

Subject: Farmers Can Lessen U.S. Dependence on Foreign Oil

Story Summary: Farmers are paying close attention as the Senate debates a national energy policy. Provisions in the legislation call for increased usage of renewable fuels. Those provisions would not only help the farm economy, but also the environment and the nation's dependence on foreign oil.

TRT: 1:43

Suggested Lead: As the Senate debates the contents of a national energy policy, the violence in the Middle East is proving to be a convincing argument for promoting homegrown fuels. Johnna Miller explains...

Suggested Supers:

Nathan Russell
Wisconsin Farmer
@ :15

Washington, DC
@ :25

Rep. Ron Kind
(D) Wisconsin – 3rd District
@ :37

Jon Doggett
American Farm Bureau Energy Specialist
@ :50

Johnna Miller
Reporting
@ 1:35

Farmers Can Lessen U.S. Dependence on Foreign Oil

Johnna Miller Reporting

April 25, 2002

Gas station	VO/ IT DOESN'T TAKE LONG FOR PROBLEMS IN THE MIDDLE EAST TO SHOW UP AT U.S. GAS STATIONS. (NAT) THAT VOLATILITY SHINES A SPOTLIGHT ON THE NATION'S DEPENDENCE ON FOREIGN OIL
Corn field	VO/ BUT FARMERS HAVE RELIEF FOR THAT CONCERN GROWING IN THEIR FIELDS.
Soundbite Nathan Russell Wisconsin Farmer	RUSSELL/ I THINK BY HAVING BIODIESEL AND ETHANOL THAT AMERICAN AGRICULTURE CAN PROVIDE FOR OUR NATION AND SERVE NOT ONLY THE FOOD AND FIBER THAT WE'RE PRODUCING, BUT ALSO THE ENERGY NEEDS OF OUR COUNTRY.
Young farmers walking near Capitol Young farmers in Congressman's office	VO/ NATHAN RUSSELL IS A GRAIN AND DAIRY FARMER. ON A RECENT TRIP TO WASHINGTON, HE AND OTHER YOUNG FARMERS FROM WISCONSIN EMPHASIZED THE ADVANTAGES OF RENEWABLE FUELS USAGE TO THEIR CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVES. IT'S NOT ONLY GOOD FOR FARMERS...

<p>Nat Soundbite Rep. Ron Kind (D) Wisconsin – 3rd District</p>	<p>KIND/ LAST YEAR GIVEN THE LOW CORN PRICES WE WERE GETTING ABOUT \$1.80 NATIONWIDE. THAT WAS ABOUT A 25-CENT INCREASE BECAUSE OF ETHANOL PRODUCTION.</p>
<p>People pumping ethanol into car</p>	<p>BUT ALSO HELPS WITH THE NATION'S ENERGY NEEDS.</p>
<p>Soundbite Jon Doggett American Farm Bureau Energy Specialist</p>	<p>DOGGETT/ I THINK IT'S INTERESTING THAT WE IMPORT FIVE TIMES AS MUCH ENERGY FROM THE COUNTRY OF IRAQ THAN WE PRODUCE IN THIS COUNTRY FROM RENEWABLE FUEL SOURCES. THAT'S SOMETHING THAT NEEDS TO BE REVERSED.</p>
<p>Capitol Ethanol gas tanks</p>	<p>VO/ PROVISIONS IN THE SENATE ENERGY BILL COULD LEAD THE WAY. THE RENEWABLE FUELS STANDARD WOULD REQUIRE THAT THE NATION'S MOTOR FUEL SUPPLY GRADUALLY USE MORE HOMEGROWN FUELS, EVENTUALLY REACHING 5 BILLION GALLONS A YEAR BY 2012.</p>
<p>Ethanol plant near corn field</p>	<p>VO/ FARMER-OWNED ETHANOL AND BIODIESEL PLANTS ARE ALREADY SPROUTING UP THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRYSIDE OFFERING MORE THAN JUST HOPE TO THE STRUGGLING FARM ECONOMY...</p>

	<p>DOGGETT/ IT WILL BRING JOBS TO RURAL AMERICA, A PART OF THE COUNTRY THAT REALLY DIDN'T HAVE MUCH OF THE BOOM OF THE 90S. AND THEN WE'RE GOING TO REDUCE OUR DEPENDENCE ON FOREIGN OIL AND THAT'S IMPORTANT AND THEN LASTLY THIS IS A TYPE OF FUEL THAT'S GOOD FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND WE WANT TO HAVE CLEANER AIR.</p>
<p>Young farmers walking near Capitol</p>	<p>VO/ SO FARMERS LIKE RUSSELL WILL WATCH CONGRESS CLOSELY TO SEE IF THEIR HOPES WILL BECOME LAW. IN WASHINGTON, I'M JOHNNA MILLER.</p>