

Subject: Drag Racer Riding High With Ethanol

Story Summary: An Ohio farmer is also one of the country's top drag car racers. His funny car runs on ethanol. Farmer/driver Mark Thomas says all drivers can benefit from using the renewable fuel, while protecting the environment and lessening U.S. dependence on foreign oil.

TRT: 1:35

Suggested Lead: One of the nation's top drag car racers says his success should steer more consumers into using ethanol in their gas tanks. Johnna Miller has the story.

Suggested Supers: Louisville, Ohio
@ :01

Mark Thomas
Ohio farmer/Drag Racer
@ :15

Johnna Miller
Reporting
@ 1:32

Drag Racer Riding High With Ethanol
Johnna Miller Reporting
July 29, 2004

<p>Thomas driving combine in wheat field</p>	<p>VO/ OHIO FARMER MARK THOMAS FEELS A NEED FOR SPEED THAT THE COMBINE JUST DOESN'T FULFILL. THAT'S WHY...</p>
<p>Drag race</p>	<p>(NATSOT OF DRAG RACE) ...HE'S ALSO A PROFESSIONAL DRAG RACER.</p>
<p>Mark Thomas Ohio Farmer & Drag Racer</p>	<p>THOMAS/ WHEN YOU LOOK AT THE THINGS THAT YOU HAVE TO LEARN TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN FARMING AND RACING, IT'S ALL THE SAME. YOU SET YOUR GOALS. YOU WORK HARD. YOU PRAY. YOU HOPE AND IF IT ALL WORKS OUT RIGHT, YOU'LL MAKE IT.</p>
<p>Thomas at races? Rack from corn to "corn" input Ethanol logo on car</p>	<p>VO/ THOMAS ISN'T JUST MAKING IT. HE'S WON FIVE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS AND ATTRIBUTES PART OF THAT SUCCESS TO A PRODUCT THAT COMES FROM THE FARM...ETHANOL.</p>
<p>More of racing</p>	<p>THOMAS/ HERE WE HAVE A CAR THAT CAN GO ZERO TO 245 MILES PER HOUR IN 5.7 SECONDS, 3000 HORSEPOWER AND IT'S TOTALLY FUELED FROM ETHANOL – MADE FROM CORN, TOTALLY LUBRICATED WITH CORN OIL.</p>

<p>Thomas walking by ethanol trailer</p> <p>Minivan driving down road</p>	<p>VO/ BUT THOMAS INSISTS ETHANOL IS A PRODUCT ALL DRIVERS CAN APPRECIATE...NO MATTER WHAT ROLLS YOU DOWN THE ROAD. JUST CHECK YOUR OWNER'S MANUAL.</p>
<p>Ethanol pump (to cover edit)</p>	<p>THOMAS/ EVERY MAJOR MANUFACTURER IN THE WORLD RECOMMENDS ETHANOL, THE 10-PERCENT BLEND YOU CAN BUY AT THE PUMPS. GO TO GAS STATIONS. DEMAND IT. THE 10-PERCENT BLEND YOU CAN BUY IN THE PUMP, 1) IT REDUCES POLLUTION BY 25-PERCENT COMING OUT OF YOUR TAILPIPE. FOR EVERY GALLON OF ETHANOL WE USE, IT'S 2 ½ GALLONS OF CRUDE OIL THAT WE DON'T HAVE TO IMPORT FROM SOMEWHERE ELSE.</p>
<p>High gas prices at pump</p>	<p>VO/ THOMAS SEES THAT AS AN INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT SELLING POINT.</p>
	<p>THOMAS/ I THINK THAT WITH EVERYTHING THAT'S GOING ON WITH THE MIDDLE EAST, HIGH FUEL PRICES, EVERYBODY'S REALLY STARTING TO TAKE NOTICE OF SOMETHING THAT'S BEEN AROUND FOR A LONG TIME.</p>
<p>Thomas in combine</p> <p>At winner's circle or getting checkered flag or something...</p>	<p>VO/ THOMAS HOPES MORE PEOPLE WILL START USING ETHANOL. IT'S A WINNER FOR CONSUMERS, THE ENVIRONMENT, FARMERS...AND APPARENTLY DRAG RACERS.</p>

Pretty wide farm shot	IN LOUISBURG, OHIO, I'M JOHNNA MILLER.
	IN LOUISBURG, OHIO, I'M JOHNNA MILLER FOR U.S. FARM REPORT.
	IN LOUISBURG, OHIO, I'M JOHNNA MILLER REPORTING FOR AG DAY.