

# Responsible Packaging within the Context of a Biorefinery

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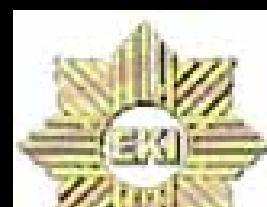




**USDA  
Albany, California  
USA**



# Partnerships: Industrial Cooperators



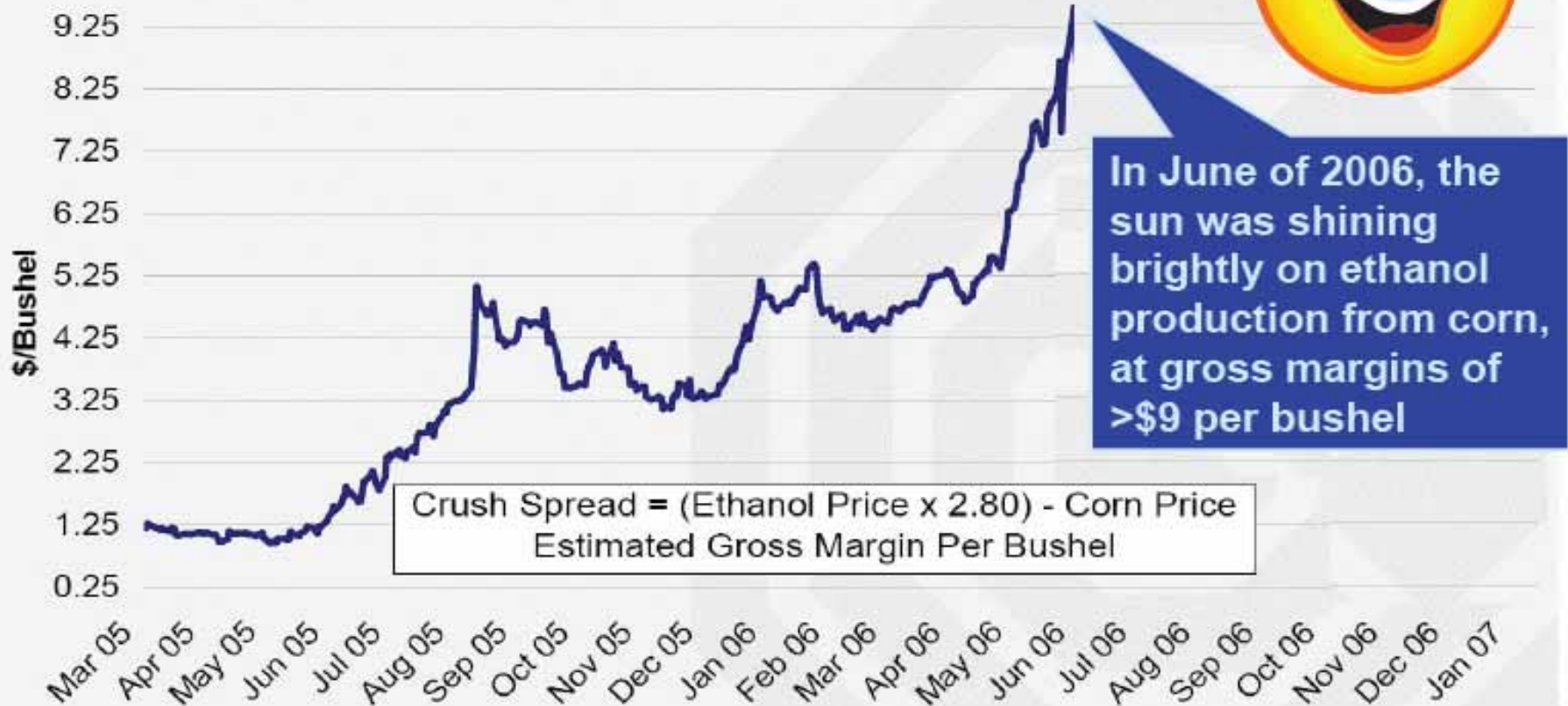
# Ethanol





## CBOT Ethanol Crush Spread

March 23, 2005 - present  
[CBOT Nearby Ethanol - CBOT Nearby Corn]



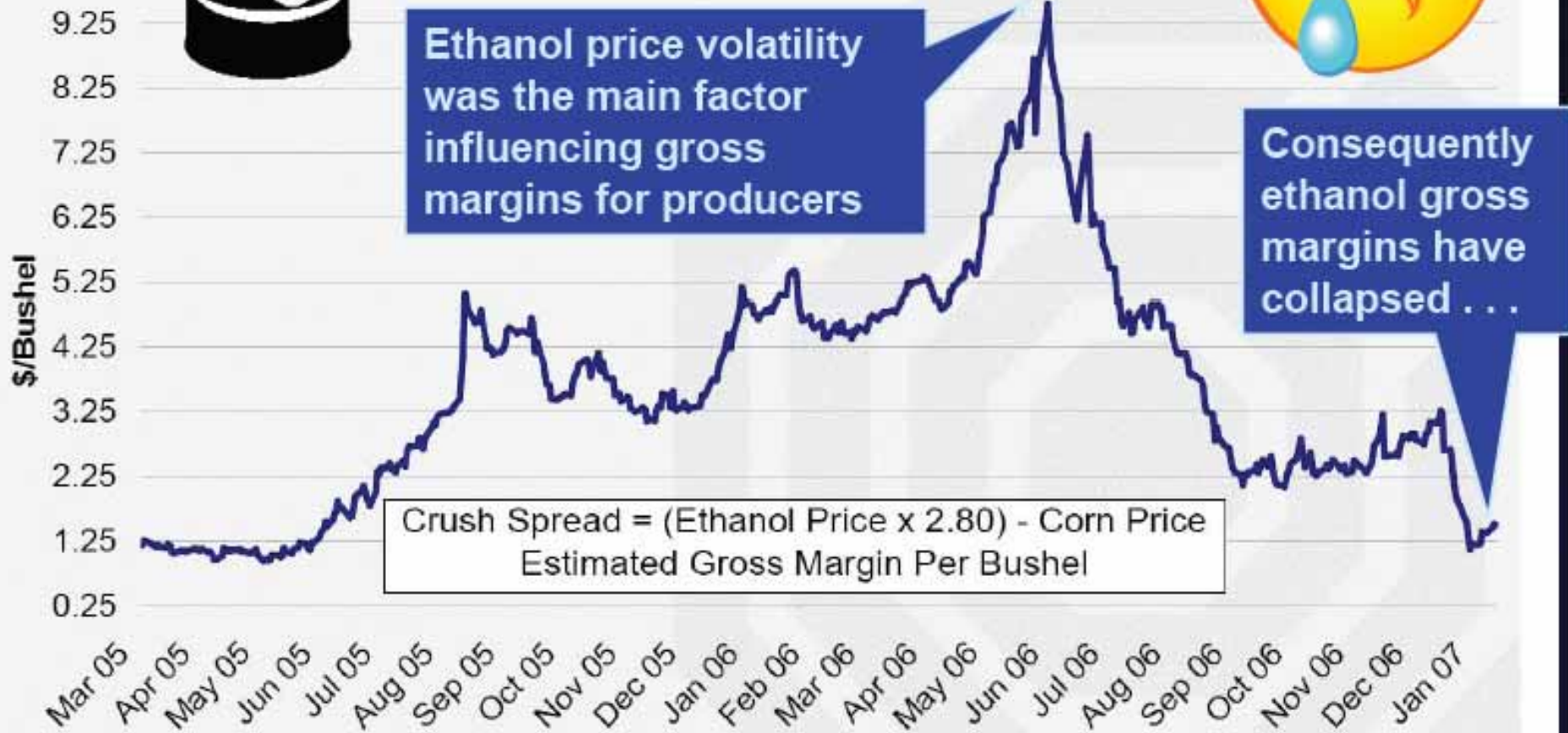
Source: Oil Price Information Service (OPIS) and The Chicago Board of Trade

**Carl Houtman, USDA Forest Products Lab**



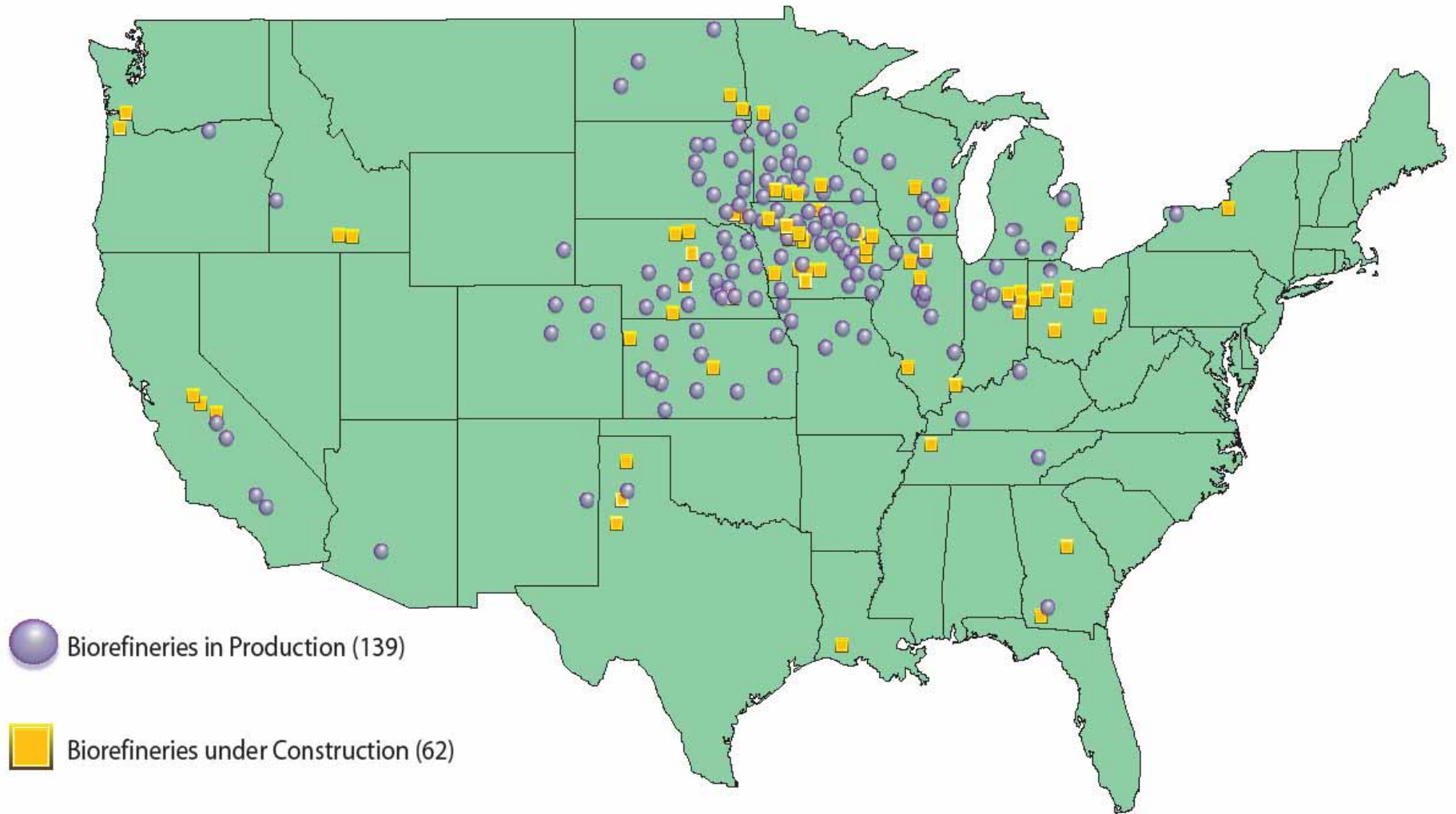
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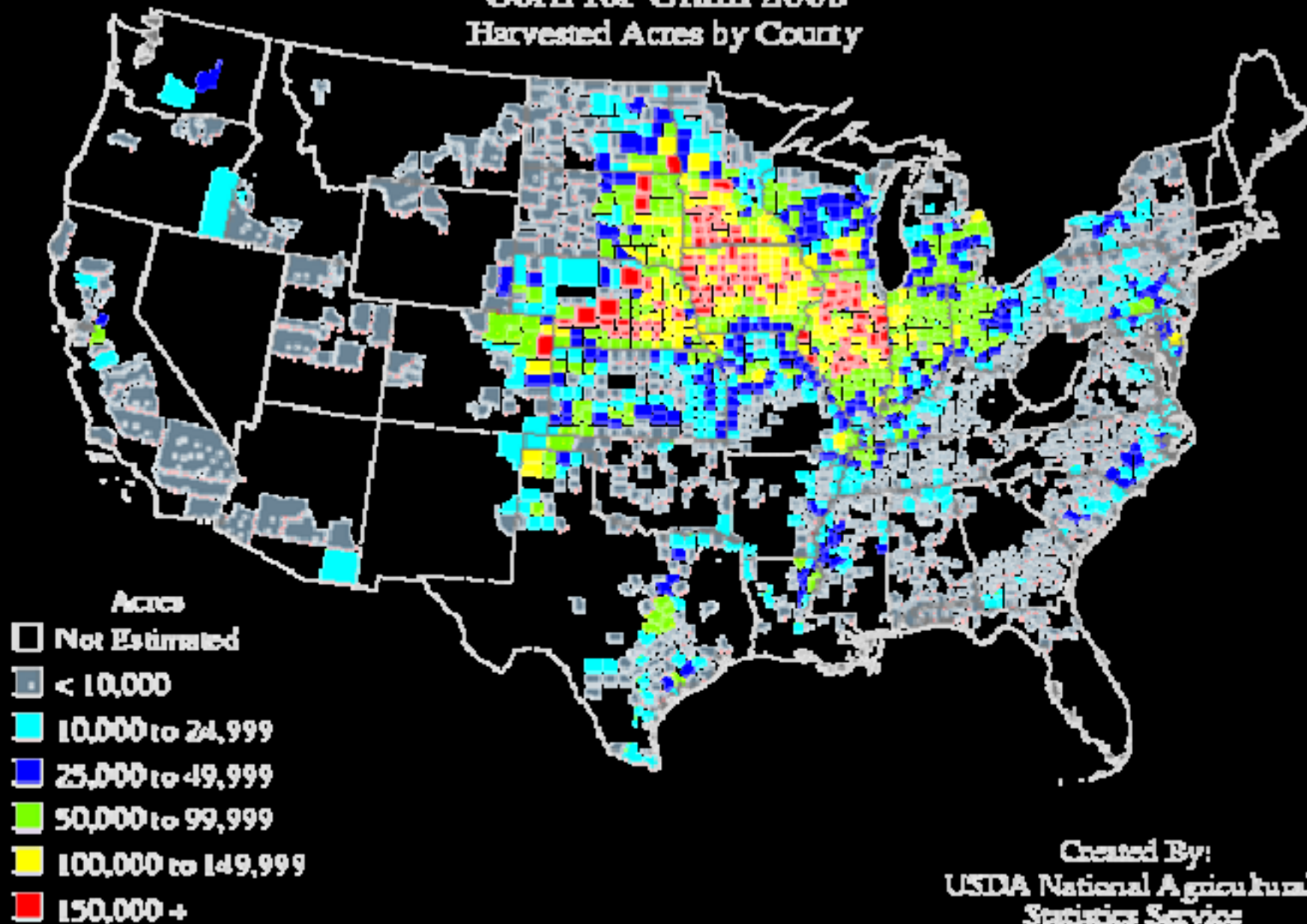
**Carl Houtman, USDA Forest Products Lab**



Source: Renewable Fuels Association  
01.24.08

# Corn for Grain 2003

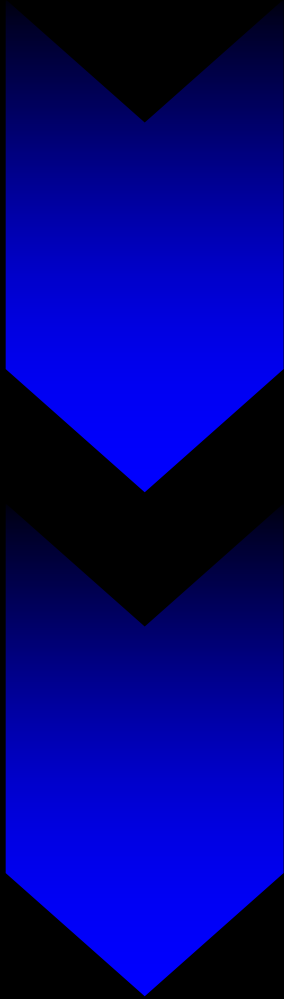
## Harvested Acres by County



Created By:  
USDA National Agricultural  
Statistics Service



# Corn-to-Ethanol: U.S trends



- Ethanol production is at 5-6 billion gals/yr
- ~2% of transportation fuel
- Ethanol uses ~20% of US corn
- Most ethanol is not produced near refineries
- It is not widely produced in the most populated states.

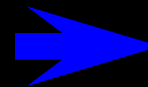
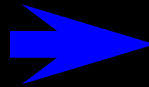
# Corn Ethanol



H<sub>2</sub>O



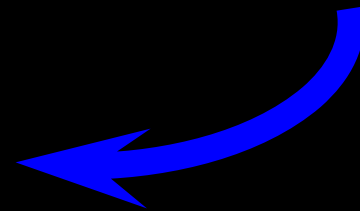
CO<sub>2</sub>



~~Starch~~  
Fermentable  
sugars



*High Performance  
Microbial  
Fermentation*



# The Biomass-Based Biorefinery

H<sub>2</sub>O



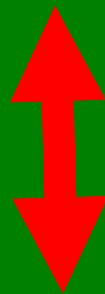
CO<sub>2</sub>



Starch =  
Fermentable  
sugars

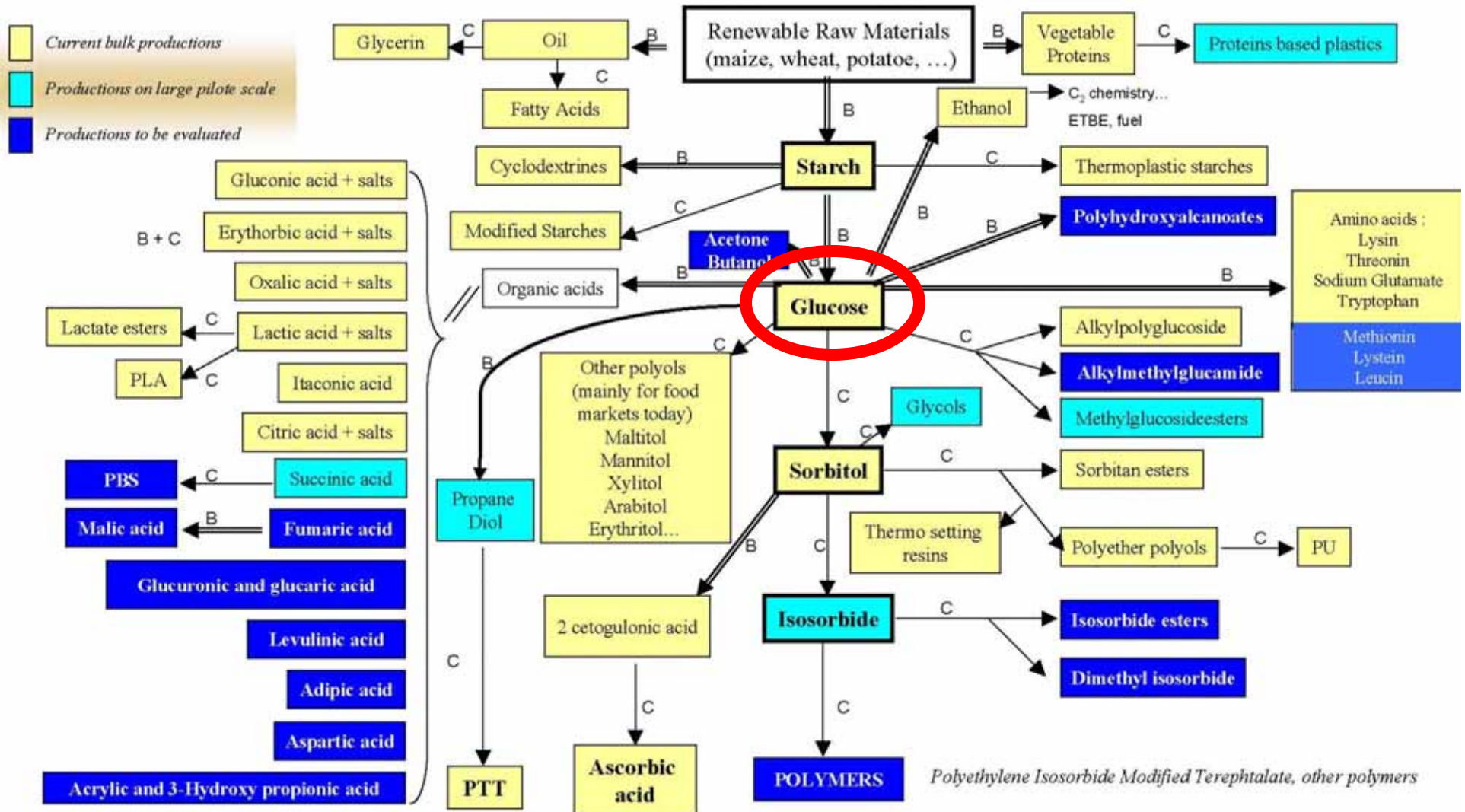
*High Performance  
Microbial  
Fermentation*

ETHANOL

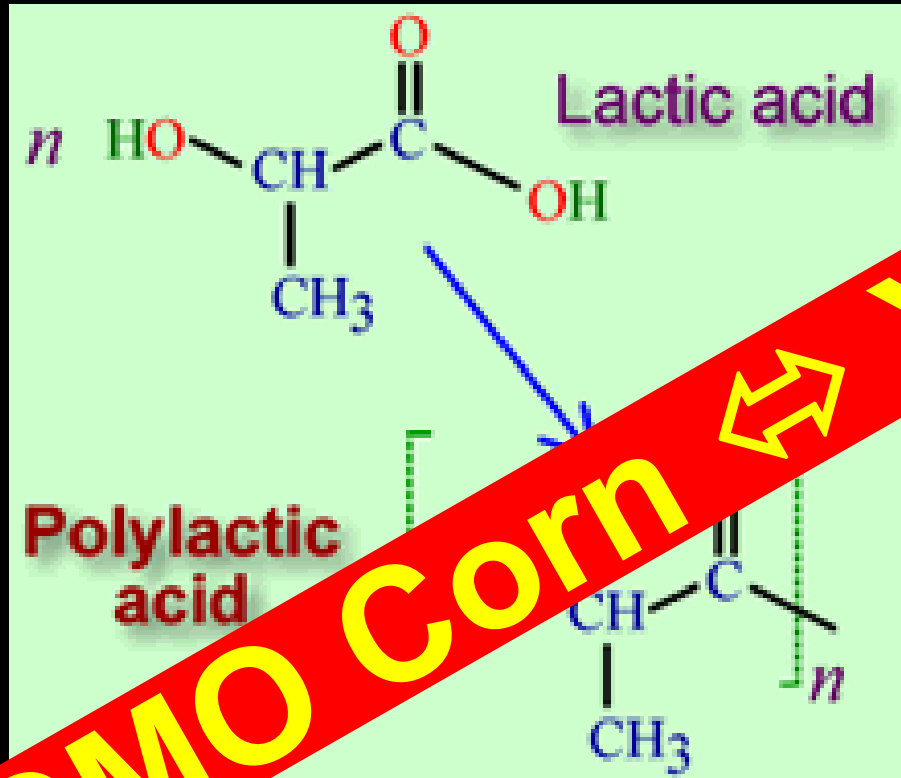


NONFOOD  
APPLICATIONS

# The Biorefinery ⇔ Sugar is key!

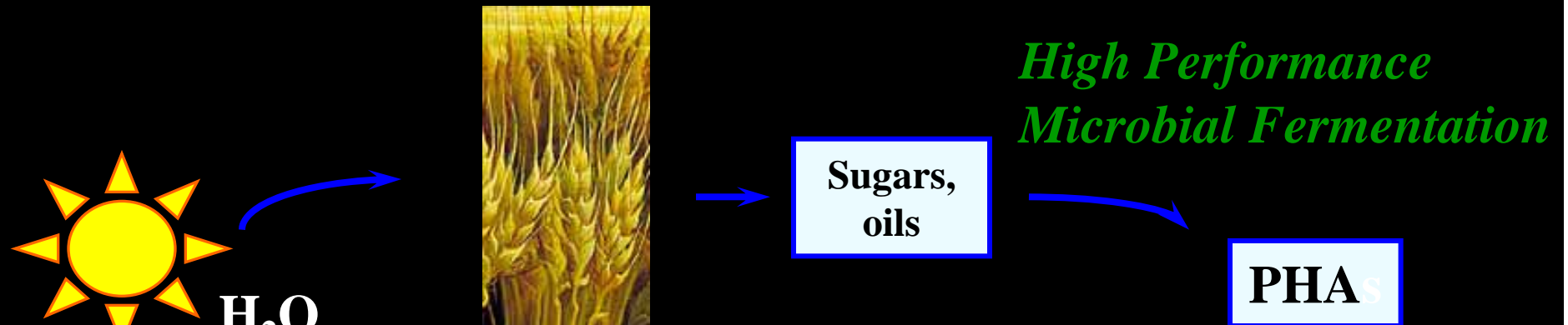


# Poly(lactic acid) $\Leftrightarrow$ PLA: Cargill



**GMO Corn  $\Leftrightarrow$  Yes or No?**

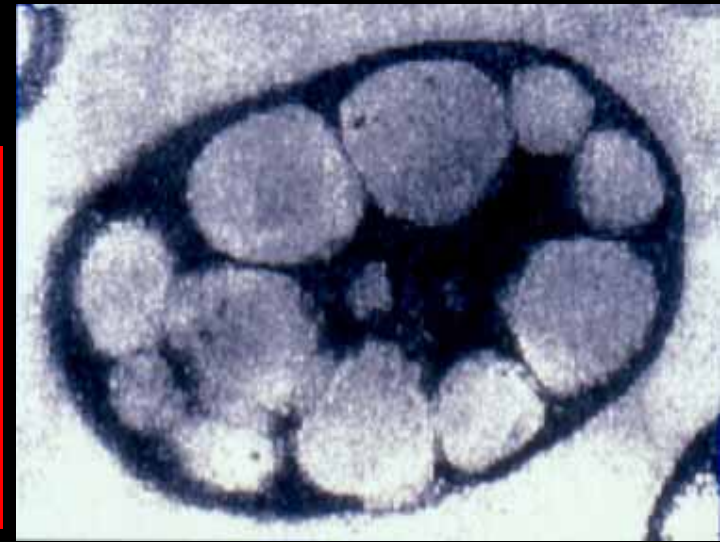
# Microbial Polyhydroxyalkanoate (PHA):



- ✓ Fully developed by ICI, Zeneca, & Monsanto
- ✓ Of recent interest to Metabolix, P & G (NODAX), and Brazilian Producers

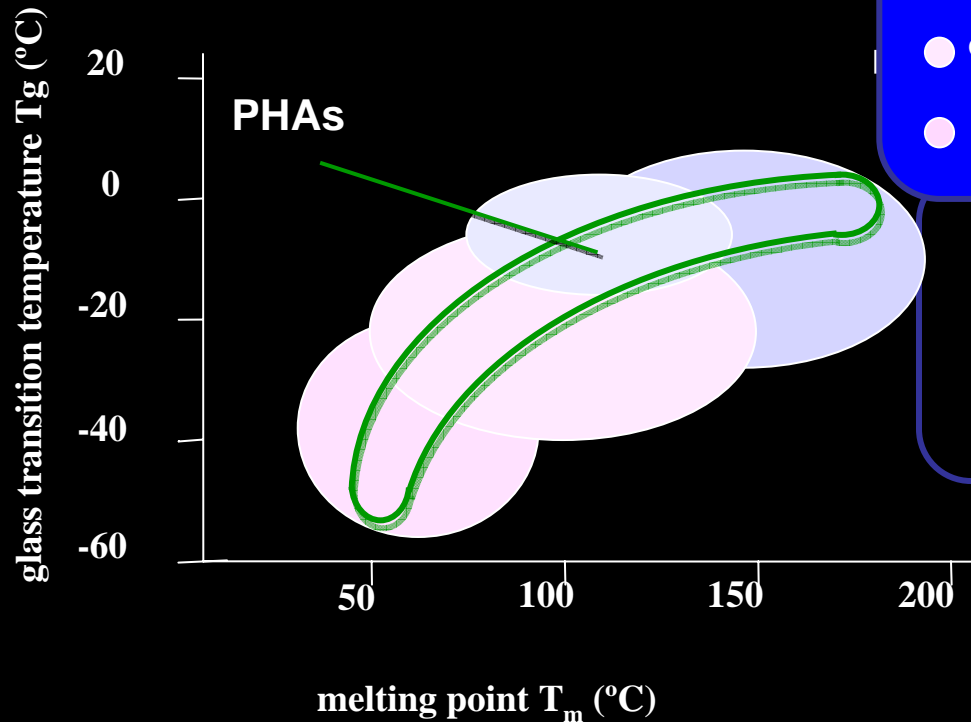
PHA costs (?!?)

- ↳ Slow bacterial growth
- ↳ Difficult microbial separation



# PHAs: BioPolyester Property Space

## THERMAL PROPERTIES



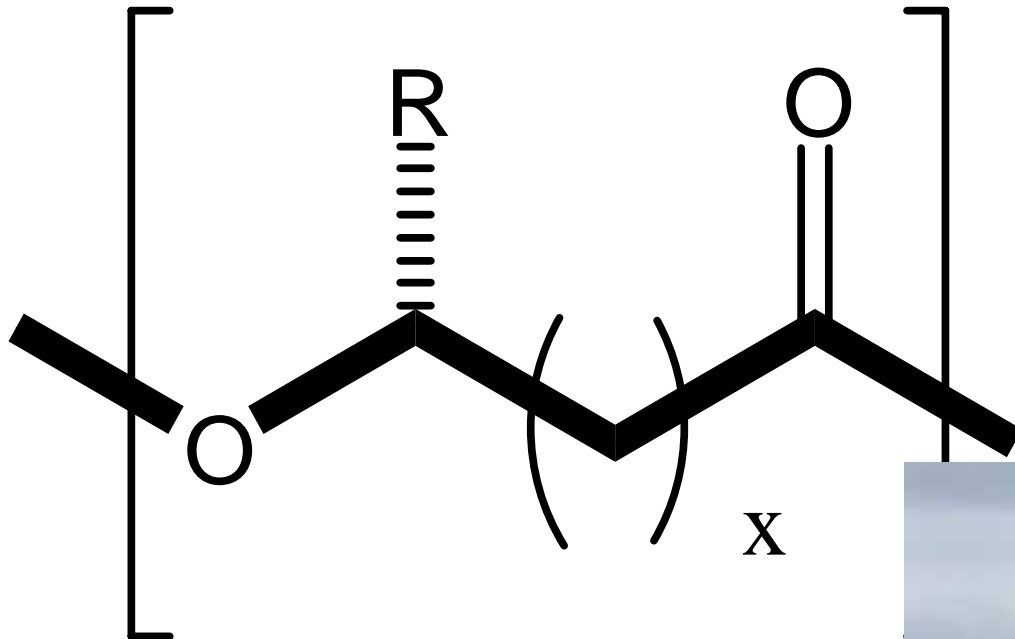
- thermoplastics
- hot melt adhesives
- coatings
- pressure sensitive adhesives

### PROPERTIES

- Hydrolytically stable
- Biodegradable
- Form excellent films
- Very good UV stability

Source -- Metabolix

# PHAs: Polymer Diversity



**Waste oils ⇔ i.e.  
Alaskan Fish Waste ⇔  
Cheap carbon source  
for PHA production**





April 23, 2007

**Metabolix and ADM bioplastic fantastic** -- plant will have an initial annual capacity of 50,000 tons per year



**June 21, 2007**

**Braskem Has the First Certified Green  
Polyethylene in the World**

**Company is evaluating a project for commercial  
production of this plastic in 2009**

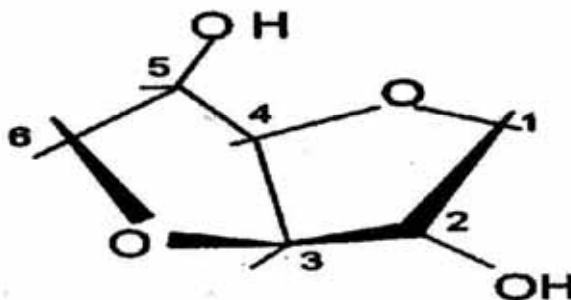
**July 19, 2007**

**Dow and Crystalsev to make polyethylene  
from sugar cane in Brazil**



## ROQUETTE ISOSORBIDE

### « Molecular Structure »



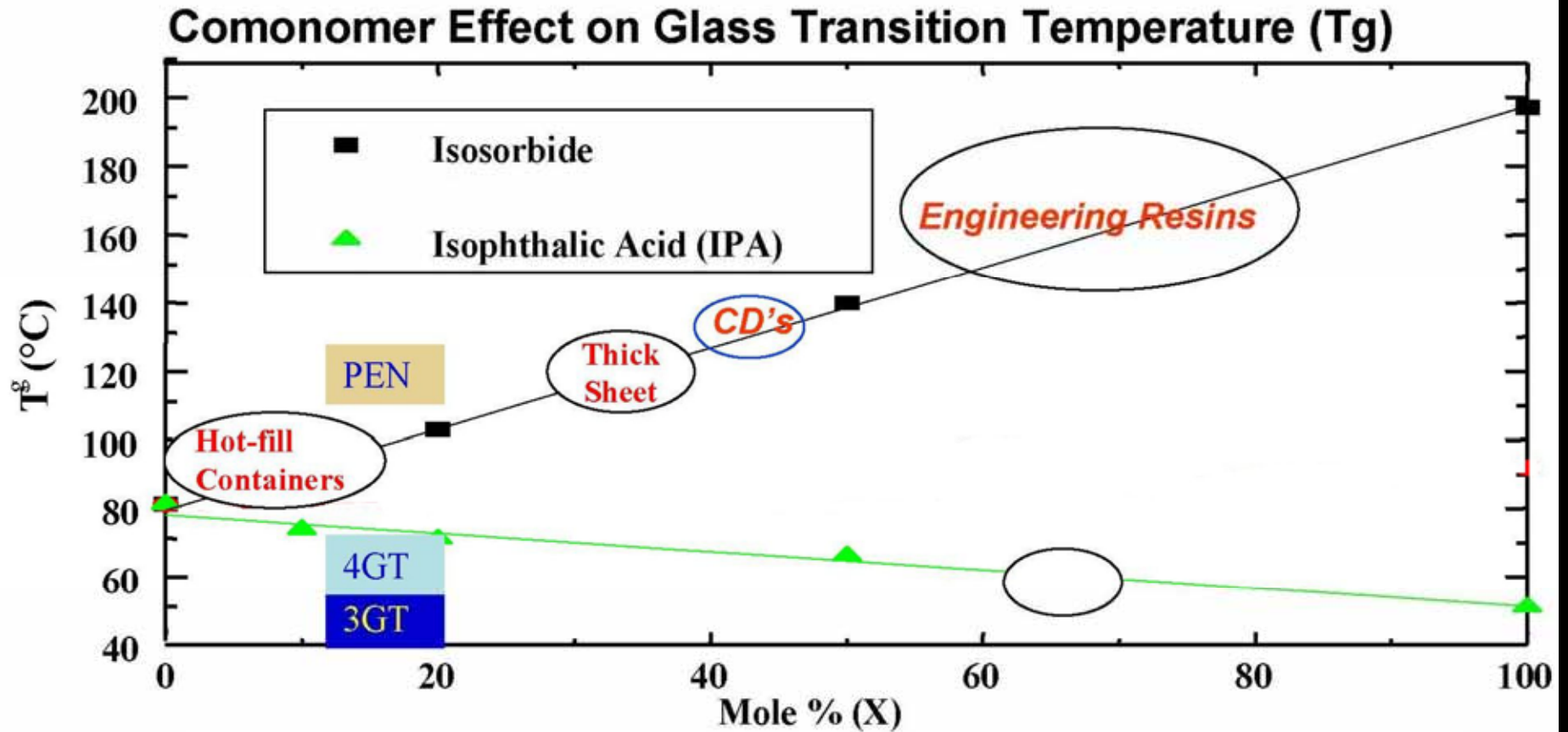
### « Characteristics »

The main chemical and physical properties of crystalline isosorbide are listed below..

CAS No	652-67-5
Molecular formula	$C_6H_{10}O_4$ (Mw=146.14)
Appearance	White crystalline powder, very hygroscopic
Melting point	61-64°C
Boiling point	160°C (10 mm Hg)
Flash point	> 150°C
Solubility	Soluble in water, alcohols, dioxane, ketones Almost insoluble in hydrocarbons, esters, ethers
Isosorbide content	Min. 99 %
Isomannide content	Max. 0.5 %
Water content	Max. 1 %

Isosorbide is non-toxic. In addition, the molecule is very heat stable : decomposition only occurs at about 270°C.

# Isosorbide – PET Copolymer



First target = HOT-FILL CONTAINERS (THERMORESISTANT PET)

# Starch Packaging Plates and Bowls



Greg Glenn

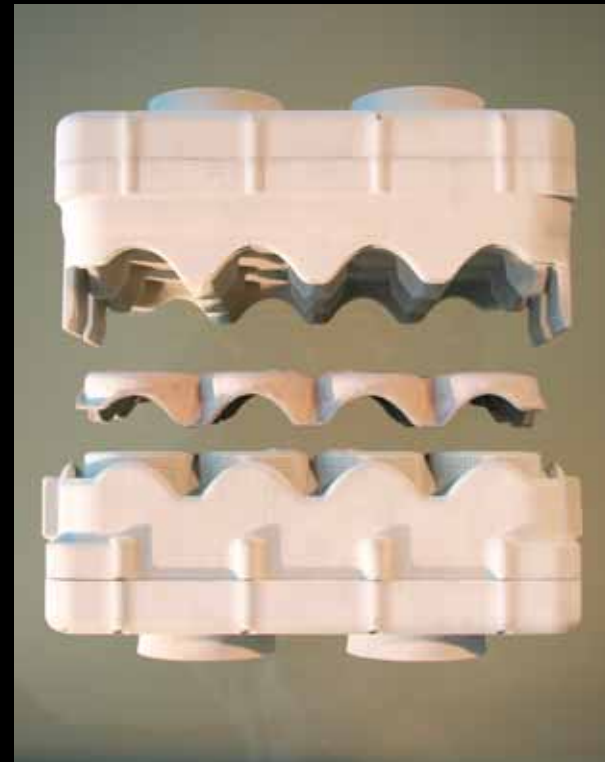


Smart & Final

# Straw Biomass Utilization:



Straw-based  
packaging



Orts, Glenn – USDA-ARS, Albany

# Straw for cellulose-to-ethanol



## ISSUES:

**Straw varies with seasons**

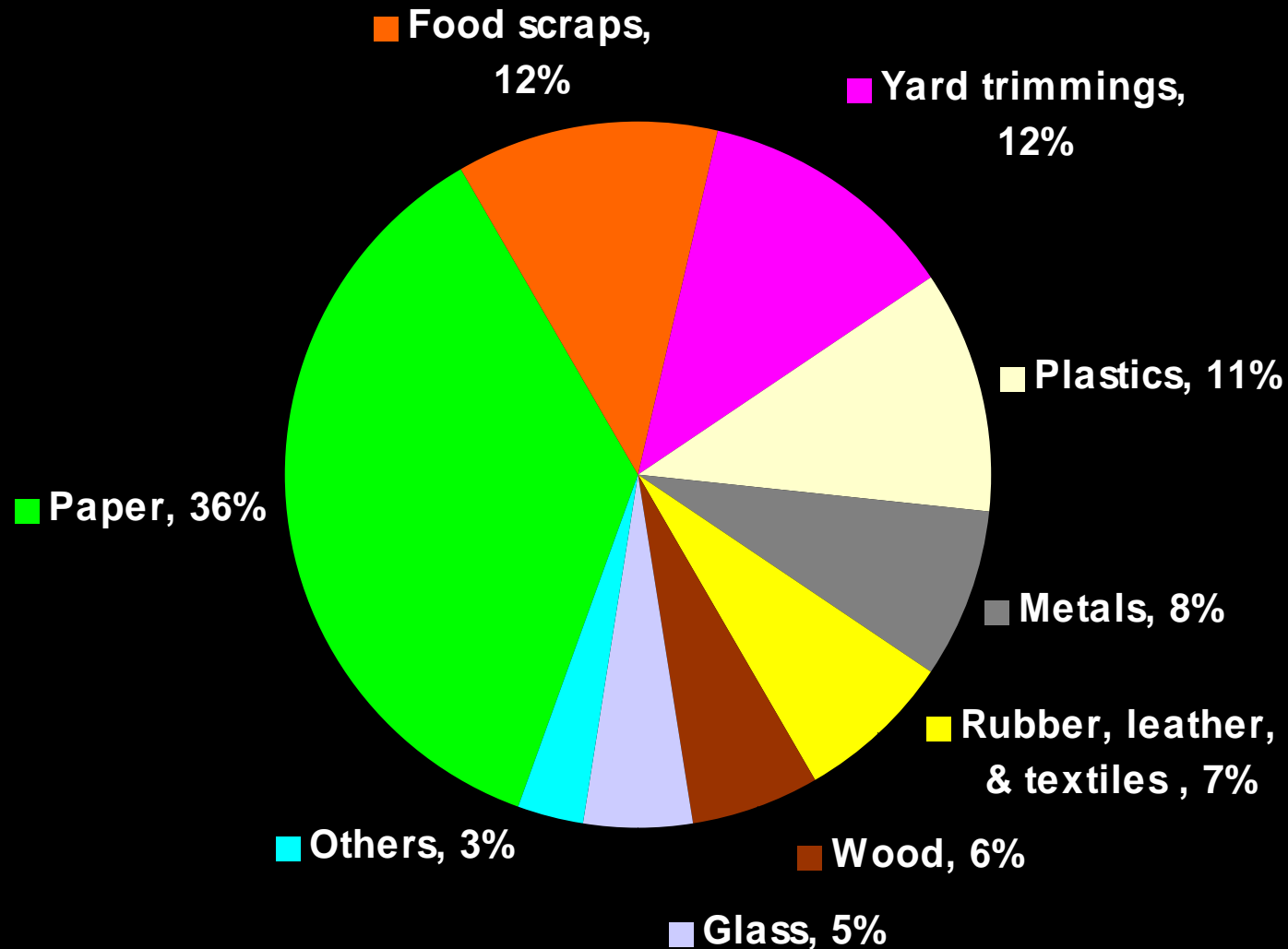
**Aging ⇔ harvest time is once per year**

**Moisture and storage are challenging**

**Transportation ⇔ Low density**

**Supply is not near highest demand.**

# Composition of MSW



425 million tons per year of unsorted MSW produced in U.S. alone  
(BioCycle, 2006).



# Biomass Pretreatment:

A pressurized hot water treatment allows straw, co-mingled with MSW, to be hydrolyzed relatively easily.



# Conveyor loading MSW to autoclave



# MSW inside the autoclave prior to steam treatment



# MSW in the autoclave after steam treatment



# Clean fiber from MSW after centrifugal cleaners



# Cellulose-to-Ethanol Biorefinery $\Leftrightarrow$ CR<sup>3</sup>

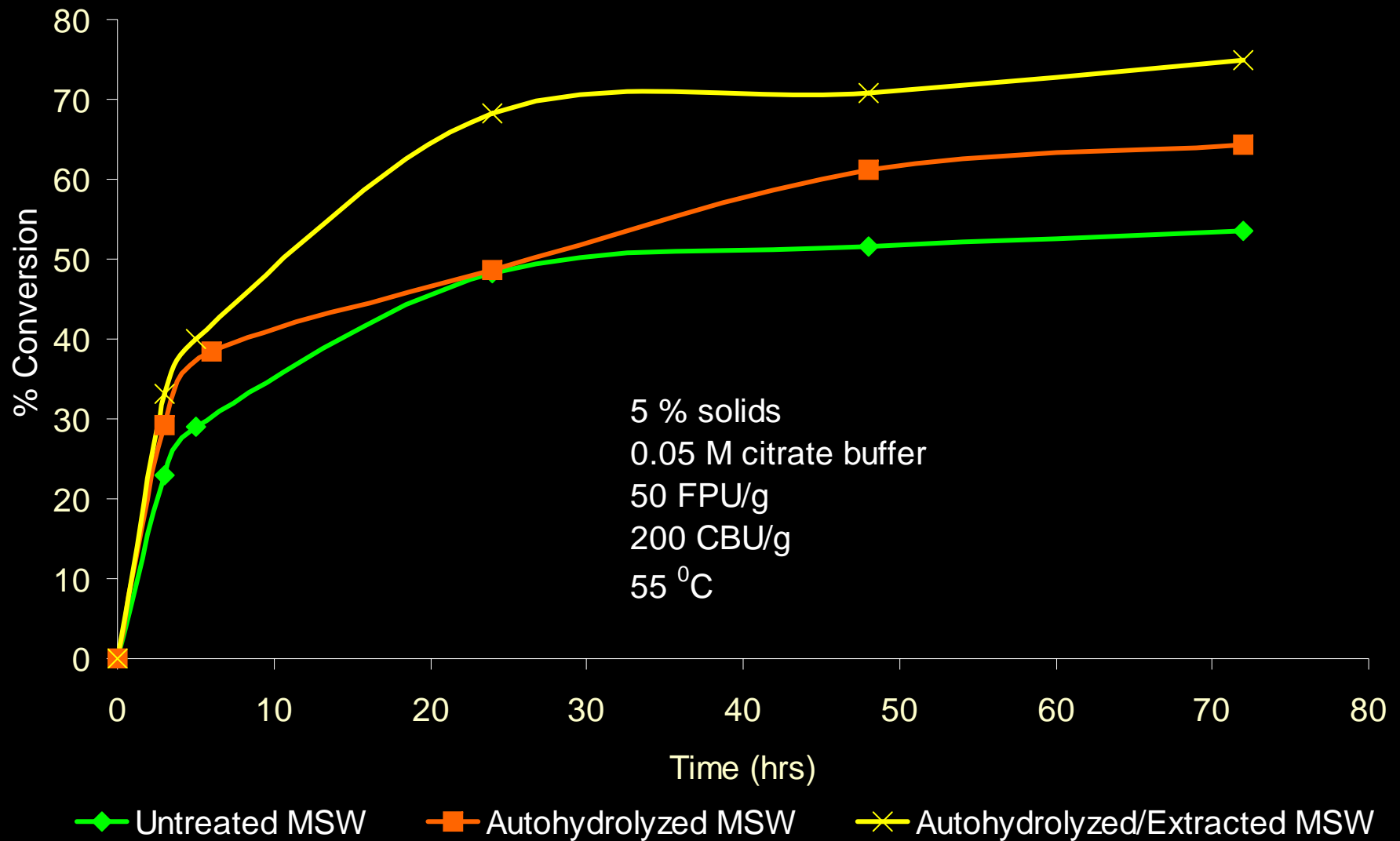


Processed paper from  
recovered fiber

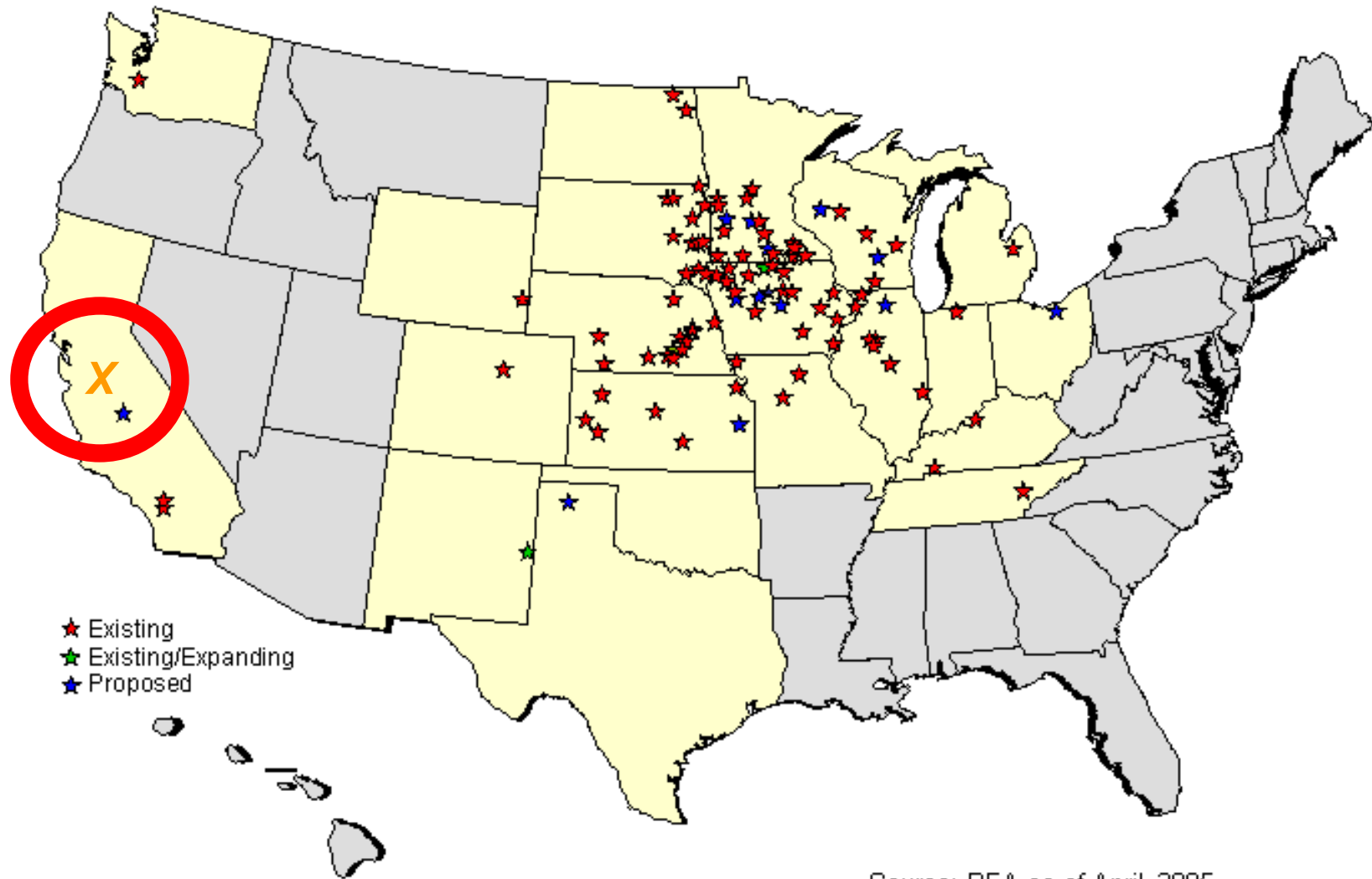
**Biomass  $\Leftrightarrow$   
MSW and ag-  
waste processing  
plant in Salinas**



# Enzymatic hydrolysis of MSW



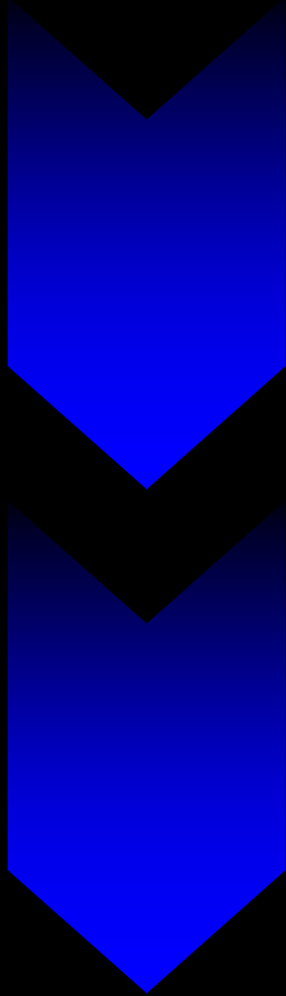
## U.S. ETHANOL MANUFACTURING LOCATIONS



Source: RFA as of April, 2005



# MSW as a Platform for Biomass-to-Ethanol Biorefinery



- MSW ⇔ 425 million tons/year in U.S.  
~ equates to 12% of our fuel
- 35 - 45% paper and paperboard products
- Will reduce landfill volume by >80%
- In MSW, paper is already fractionated
- Can produce other co-products
  - ⇔ Pulp
  - ⇔ “Fermentable sugars”

**“Athletic Biorefinery”**

# Cap & Trade: Carbon Credits



Adapted for **A NEW GENERATION**  
from the *New York Times* Bestseller

## an inconvenient truth

the crisis of  
global warming



**AL GORE**

# Cap & Trade: Carbon Credits

Biobased Products ↔

**CARBON CREDITS**

**ASTM D6852**

Based on “age of the carbon”

- ratios of isotopes shows whether the carbon is “new” (renewable) or “old” (fossil fuel).

# Summary

**Food/feed should be for food/feed**

**The cost of “fermentable sugars” is the key!**

**Bioproducts add value to the whole biorefinery operation**

**Flexible biorefineries will expand our scope ⇔ MSW ??**

**CARBON CREDITS?**

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**George Robertson**

**Mike Smith**

**Kurt Wagschal**

**Dominic Wong**

**De Wood**





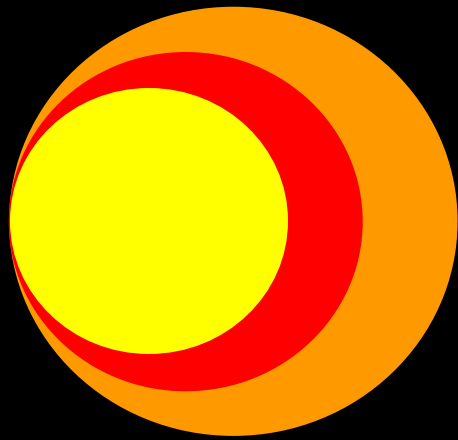
**Where do  
we go  
from here?**

# Back to the future



# Energy Return – Based on Petroleum Equivalents

Eg. = 1 BTU



Corn Ethanol 1.3:1 up to 2:1



# Energy Return – Based on Petroleum Equivalents

Cellulose }  
Ethanol } 20:1

