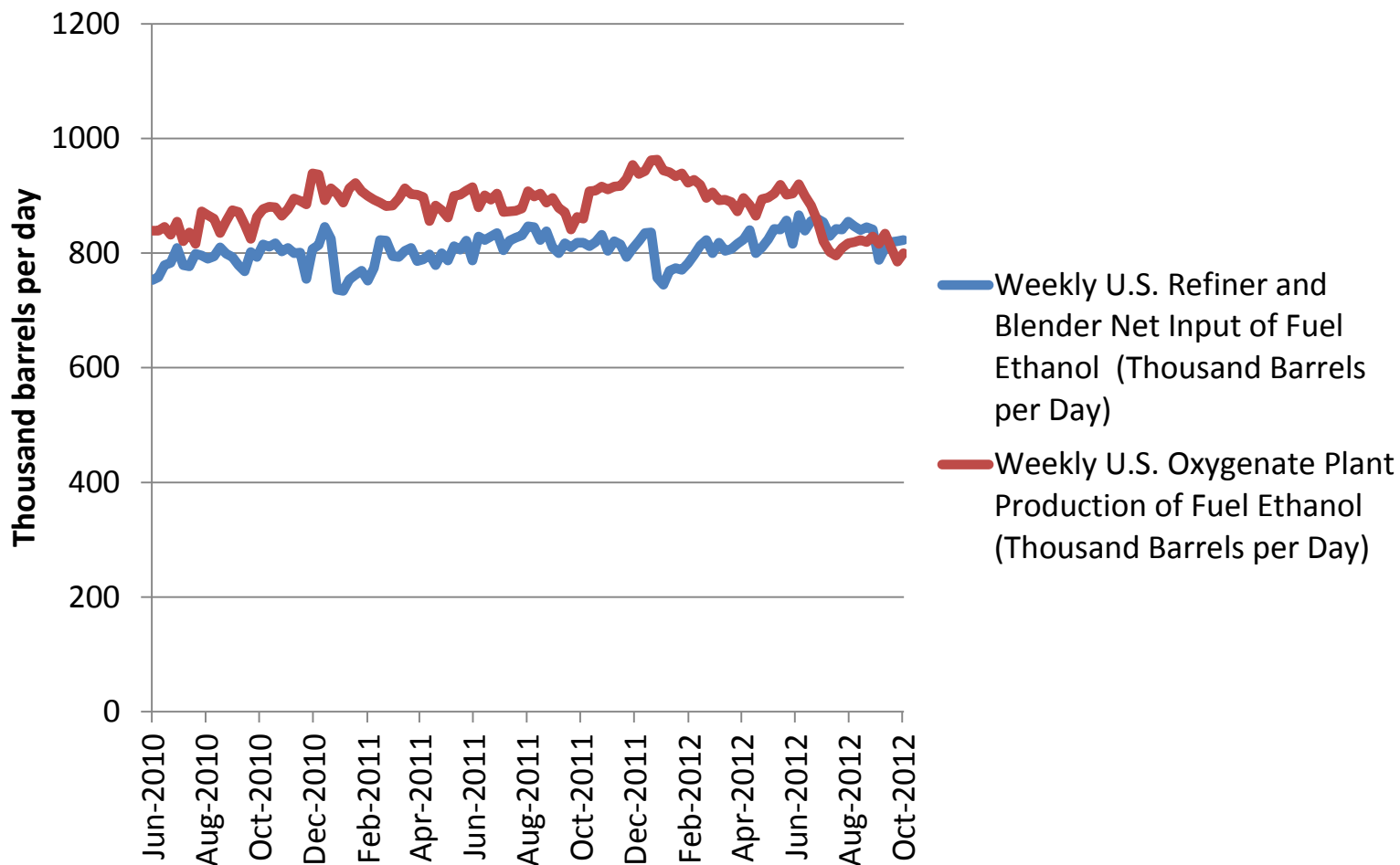
# **Oil Market Study Group: RFS, the Blend Wall & Refinery Issues**

**Ben Montalbano, Senior Research Analyst  
Energy Policy Research Foundation, Inc.  
Before the CSIS Oil Market Study Group  
October 15, 2012**

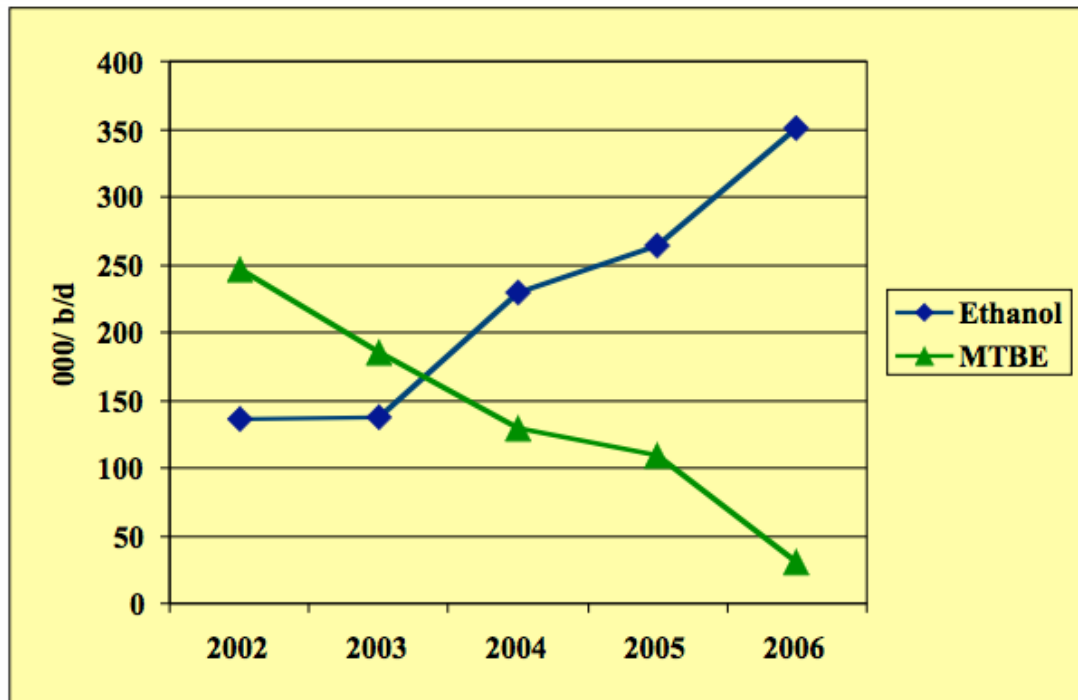
# Blendwall Reached in 2010, RINs to be Scarce



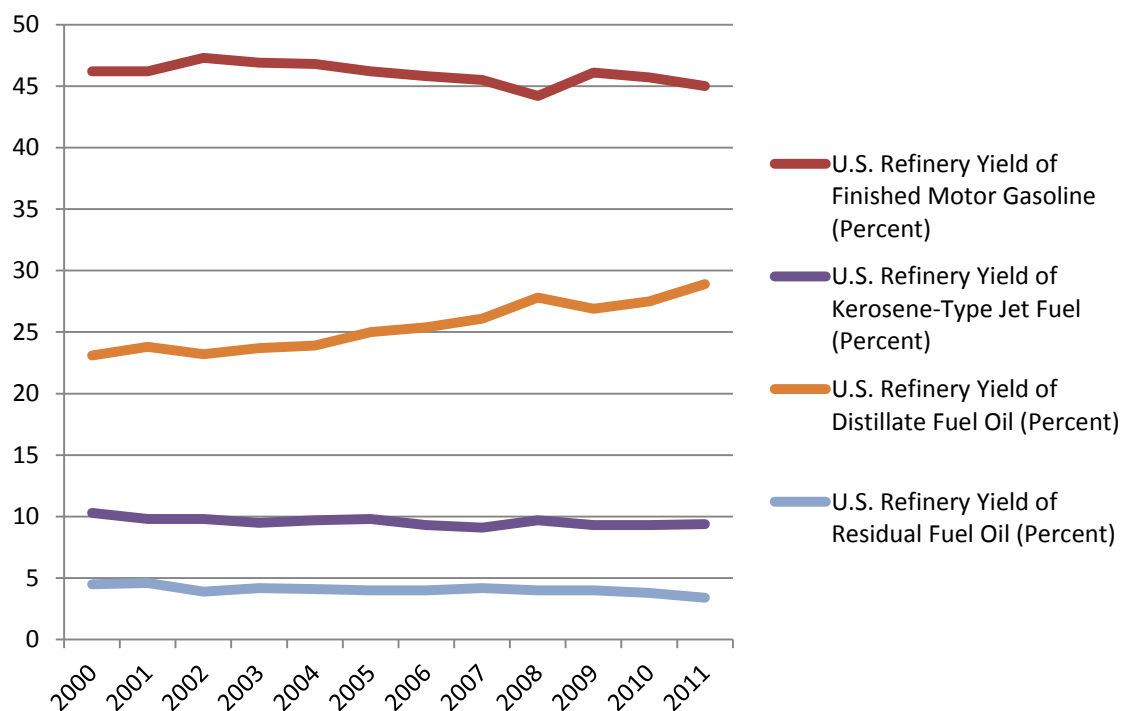
# Blending has Not Reacted to Ethanol Prod. Drop



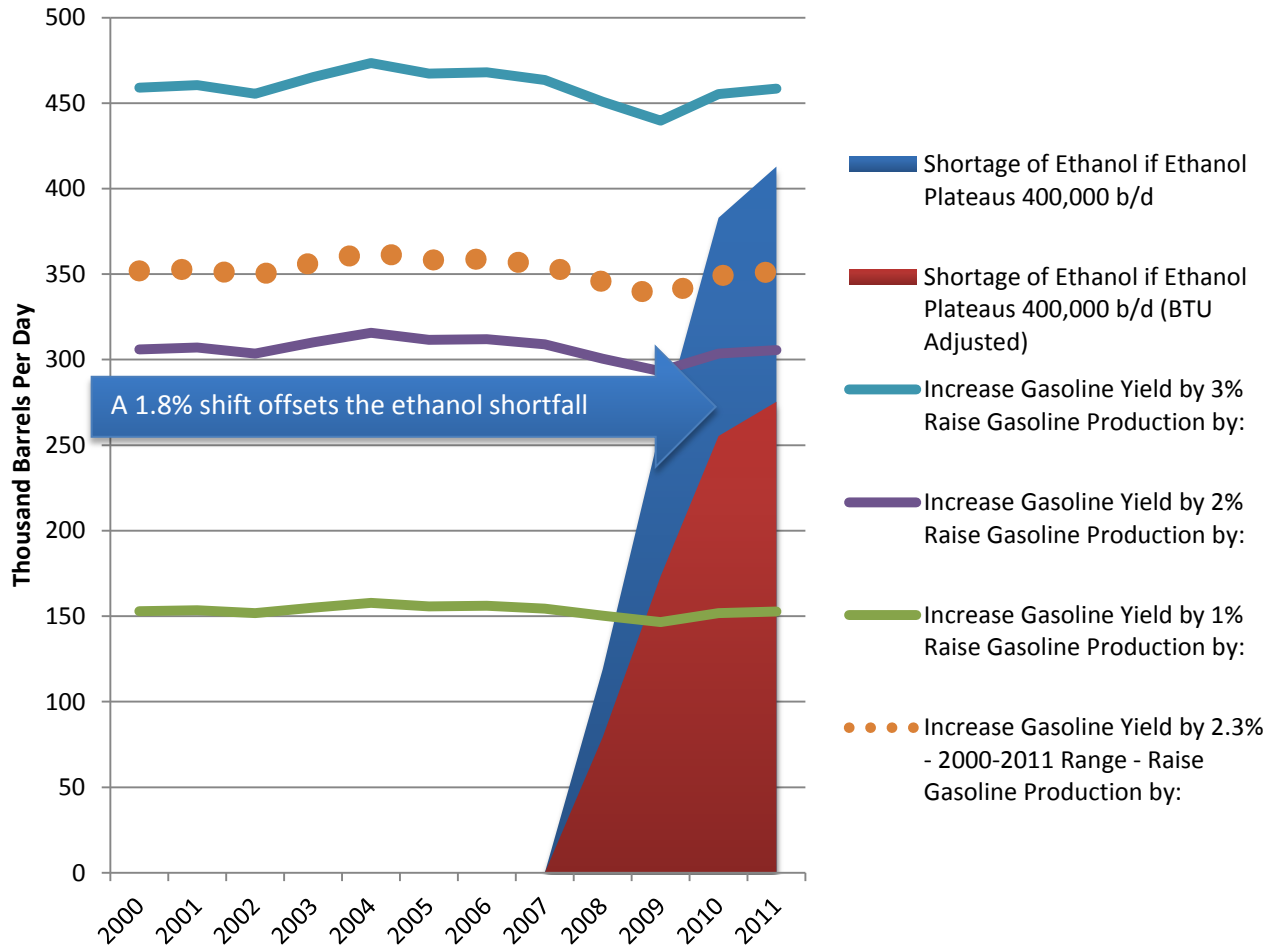
# Ethanol and MTBE



# US Refinery Yields



# Yield Shift Needed to Offset 400,000 b/d of Ethanol



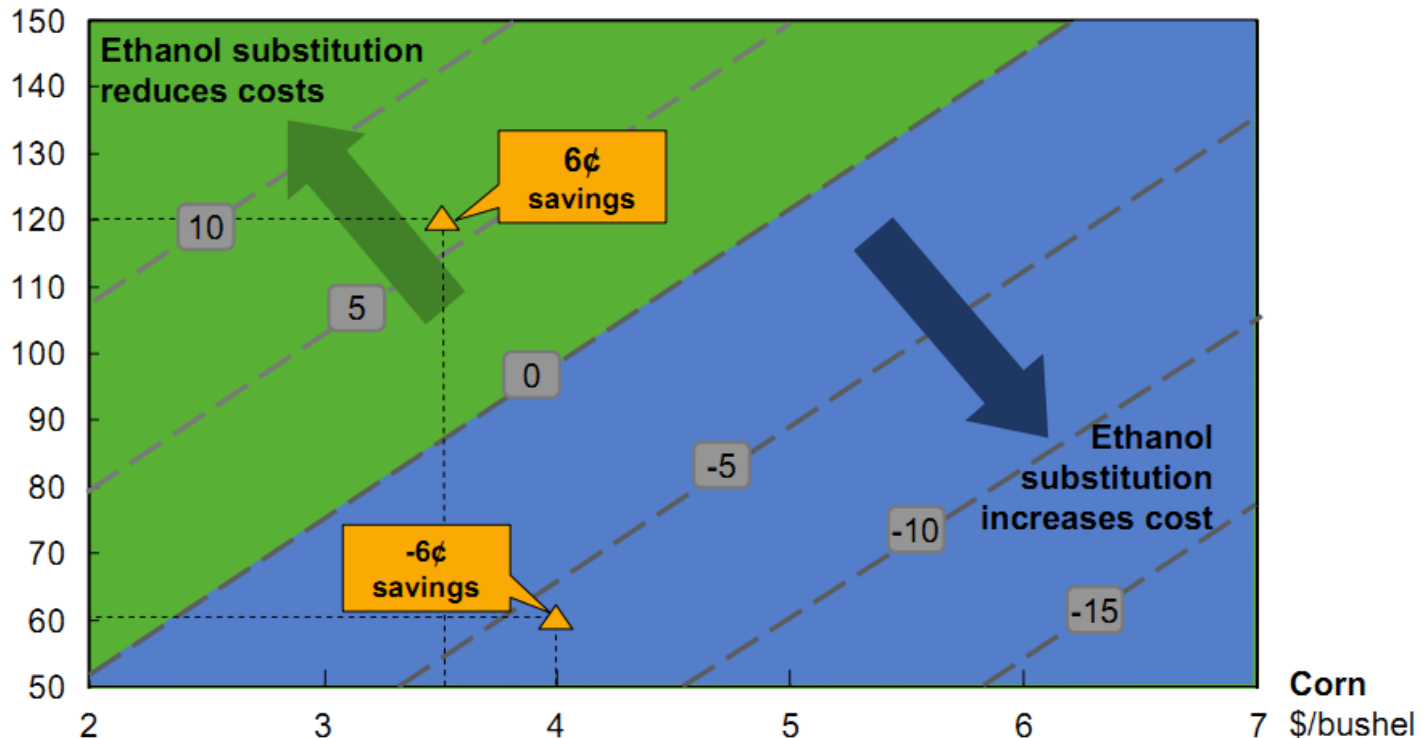
# NREL Study on Blending Economics

## IMPACT OF THE SUBSTITUTION EFFECT ON THE PRICE OF A GALLON OF E10 (MILEAGE-ADJUSTED)

Crude oil  
\$/barrel

— — Iso-savings

X Mileage adj. savings vs. E0 (¢/gal E10)

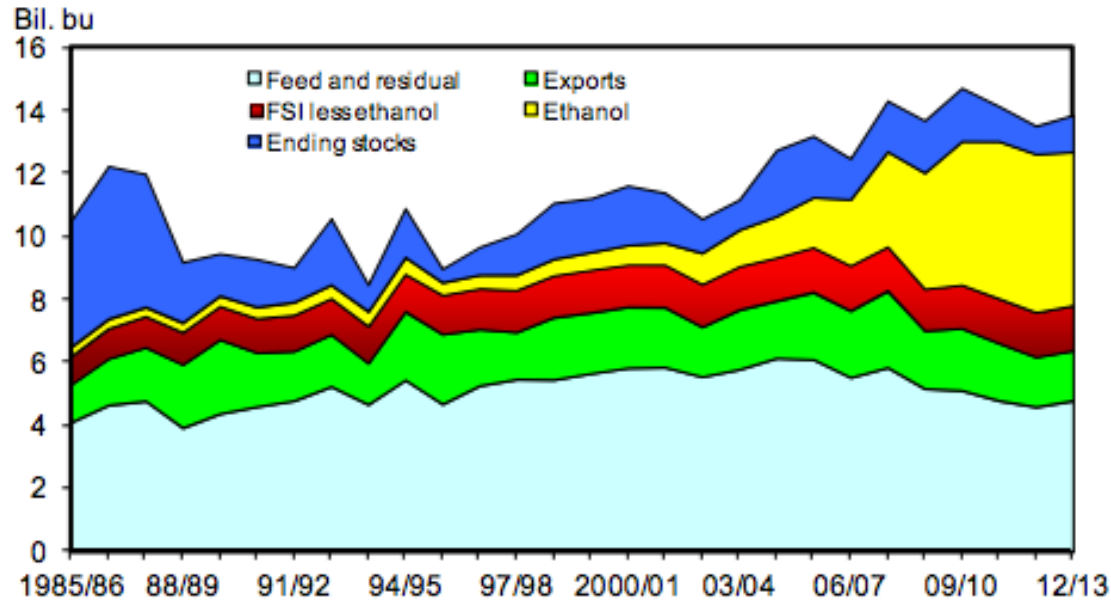


# Crop Planting, Prices and Ethanol Use

Crop Year	Alcohol for fuel ethanol	Planted acreage (Million acres)	Production (Million bushels)	Yield per harvested acre (Bushels per acre)	Weighted-average farm price (dollars per bushel)
2005/06	1,603.32	81.78	11,112.19	147.90	2.00
2006/07	2,119.49	78.33	10,531.12	149.10	3.04
2007/08	3,049.21	93.53	13,037.88	150.70	4.20
2008/09	3,708.89	85.98	12,091.65	153.90	4.06
2009/10	4,591.16	86.38	13,091.86	164.70	3.55
2010/11	5,021.21	88.19	12,446.87	152.80	5.18
2011/12	5,050.00	91.92	12,358.41	147.20	6.20
<i>05/06 vs 11/12</i>	<b>214.97%</b>	<b>12.40%</b>	<b>11.21%</b>	<b>-0.47%</b>	<b>210.00%</b>



# Corn Consumption by Sector



Source: USDA, World Agricultural Outlook Board, WASDE.

# Biofuel Crop Use – 400,000 b/d of Ethanol

Current Net Acreage for Fuel (after DDGS 'offset'), million acres	27.51
Net Acreage for Fuel in waived RFS scenario - 400,000 bbl/d ethanol (excludes exports), no soy-based biodiesel	9.04
<i>Biofuel Land Use Reduction</i>	18.47
<i>Biofuel Land Use Reduction, % change</i>	67.13%
% of 2011/2012 corn and soy harvested acreage not needed for biofuels	11.47%
DDGS Shortfall, Million Acres of Corn and Soy Equivalent	-7.60
<i>Net Biofuel Land Use Reduction after DDGS Shortfall</i>	10.86
<i>Net Biofuel Land Use Reduction after DDGS Shortfall, %</i>	39.49%

## Takeaways

- **For a waiver to be effective it must cover multiple years – but this is outside of EPA’s authority**
  - As long as obligated parties have RVOs looming, they will be inclined to blend at ~10% in order to generate RINs for future compliance
- **RFS mandates are creating distortions in fuel and food production – flexibility needed.**
  - Must include biodiesel – soy needed for DDGS offset
  - Ethanol is an important part of the gasoline pool and is unlikely to drop below 5% of the gasoline pool in a mandate free environment
  - At current levels ethanol is largely supporting exports rather than reducing crude oil consumption
  - Blendwall hinders next-gen biofuels entrance into market
- **A few refiners would drop ethanol completely, others would blend at 10%, most somewhere in between.**
  - UC Davis study submitted for EPA waiver comments found 7% blend rate given long term waiver
- **Low cost RFS compliance options have been exhausted – the next compliance option for obligated parties is to export product (distillate)**

$$\text{RVO} = \text{Standard} \times (\text{gasoline} + \text{diesel}) + \text{Deficit}$$

# RFS Mandates

