



NEWS RELEASE

1970 Broadway, Suite 825, Oakland, CA 94612 ♦ Ph. (510) 763-1533 ♦ Fax (510) 763-6186 ♦ E-mail staff@nmaonline.org
1400 - 16th St., N.W., Ste. 400 ♦ Washington, D.C. 20036 ♦ Ph. (202) 667-2108 ♦ WWW: <http://www.nmaonline.org>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Jeremy Russell
Director of Communications and Government Relations
jeremy@nmaonline.org
(510) 763-1533

NMA SUPPORTS FOOD-FUEL EQUITY

OAKLAND, CA – Ethanol production is one of the fastest-growing industries in America today, because it can be added to gasoline to reduce air pollution under some circumstances and to supplement fuel supplies. However, in the United States ethanol is made from corn much of which would otherwise be used for livestock feed.

“National Meat Association is taking the position that a food-fuel equity needs to be reached, before irreversible harm is done to our nation’s food-production system,” said NMA Director of Government Relations Jeremy Russell.

Ethanol-encouraging governmental mandates and subsidies could lock in the high price of corn for years to come. We must maintain a balance. Tax credits available for ethanol blending need to be available to other sources of renewable fuels including fats, tallows and animal waste and import tariffs on imported ethanol should be eliminated.

“While there are other alternative fuel sources, factors of government support are creating a disproportionate demand for corn-based ethanol. It may be an unintended consequence, but this demand is starting to affect our food supply. We need to take action now to create food-fuel parity for the sake of our food security,” said Russell.

Approaches to restoring parity include funding a broad-based research into renewable fuels technologies and byproduct safety, quality, and usability. And the government shouldn't be seeking new mandates or subsidies solely for high-blend ethanol distribution/marketing infrastructure.

National Meat Association is a non-profit trade association. Since 1946, NMA has represented meat packers and processors, equipment manufacturers and food suppliers who provide services to the meat industry. The association has members throughout the United States, as well as in Canada, Australia and Mexico.