

**Subject:** Flying on Corn

**Story Summary:** It's taking longer to catch on, but a few aircraft owners are finding success fueling their planes with pure corn-based ethanol.

**TRT:** 1:34

**Suggested Lead:** Ethanol is taking to the air. Tom Steever reports on a precision flying team that is glad they made the switch to the corn-based fuel.

**Suggested Supers:** Lincoln County, South Dakota  
@ :01

Gayle Wilts  
Vanguard Aircraft Builder  
@ :15

Richard Pearson  
Vanguard Squadron Pilot  
@ :25

Tom Steever Reporting

@ :31

**Suggested tag:** It wasn't until 1941 during the Roosevelt administration that Congress made Thanksgiving a legal holiday.

**Flying on Corn**  
**Tom Steever Reporting**  
**November 25, 2002**

Airplanes depart	VO/ ONE OF THE BEST PROVING GROUNDS FOR CORN-BASED ETHANOL FUEL MAY NOT BE ON THE GROUND AT ALL.
Four planes in air <b>Gayle Wilts</b> <b>Vanguard Aircraft Builder</b>  Single ship on ground	SOT/ THIS GROUP HAS PROVEN THAT IT CAN BE USED. THIS IS THE EIGHTH SEASON NOW THEY'VE RUN ON ETHANOL. WE'VE HAD NO MAJOR PROBLEMS. THE FAA STILL PROJECTS THAT WE'LL HAVE TWICE THE ENGINE LIFE AND IN AN AIRCRAFT ENGINE THAT'S A LOT OF DOLLARS.
C/u single pilot on ground <b>Richard Pearson</b> <b>Vanguard Squadron Pilot</b>	SOT/ YOU GET MORE HORSEPOWER, IT RUNS CLEANER, YOUR ENGINE RUNS SMOOTHER AND YOU CAN DEFINITELY TELL THE POWER DIFFERENCE ON PERFORMANCE.
Cessna starts  Cessna departs  Planes taxi	VO/ MOST OF AMERICA'S PISTON AIRCRAFT FLEET DEPENDS ON ONE HUNDRED OCTANE LOW LEAD GASOLINE PRICED FROM TWO- FORTY TO MORE THAN THREE DOLLARS A GALLON. BUT THE SOUTH DAKOTA-BASED VANGUARD SQUADRON POWERS THEIR RV3 AIRCRAFT ON ETHANOL AT ABOUT HALF THAT PRICE.
Planes in formation Wilts sot	SOT/ IT PERFORMS PRETTY WELL; WE'RE ESTIMATING TEN PERCENT MORE POWER. THE AIRPLANES CONSUME MORE THAN THEY WOULD AVGAS, BUT IT'S ABOUT HALF THE PRICE.

Pearson sot	SOT/ IT'S WAY CHEAPER THAN AVGAS, SO THE ECONOMY IS QUITE A BIT BETTER. BUT IT USES A LITTLE BIT MORE. THERE'S NOT AS MANY BTUS IN ETHANOL AS THERE IS IN AVGAS.
Z/out from single airborne ship	VO/ AT THIS POINT, ETHANOL IS RESTRICTED FOR USE IN EXPERIMENTAL AIRCRAFT AND PLANES SPECIFICALLY CLEARED BY THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION.
Wilts sot Pan from insignia to planes  Row of planes on ground  Under wing	SOT/ AS THE AVAILABILITY COMES UP FOR ETHANOL, I THINK HERE IN THE MIDWEST WE'RE GOING TO SEE MORE EXPERIMENTALS, ESPECIALLY, FLYING IT. IT'S KIND OF A PROVING GROUND FOR ETHANOL.
Turn away w/smoke	VO/ IF THEY'RE FUELING WHERE ETHANOL IS NOT AVAILABLE, THE CRAFT ARE STILL ABLE TO FLY ON CONVENTIONAL AVGAS. IN LINCOLN COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA, I'M TOM STEEVER.