

The Environmental Protection Agency has finalized new rules which show that corn ethanol complies with the 20 percent reduction in emissions required by the Renewable Fuels Standard.

The RFS is a 2007 federal law which mandates increased use of biofuels.

EPA's emissions modeling includes indirect land use changes presumably caused by increased ethanol production. Rule calculations were expanded to include an additional 100 countries.

EPA found that even when accounting for changes in land use attributed to increased ethanol production, corn ethanol creates significantly fewer emissions than gasoline.

Todd Sneller, Nebraska Ethanol Board administrator, said EPA's rules confirmed the ethanol industry's commitment to an environmentally friendly alternative fuel.

"EPA's decision proves that the ethanol industry continues to improve its green credentials," Sneller said. "As fossil fuels become more expensive and dirty, renewable fuels like ethanol are proving to be more efficient and environmentally friendly than ever."

The issue of lifecycle emissions in the ethanol production process will be a featured presentation at the Ethanol 2010: Emerging Issues Forum, April 8-9 in Omaha.

Dr. Steffen Mueller, a principal economist at the University of Illinois at Chicago, will deliver the presentation, "Critical Accounting: Documenting Efficiency in Ethanol Production." Mueller conducts research on emissions and energy use of the ethanol production process.