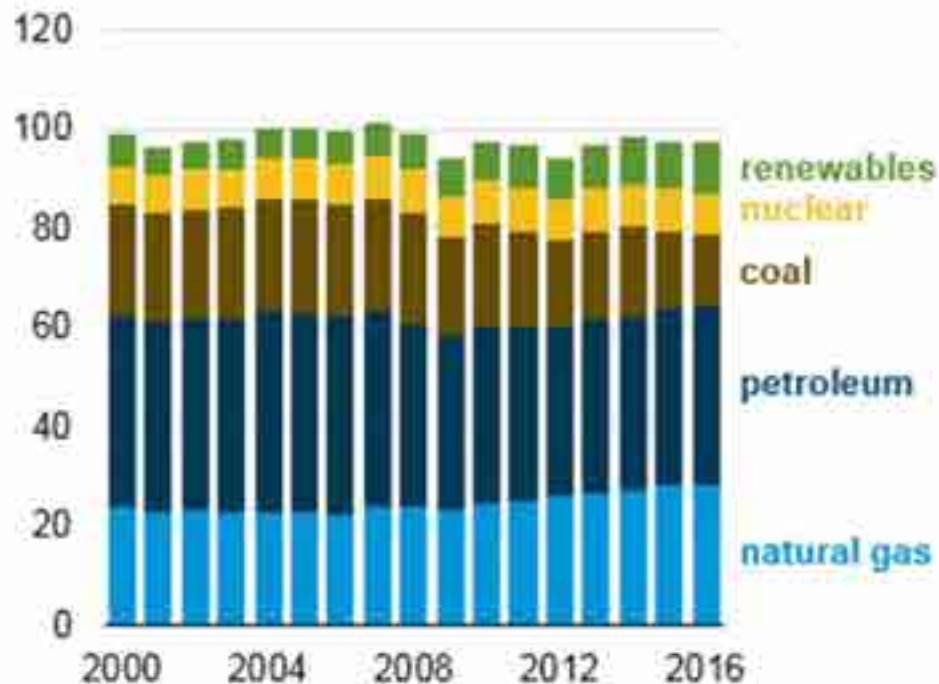


U.S. ETHANOL TRENDS & OUTLOOK

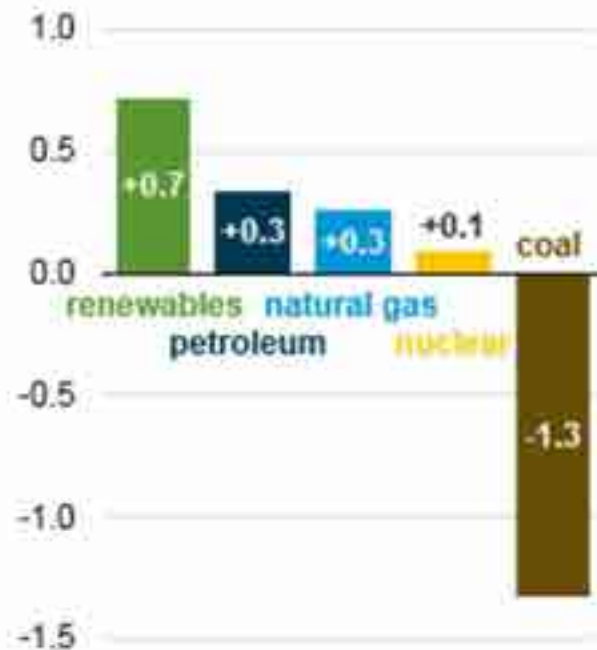
Warren P. Preston
Deputy Chief Economist
U.S. Department of Agriculture
June 2017

U.S. energy use – renewables share increasing

United States total energy consumption (2000-2016)
quadrillion British thermal units



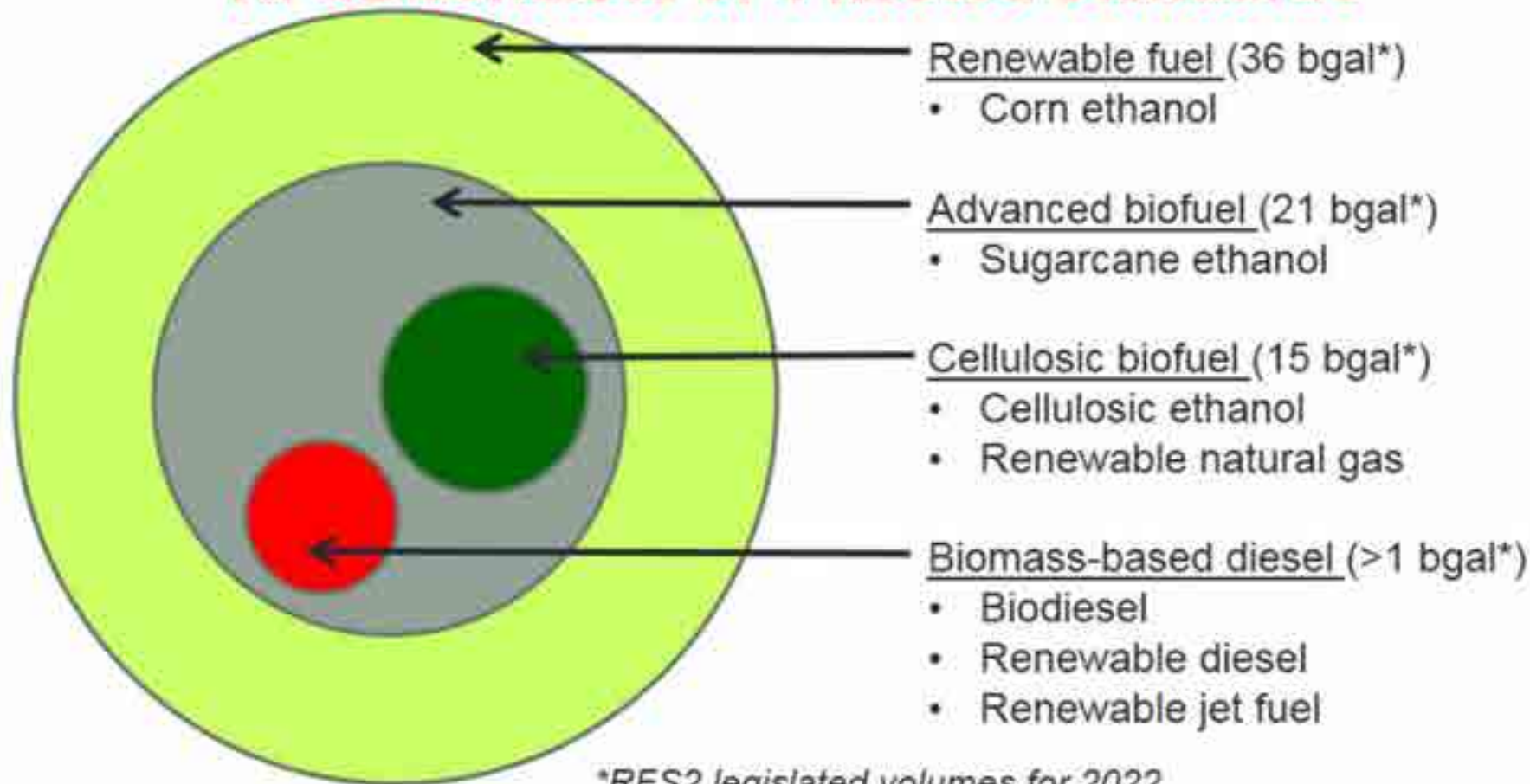
Change from 2015
quadrillion British thermal units



Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 established the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS2)

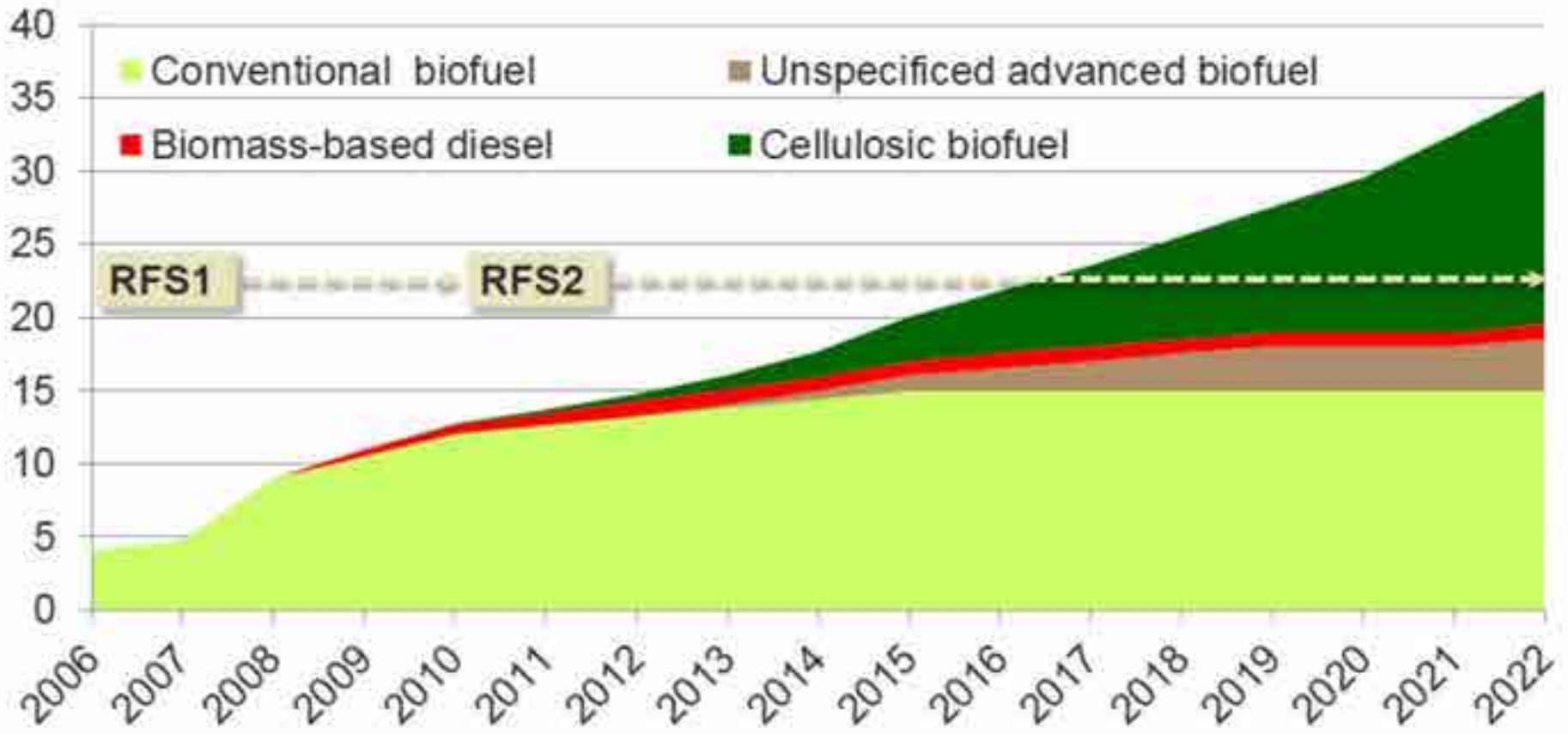
- Changed definition of renewable fuels to include minimum lifecycle greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction thresholds and grandfathered volume from certain facilities
- Fuel categories must meet greenhouse gas lifecycle reduction thresholds
 - 20% – Conventional Biofuels (ethanol derived from corn starch from new facilities)
 - 50% – Advanced Biofuels
 - 50% – Biomass-based Diesel
 - 60% – Cellulosic Biofuels
- Restricted types of feedstocks that can be used to make renewable fuel and the types of land that can be used to grow and harvest feedstocks

RFS2 consists of 4 nested standards



**RFS2 legislated volumes for 2022*

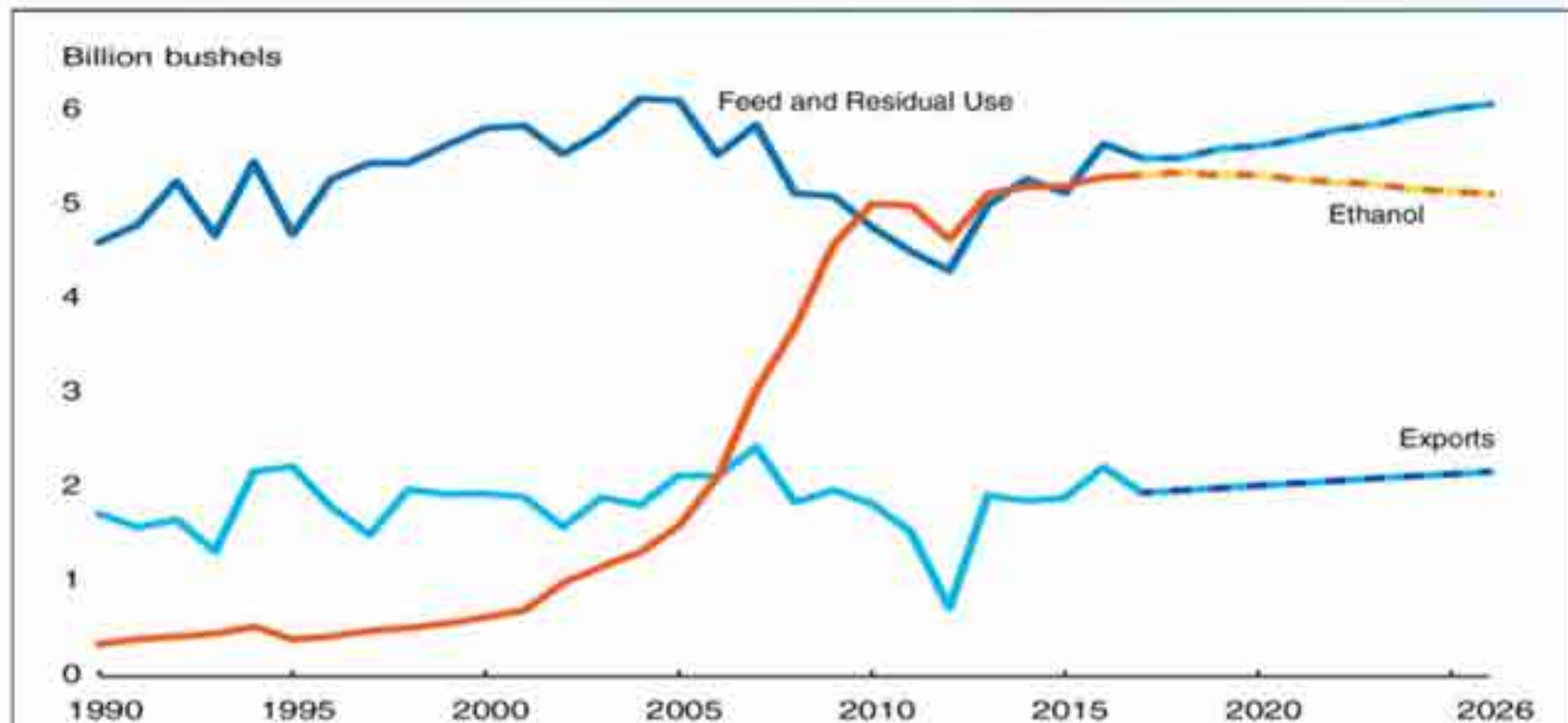
The legislated version of RFS2 increases over time



EPA has reduced mandates, when fuels were not available or marketable

Billion ethanol gallon equivalents	2014		2015		2016		2017	
	<i>Legislated volume</i>	<i>Implemented volume</i>	<i>Legislated volume</i>	<i>Implemented volume</i>	<i>Legislated volume</i>	<i>Implemented volume</i>	<i>Legislated volume</i>	<i>Implemented volume</i>
Cellulosic biofuel	1.75	.033	3	.123	4.25	.23	5.5	.311
Biomass-based diesel	>1	1.63	>1	1.73	>1	1.9	>1	2
Advanced biofuel	3.75	2.67	5.5	2.88	7.25	3.61	9	4.28
Renewable fuel	18.15	16.28	20.5	16.93	22.25	18.11	24	19.28

U.S. projected corn use by type through 2016

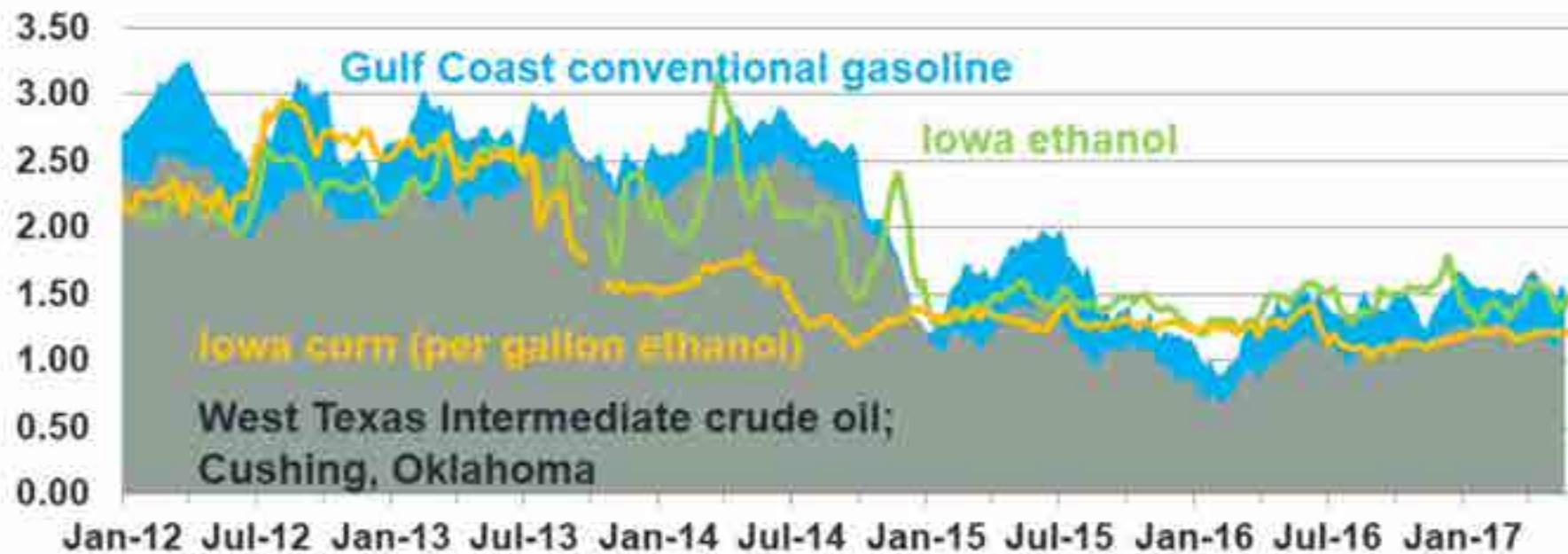


Note: Projections begin in 2017.

Source: USDA, Economic Research Service Agricultural Baseline Database.

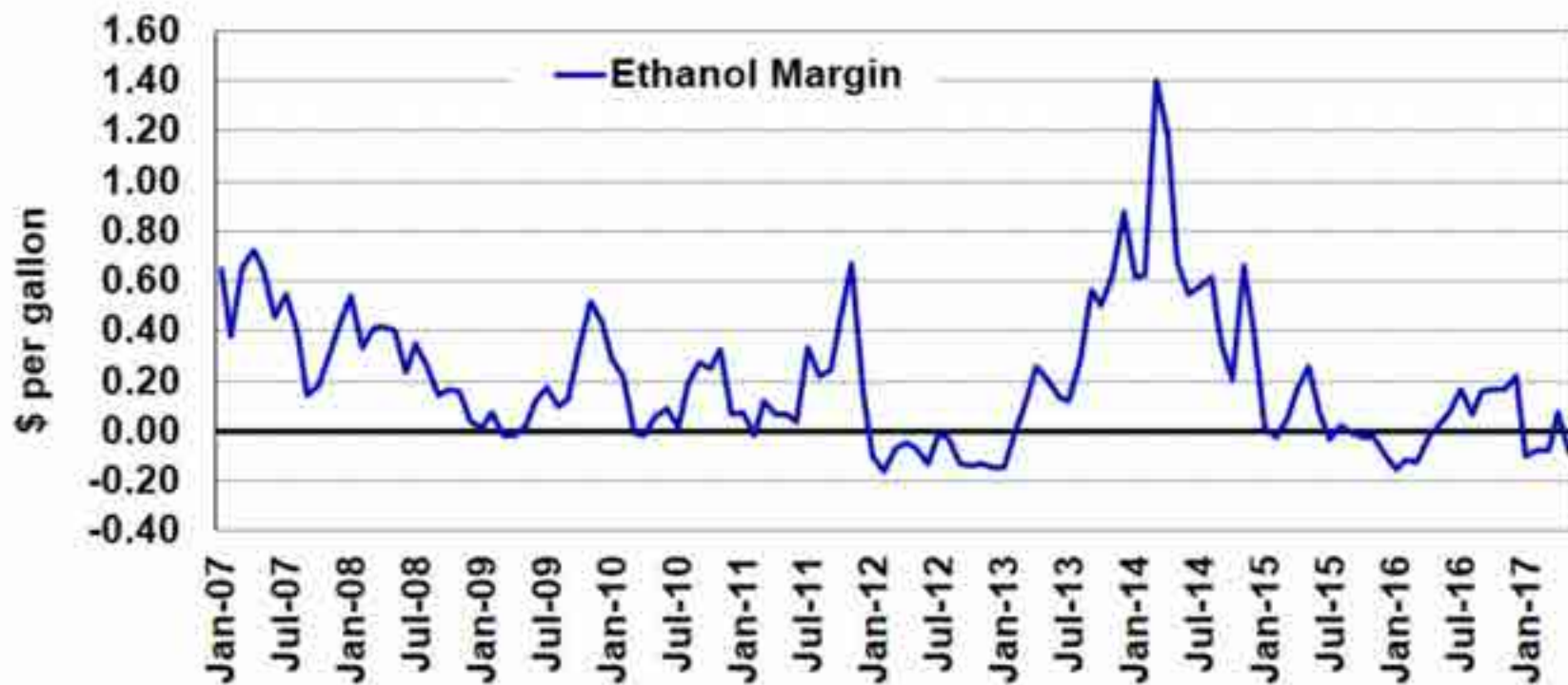
The profitability of ethanol varies with crude oil, corn, gasoline, and ethanol spot prices

Dollars per gallon



Sources: USDA, Agriculture Marketing Service and Thomson Reuters as republished by EIA

Midwest ethanol production margins tighten since 2014

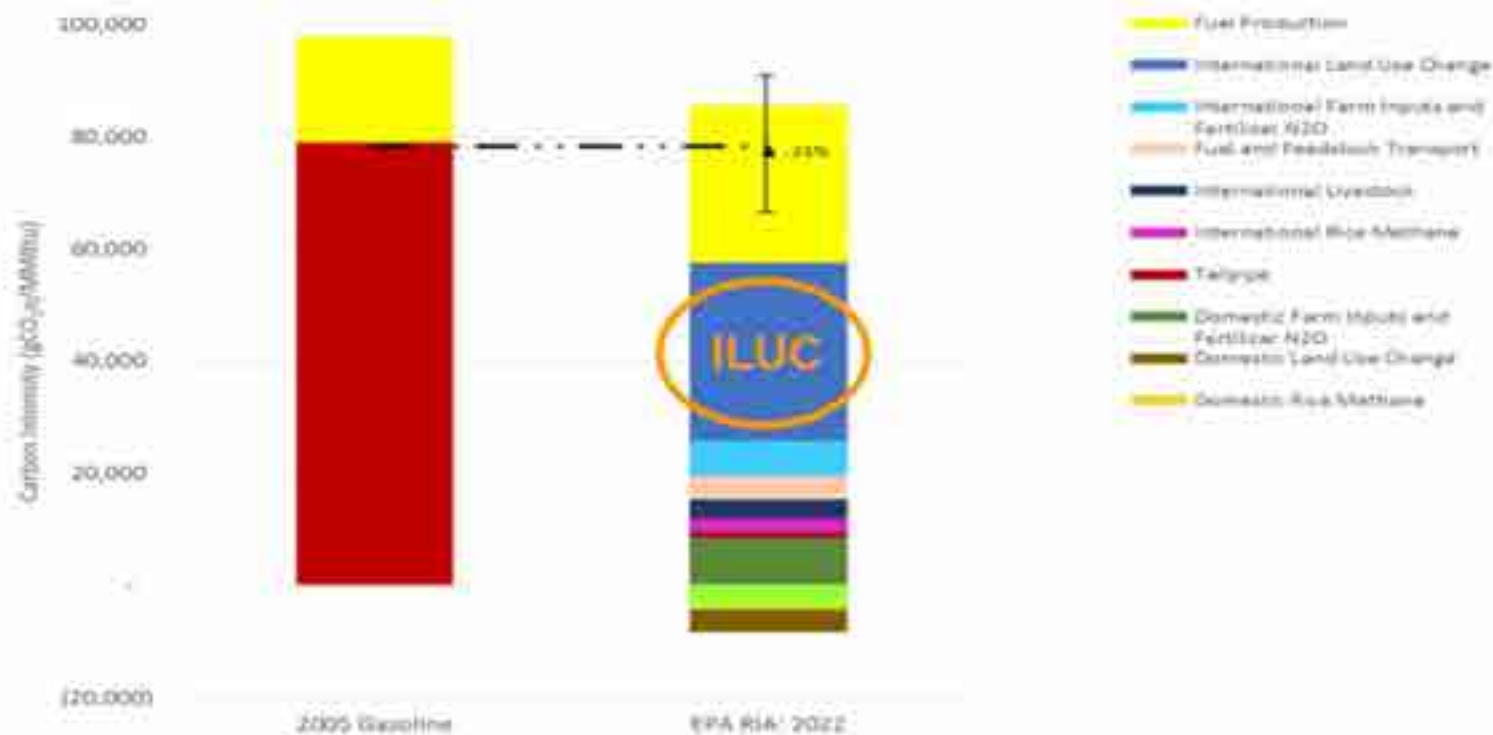


Source: Iowa State University calculations based on USDA AMS Iowa Ethanol Report & EIA

Assessing the Carbon Footprint of Corn-Based Ethanol



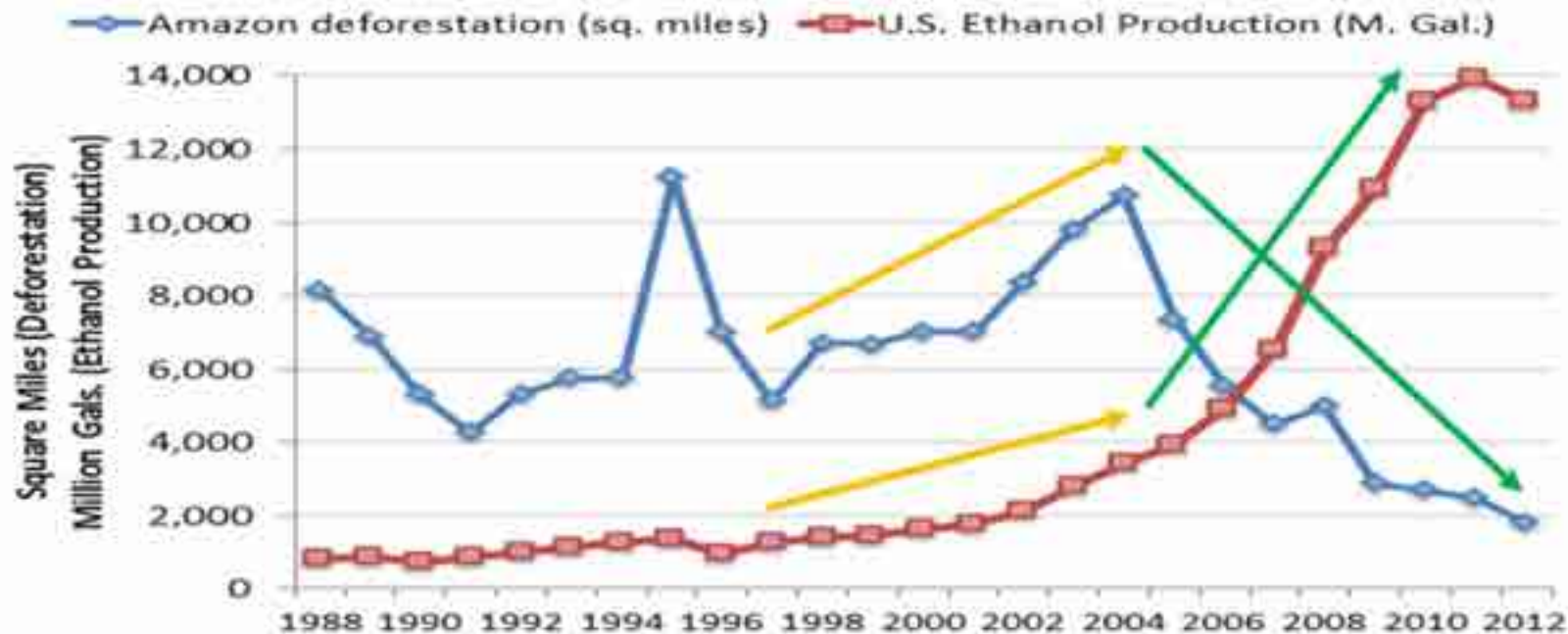
EPA 2010 RFS2 regulatory impact analysis lifecycle emissions – gasoline baseline versus corn ethanol



Source: EPA 2010

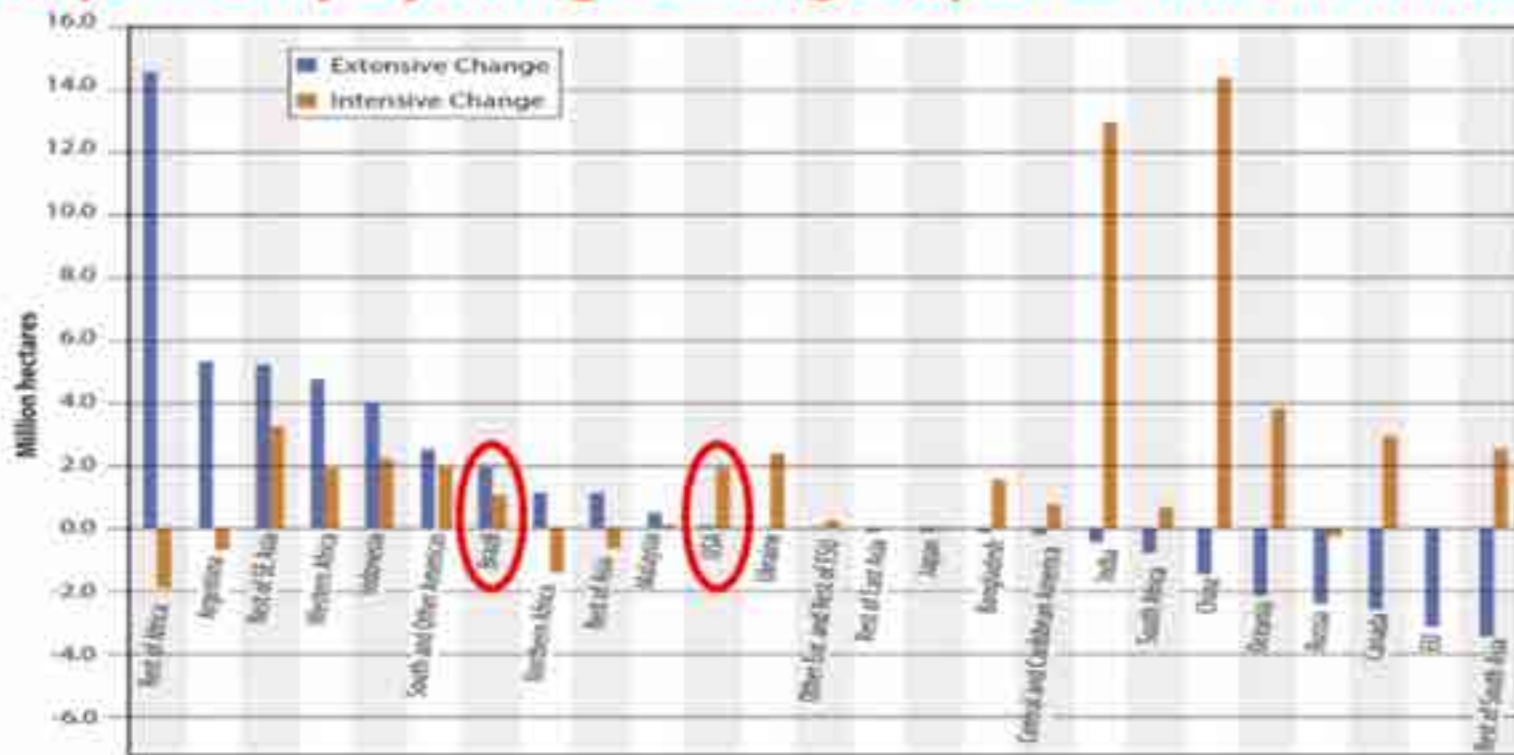
More recent data dispel link between Amazon deforestation and U.S. ethanol production

AMAZON DEFORESTATION AND U.S. ETHANOL PRODUCTION



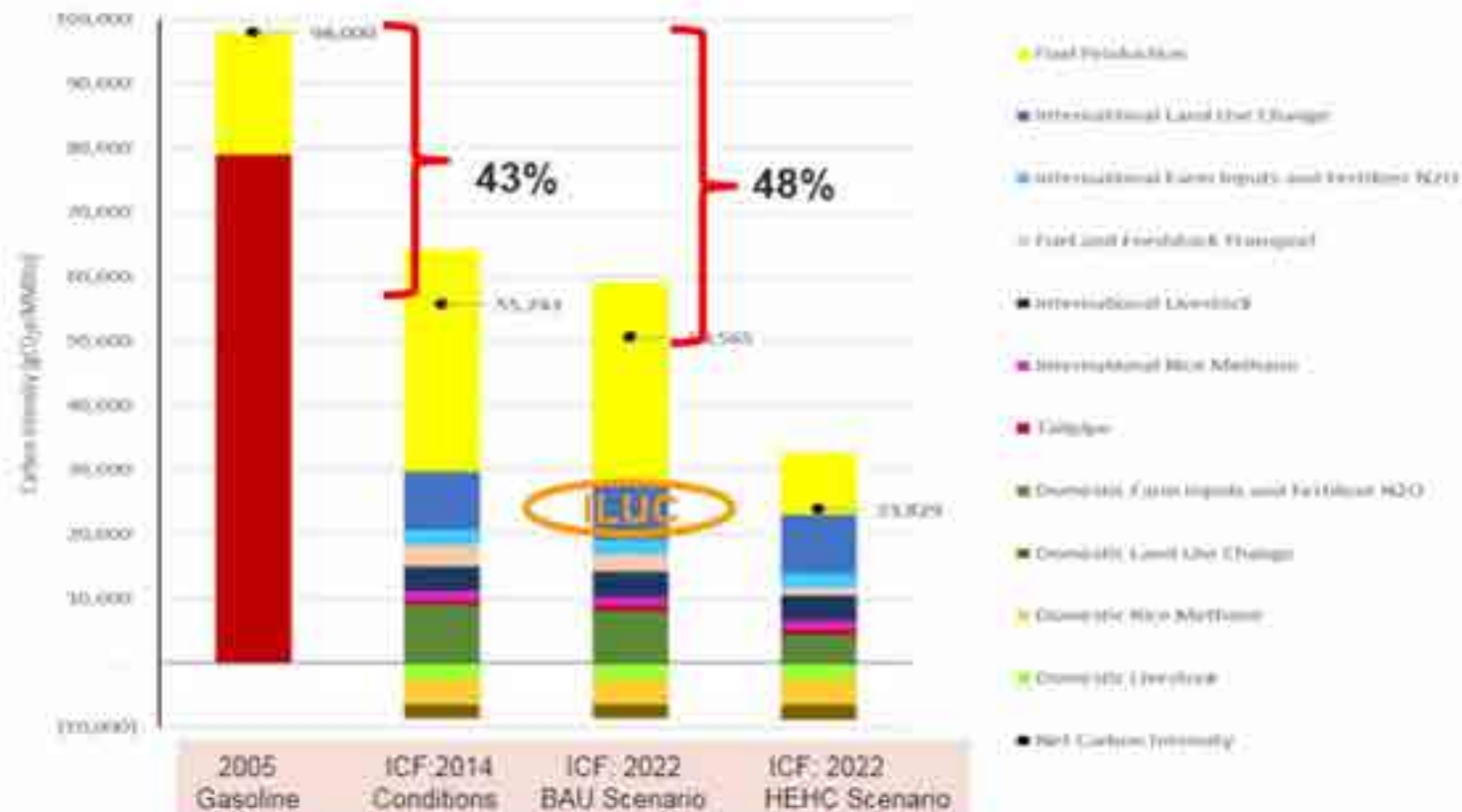
Sources: Brazilian National Institute of Space Research 2014, EIA 2015

From 2004 to 2012, world's farmers responded to higher prices primarily by using existing cropland more intensively

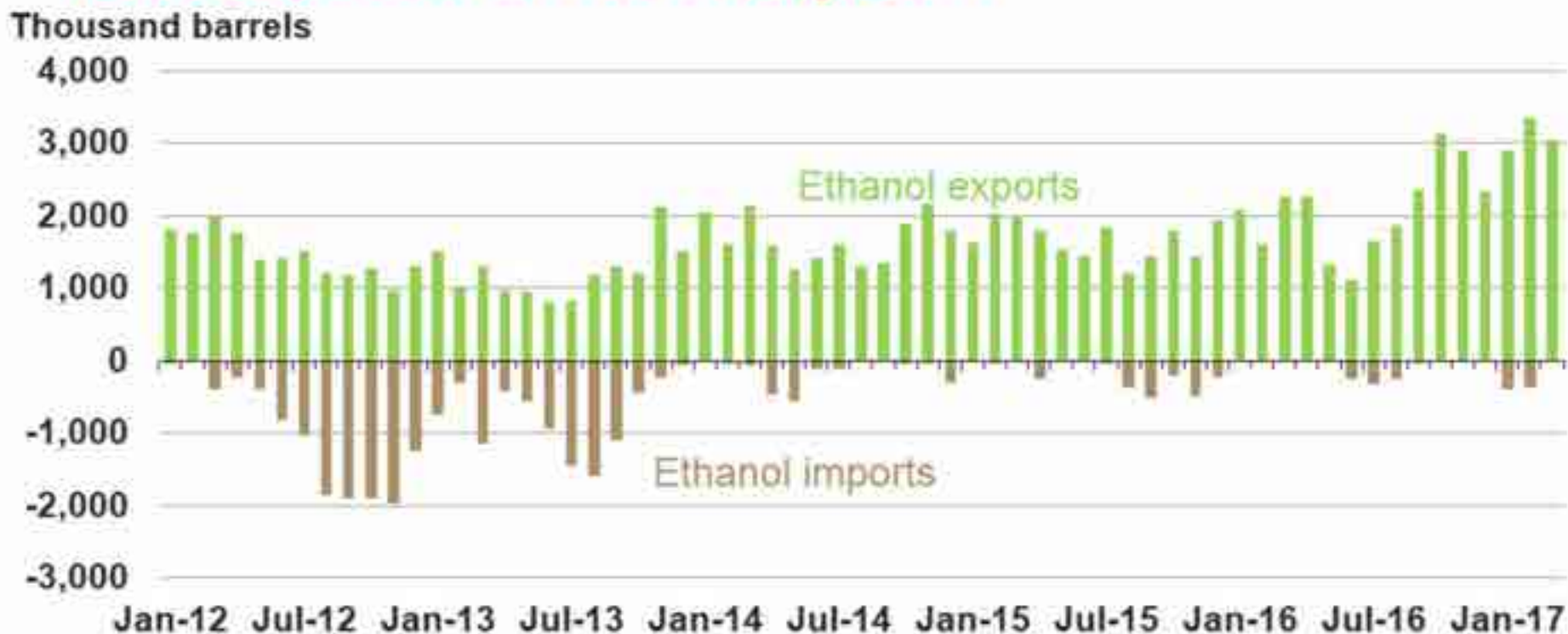


Source: Babcock and Iqbal 2014

Comparison of ICF Scenario Carbon Intensities

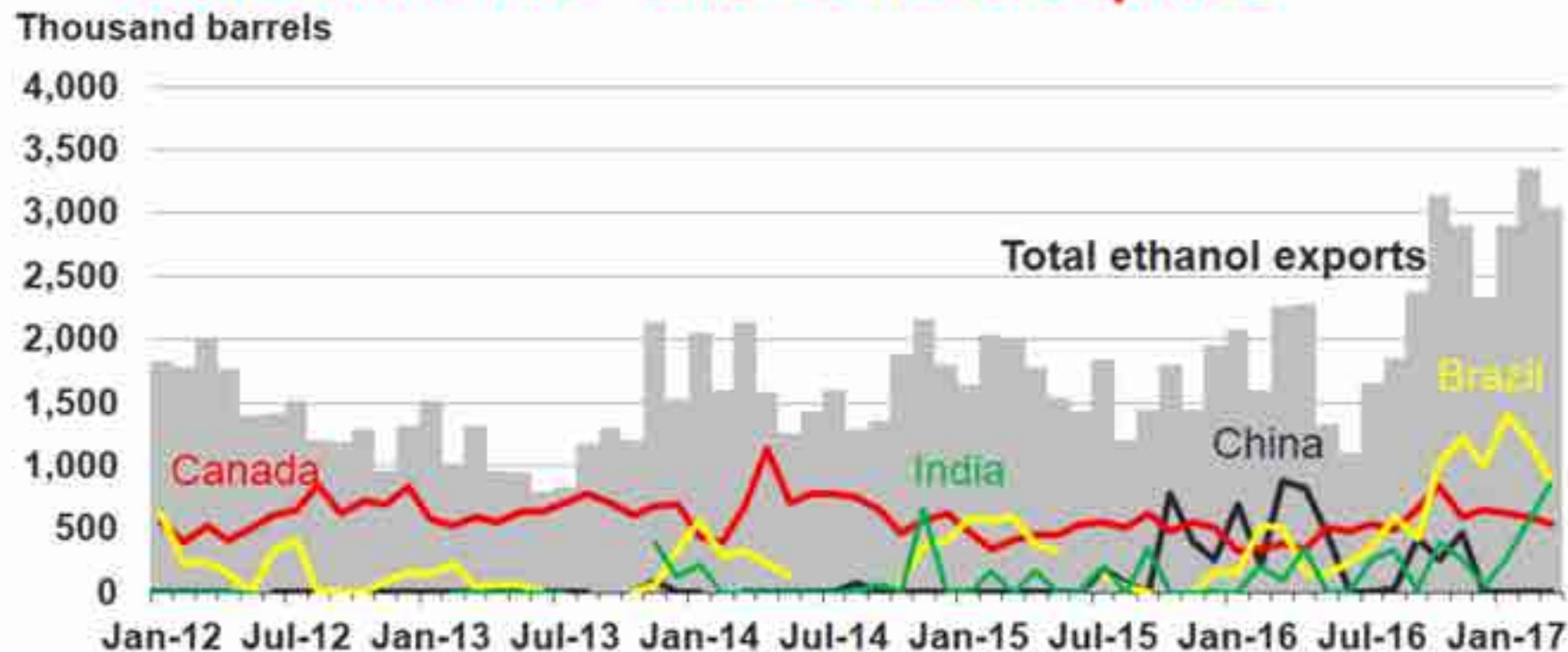


U.S. exports of ethanol reached their 3rd-highest recorded total in February 2017

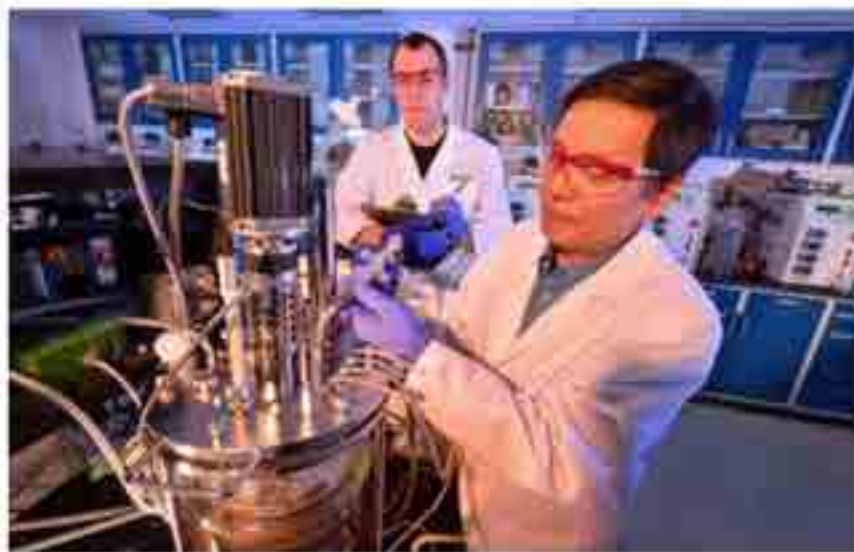


Source: Energy Information Administration

Brazil, India, and Canada have been the top 3 destinations for U.S. ethanol exports



Concluding thoughts...



- Technological advancements continue to improve greenhouse gas profile of corn-based ethanol
- Recent studies suggest international land use change much smaller than initially estimated in setting RFS2
- Land use data support reinforce findings of recent studies
- Ample supplies of feedstocks dispel food versus fuel debate
- Ample trade opportunities for expanded use of ethanol globally

Obrigado!

wpreston@oce.usda.gov

http://www.usda.gov/oce/commodity/wasde/Secretary_Briefing.pdf

Save The Date
February 22 & 23, 2018

USDA
Agricultural
Outlook
Forum



Meet Secretary Sonny Perdue

www.usda.gov/oce/forum

