

## RENEWABLE FUEL STANDARD AND CORN-BASED ETHANOL

### **What is the Renewable Fuel Standard?**

The Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) is a national program created under the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and administered by the Environmental Protection Agency, which mandates the use of renewable fuels in transportation fuels. The RFS requires ethanol to be blended into transportation fuel each year, pitting food uses against fuel uses and driving up the price of animal feed.

### **What is the impact of corn-based ethanol?**

The federal government mandate to increase our production of corn-based ethanol from 9 billion gallons in 2008 to 15 billion gallons in 2018, will continue to drive food prices up, as more corn used for livestock feed will be diverted to ethanol production. In recent years, 40% or more of the corn crop has been processed into ethanol and co-products. Because a large share of consumers' income is used to purchase food, food price inflation hits the world's most vulnerable populations hardest.

### **Enact a balanced food and fuel policy.**

To increase energy independence while maintaining food affordability, the U.S. must enact a balanced food and fuel policy. To achieve a balanced food policy, the RFS program should be repealed or significantly reformed.