

energy



Gasohol to be made from grain that was to go to Soviets?

United Press International
WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. — The federal government is about to pump millions of dollars into speeded-up research on how to make alcohol fuel from the grain America isn't selling to the Soviet Union.

Though no promise was made, Dr. George Tsao, director of Purdue University's Renewable Resource Engineering Laboratory, said the offer of money seemed apparent in a recent telephone conversation with Energy Department officials.

He said someone from the department's Energy Conservation Division telephoned during the week and asked him for more information and a firm budget for speeding up his work on alcohol production.

Tsao said they wanted him to cut in half the time needed to complete his work on how to produce alcohol from corn without the troublesome residue the liquor industry now has to cope with.

Tsao has been working on the problem with support from Purdue and the Energy Department. A few months ago he told the Energy Department he might soon be ready to start a demonstration project, which would take two years and more than \$1 million.

He said he could do the work to nine to 12 months from the time the contract starts but it will cost about \$1.8 million.

He stressed the project would be

for demonstration only. A production plant capable of turning one million tons of grain into 100 million gallons of alcohol a year could cost \$150 million to \$200 million, he said.

Grain alcohol now is made with whole grain, which leaves behind a residue known as dried distillers solids, or DDS. DDS is full of protein and could be fed to animals but its liquid form makes it expensive to

ship. Tsao said it would be simpler to separate oil and protein before making alcohol out of the starch and fiber remaining in the kernel. He uses the traditional grain milling process to separate the hull, with its fiber, from the germ, which contains the oil.

Then solvent extraction is used to remove the protein, which can be used for animal food, and the fiber

and starch are left for alcohol production.

"Previously you could only make alcohol from starch. We now have a different kind of a mold culture which can consume fiber as well as starch and make thanol," Tsao said.

He said this means 85 percent of the kernel, instead of the previous 65 percent, potentially could be used to make alcohol.

Fuel plants to be marketed

United Press International
MONROE, La. — It could be the status symbol that replaces the swimming pool, the three-car garage and the videotape recorder.

For only \$1,000, two Monroe residents promise to build a complete gasohol production plant in your backyard.

Fred Huenefeld, a leader of the Democratic Party in Louisiana, and Ken Tuck, a native of Dallas, said Saturday they will market nationwide the gasohol plants designed to produce 200 to 400 gallons of alcohol a day.

Tuck said the plan, which will be unveiled next Friday at a news conference, is financed completely by private capital and represents an answer to the energy crisis.

"The projections are not a dream," Tuck said. "Naturally, we plan to make money out of gasohol but that is almost a byproduct with us, because this is something that needs to be done in this country."

Huenefeld and Tuck, who formed Government Banc Loans Inc. to market the plants, said they were being built by Marlin Car Care Co. in Marlin, Texas. Tuck said three plants already have been built, but they hope to sell 200.

The plant consists of a gasohol blender that transforms grain products — such as corn, sorghum and sugar

cane — into alcohol. The alcohol is combined with nine parts of gasoline to make a mixture called gasohol, or vehicles could be converted to run exclusively on alcohol fuel.

Tuck said representatives of four foreign countries and 11 states will be on hand Friday when the gasohol project is explained on the front lawn of the Monroe Civic Center. A gasohol plant will be set up and Tuck will drive a motorcycle from the fuel that

is produced to prove the process works.

Tuck said the Texas manufacturing company, headed by Delaney Sprinkles of Marlin, also was looking into producing smaller units that would make between 10 and 20 gallons of alcohol per week.

He said the marketing effort would begin in the South and then spread to the Midwest, where there are huge supplies of grain products.

Exxon to let its customers buy gasohol with credit cards

United Press International
HOUSTON — The Exxon Corp. announced Saturday it reluctantly would allow its credit cards to be used in the purchase of gasohol at Exxon stations.

The announcement was a departure from policies adopted by several other oil industry leaders which have said they would not allow credit card purchases of gasohol.

The company said it was allowing the use of its credit cards for gasohol to end a controversy over whether credit cards should be used.

"The real issue in the role of gasohol is whether the fuel supplement yields more energy than it takes to produce and, as such, whether it can make a positive contribution in reducing America's oil imports," an Exxon statement said.

The statement said its own experiment showed the process of making gasohol used more energy than it ultimately produced.

Exxon has refused to allow its customers to use Exxon credit cards for the purchases of anything but Exxon brand products.



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Students Can Sign Up For Long Distance Service This Week In The MSC Lobby

Students who want to add long distance calling privileges to their room should sign up at our desk in the Lobby of the Memorial Student Center, Tuesday, January 15 through Friday, January 18 from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m.

You should check with our desk if:

- 1 You want long distance service and did not sign up last semester.
- 2 You are moving from a room where you had long distance service and have not notified our business office. (Remember, if unchanged, you are still responsible for long distance calls made from your telephone.)
- 3 You have any questions regarding long distance service.

No deposits are required for new signups unless past paying habits warrant a deposit. Students who signed up for toll service last semester will continue to have long distance privileges, provided you did not cancel your service last semester.



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