Q: Is ethanol good for my car?
A: Yes! Gasoline enriched with ethanol performs in much the same way that regular gasoline does, and actually surpasses regular gasoline in key performance categories. All auto manufacturers who sell cars in the United States approve fuels enriched with up to 10 percent ethanol — and many recommend it for its clean-burning benefits.

Q: Which blend of ethanol fuel should I use?
A: Today’s cars are built to run on fuel enriched with up to 10 percent ethanol and are warranted for its use. More and more vehicles are designed to run on E85 — a blend containing 85% ethanol, 15% gasoline. To find out which fuel is best for your car, check your owner’s manual, ask your dealer, or visit www.drivingethanol.org.

Q: How does ethanol affect gas mileage?
A: While there are many variables that affect fuel economy (weather, car condition, road grade, tire pressure, air conditioner use, etc.), studies indicate that fuel economy with ethanol-enriched fuels is not likely to decrease with E10. With E85, the fuel economy loss varies between 10 to 20%, however, it generally sells for 40-60 cents a gallon less than regular unleaded, offsetting the mileage penalty.

Q: Can I use ethanol in my motorcycle?
A: The use of E10 is approved for use by major motorcycle manufacturers including Harley-Davidson, Honda, Kawasaki, Suzuki and Yamaha. Harley-Davidson goes so far as to recommend the use of renewable, clean air fuels such as E10 because of their environmental and performance benefits.

Q: Doesn’t it take more energy to produce ethanol?
A: There have been nine different groups that have studied the energy balance issue over the years and eight of the nine concluded that ethanol produces a positive energy balance. A few have published multiple reports which show ethanol energy yield continues to increase as farming practices improve and ethanol production facilities incorporate the latest in technology.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), working with Argonne National Labs, concluded ethanol yields a 34% British Thermal Unit (BTU) improvement. More importantly, the study showed that for every BTU of liquid fossil fuel used primarily in farming and transportation to the ethanol facility, ethanol provides six times the BTU extension of our liquid fossil fuels.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The most common blend of ethanol and gasoline in the United States is E10 Unleaded – a blend of 10 percent ethanol and 90 percent unleaded gasoline. Every major automaker in the world approves the use of E10 in their vehicles and ethanol is currently blended into over half of America’s gasoline. Missouri does not require ethanol labeling. Chances are you have filled up with E10 without realizing that you were utilizing a homegrown, renewable fuel.

This information is brought you to by the Missouri Corn Growers Association
573.893.4181 (phone) - mcga@mocorn.org (e-mail) - www.mocorn.org
Q: Will ethanol plug my fuel lines and fuel injectors?
A: Situations involving plugged fuel filters are virtually non-existent today. In the past (especially in cars made prior to 1975), switching to ethanol-blended gasoline occasionally resulted in the fuel system being scrubbed clean due to the cleansing nature of ethanol. The loosened residue would be caught in the fuel filter—requiring a filter change. Once the filter was changed, the fuel system remained clean, enhancing engine performance. Some components in gasoline, such as olefins (which are a waxy substance), can cause deposits that foul injectors. But since ethanol burns 100 percent and leaves no residue, it cannot contribute to the formation of deposits. In fact, ethanol blends help keep fuel injectors cleaner.

Q: Is there enough corn to meet the demand for ethanol?
A: The USDA estimated that the corn crop for 2007 will be more than 13 billion bushels. The ethanol industry will require approximately 2.3 billion bushels or about 16 percent of the nation's corn supply to produce an estimated 6.9 billion gallons of ethanol for 2007. The National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) projects that ethanol demand and corn supply will continue on an even trend in the coming years because of increased corn yields through genetic improvements. On average, corn yields have increased by 3.5 bushels per acre per year since 1995. Based on the historical data, NCGA predicts corn yields to increase to around 180 bushels per acre by 2015 compared to the 150 bushels per acre in 2006. At 180 bushels per acre, ethanol production could increase to over 20 billion gallons without adding another acre to corn production. Hybrid yields are currently producing up to 280 bushels per acre, or enough corn to produce over 36 billion gallons of ethanol production.

Q: Does the use of ethanol really have a positive impact on our environment?
A: Ethanol adds oxygen to fuel, reducing the amount of harmful tailpipe emissions released when burned. In fact, The American Lung Association of Metropolitan Chicago credits ethanol-blended fuel with reducing smog-forming emissions there by 25% since 1990. In addition, carbon dioxide released during ethanol production is absorbed by row crops or other biomass used to make ethanol.

Ethanol creates a better environment as vehicles using ethanol blends produce lower carbon monoxide (CO) and carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions, lower levels of hydrocarbon and non-methane hydrocarbon emissions and fewer evaporative emissions because ethanol has fewer volatile components.

Ethanol Facts
One acre of corn can produce enough ethanol to run a car for some 72,000 miles on E10.

For every barrel of ethanol produced, 1.2 barrels of petroleum are displaced.

By 2010, U.S. ethanol production could displace the equivalent of 311,000 barrels of imported crude oil per day—more than one large oil tanker per week.

One bushel of corn yields about 2.8 gallons of ethanol.

A typical 40 million gallon ethanol plant creates 32 full-time jobs and generates an additional $1.2 million in tax revenue for a community.