

ASA Says Proposed Rule on RFS Hurts Biodiesel Demand

The American Soybean Association (ASA) has voiced strong concern with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding the proposed rule on implementation of the expanded Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS-2).

"The EPA's proposed rule on RFS-2 implementation is significantly flawed and would do unnecessary harm to the competitive position of the U.S. soy biodiesel industry," said ASA President Johnny Dodson, a soybean producer from Halls, Tenn. "A loss of the domestic biodiesel market would significantly decrease prices paid to U.S. farmers for their soybeans."

For soybean farmers, the vital flaws and concerns with the RFS-2 proposed rule include flawed and immature assumptions and methodology utilized to measure the indirect land use impacts of U.S. soy biodiesel production; unnecessary and onerous feedstock certification requirements; a methodology that contains a major error pertaining to the direct emission calculations for nitrogen in soybean production; a lack of accounting for glycerine as a co-product; inaccurate assessment of the energy balance of

biodiesel; a proposed pathway of using a 52-48 feedstock ratio of biodiesel feedstocks that is not workable in practice; a lack of accounting for improved agriculture yields and efficiency; and a baseline analysis that compares estimated, future direct and indirect GHG emissions for biodiesel to only direct emissions for petroleum.

"Soybean farmers have a great interest in the implementation of the RFS-2," Dodson said. "Unless the flaws in EPA's proposed rule are corrected, soy-based biodiesel effectively will be excluded from the meeting the renewable energy targets established under RFS-2. Soybean farmers would lose a source of demand for soybean oil, biodiesel manufacturers would be left without sufficient feedstock supply, jobs would be lost, and our nation would not decrease its dependence on imported oil. None of these outcomes are what Congress intended."

With the future of the U.S. biodiesel industry at stake, ASA provided detailed comments to the EPA outlining concerns with the proposed rule on implementation of the expanded Renewable Fuel Standard.

ASA Advocates for Best Interests of Soybean Farmers

As most Americans become further removed from our nation's agricultural roots, policy decisions are being made that will define the future of the U.S. soybean industry. The American Soybean Association (ASA) is on the job every day to represent the best interests of soybean farmers.

ASA is a grassroots membership organization. Dues from membership are used to fund the Association's work on legislative and regulatory issues that impact soybean farmer profitability. And because dues include membership in both ASA and your state association, work is also done on your behalf at the state level.

When ASA speaks, it is soybean farmers doing the talking. When you belong to ASA and your state soybean association you can grow your soybeans knowing that farmers just like you are watching your back on federal and state policy – representing your best interests through ASA.

With membership support ASA can help shape policy

and influence important decisions that drive profitability on your farm. Become a member of ASA today by joining online at www.soygrowers.com. Never has your membership been more important.



"ASA fills a need of advocating for all soybean producers in the country. The more members that we have the better we can do that important work. All soybean producers benefit from our efforts."
Joe Steiner, soybean farmer, Mason, Ohio



"Soybean producers benefit from membership because we are there in Washington DC and state legislatures every day looking out for their interests concerning any legislation that will affect their profitability. Sometimes the most important piece of legislation is the one that doesn't get passed. We must have member input to truly represent their interests."
Ron Moore, soybean farmer, Roseville, Illinois