Biorenewables: Helping or Hurting the Environment?

Chad Hart
Center for Agricultural and Rural Development
Iowa State University

February 20, 2007

Home Ground: Language for an American Landscape
3rd Annual Symposium on Wildness, Wilderness & the Creative Imagination

Ames, Iowa

E-mail: chart@iastate.edu
Iowa’s Ethanol Boom

Ethanol Capacity

(million gallons)

2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007

Ethanol Capacity
Iowa’s Corn Acreage
Corn in 2007?

![Graph showing ethanol capacity and corn acreage over years from 2002 to 2007.](image-url)

- Ethanol Capacity
- Corn Acreage

- Graph axes:
  - X-axis: Years (2002-2007)
  - Y-axis (left): Ethanol capacity (millions of gallons)
  - Y-axis (right): Corn acreage (millions of acres)
Iowa’s Historical Corn Acreage

(million acres)

Corn Acreage


CARD
Compared to History

(million acres)

Corn Acreage
The 2007 Farm Bill

- Debate is ongoing
- Will likely be voted on this summer (effective for 2008 crops)
- Two key titles:
  - Conservation
  - Energy
Conservation Title

• In the 2002 farm bill, emphasis shifted to working lands
  – Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
  – Conservation Security Program (CSP)
  – Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)
  – Conservation of Private Grazing Lands (CPGL)
Energy Title

• New title for 2002 farm bill
• Provided additional support for bio-based products
  – Federal procurement of bio-based products
  – Biorefinery grants
  – Biodiesel Fuel Education Program
  – Renewable Energy Development Program