

# IOWA CORN

Creating Opportunities for Iowa Corn Growers



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## Corn Use & Education

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### New Uses of Corn

Corn processing is an American invention that continues to find new uses which benefit consumers around the world. Today, the typical grocery store offers almost 4,000 products with corn ingredient the label. In the last 100 years, just a few of the new uses discovered for corn and corn-based prod have included:

- ▶ Fuel alcohol (ethanol)
- ▶ Penicillin production
- ▶ Instant food and beverage mixes
- ▶ Recycled paper
- ▶ Intravenous solutions
- ▶ Soft drinks

### Some of the new uses being commercialized today include:

**Tires.** Tire manufacturers began using corn starch decades ago to dust the molds in which tires are made. Now a tire company has produced a new line of tires that uses micro-droplets of corn starch tire ingredient to reduce tire weight and rolling resistance. The new tires require less energy to prod and their lower rolling resistance is expected to reduce fuel consumption and noise.

**Plastics and textiles.** Corn-based polylactic acid (PLA) is being used to replace oil-based ingredie in a wide variety of plastic and textile products. This helps solve the world's growing waste-disposal problems, because PLA is a renewable, biodegradable resource. For fabrics, PLA can be made into fibers for woven and non-woven fabrics. It can be blended with cotton, wool, and silk.

### Some PLA-based plastics and textiles include:

- ▶ Bedding
- ▶ Film wrap for tapes and CDs
- ▶ Carpeting
- ▶ Foam packaging
- ▶ Clothing
- ▶ Fresh food packaging
- ▶ Cord and rope
- ▶ Mattresses
- ▶ Cups
- ▶ Serving utensils

**Industrial chemicals, solvents, and organic acids.** Corn processors have known for decades the many industrial chemicals and organic acids can be made from a renewable resource such as corn rather than from non-renewable raw materials. Ongoing research today is aimed at solving the challenge of making corn-based chemicals economically competitive. By the end of this century, the U.S. National Research Council predicts that more than 90% of U.S. organic chemicals will be mad from renewable resources.

*Information compiled from various sources, including the National Corn Growers Association, Cargil Dow Polymer and the Corn Refiners Association.*

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### Corn...

### **A Versatile, Natural, Biodegradable, Renewable Resource!**

Corn makes a difference in the products we use, but many of us don't realize just how corn affects our daily lives. Corn components can be found in thousands of products – food, drugs, cosmetics and cleansers, just to name a few.

Beyond its food and consumer product uses, corn is replacing petroleum in many industrial applications, from plastic containers to clean-burning ethanol. Because corn products are a biodegradable and renewable natural resource, they are better for the environment than their petrol counterparts.

From the corn syrup in your soda pop to the corn starch that makes your paper more printable – it's all around you!

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Please see the following for more facts and information on the versatility of corn:

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From One Bushel of Corn  
It Begins With a Kernel

### How is Our Corn Crop Used? (2002/03 Statistics)

#### Animal Feed

5.6 billion bushels of corn went to feed animals. Your bacon and egg breakfast, glass of milk at lunch or hamburger for supper were produced with U.S. corn.

- ▶ Livestock in Iowa consumed about 520 million bushels of Iowa's crop. Of that, about 54% went to hogs, 29% to beef cattle, 12% to poultry and 5% to dairy cattle.

#### Exports

Nearly 1.6 billion bushels of corn fed people and animals in other countries. The 10 biggest customers for U.S. corn are: Japan, Mexico, Taiwan, Canada, Egypt, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Turkey, Algeria, and Venezuela.

- ▶ 650 million bushels from Iowa's crop left the state. More than 55% went to foreign markets. The rest was used in other parts of the United States.

#### Corn Sweeteners

751 million bushels were refined into corn sweeteners. Read the labels on beverages and foods to find corn sweeteners in colas, candies, cakes and cookies, lunch meats, jams and jellies, snack foods, salad dressings, and ice cream.

- ▶ Processing of all kinds (sweeteners, starches, and ethanol) consumed more of the Iowa crop than any other use – over 630 million bushels.

#### Ethanol

996 million bushels of corn were fermented into fuel alcohol. Fuel alcohol makes gasoline burn cleaner, reducing air pollution, and it doesn't pollute the water. Using corn, a renewable resource, to replace gasoline helps reduce our need for petroleum, which can't be renewed.

**Other Uses**

256 million bushels were processed into starch for food and industrial uses: paper, textiles, adhesives, plastics, baked goods, condiments, candies, soups and mixes.

187 million bushels became breakfast cereals, snack chips, tortillas and other corn foods.

131 million bushels of corn were fermented into alcoholic beverages.

Because sweetener, starch and alcohol production doesn't use all of the corn kernel, the 2 billion bushels that went into those products also provided 16.1 million tons of animal feed and 3.2 billion pounds of corn oil.

*Source: USDA, industry statistics.*

**2002-2003 U.S. Corn Use By Segment  
(bushels)**

Feed/Residual	5.9 billion (61%)
Exports	1.6 billion (16%)
Ethanol (fuel)	996 million (10%)
High Fructose Corn Syrup	532 million (5%)
Corn Starch	256 million (2.7%)
Corn Sweeteners	219 million (2.3%)
Cereal/Other	187 million (2%)
Beverage Alcohol	131 million (1%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>9.5 billion bushels</b>

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