

How the Ethanol Mandate is Destroying America's Prairies

Many years ago, I wrote an article on the research of Cornell University professor [David Pimentel](#).

Pimentel, a geneticist and evolutionary biologist, claimed it takes more energy to produce ethanol from corn than the combustion of ethanol yields. Because of this fundamental input-yield problem, corn is a really lousy crop for making ethanol, Pimentel said.

This seemed to me like a bit of a problem. After all, [about 40 percent of the U.S. corn crop](#) is used to make ethanol. There seemed a certain madness in spending billions of taxpayer dollars on subsidies to turn our food into fuel, especially when many people around the world go hungry. Alas, my article on Pimentel's research was not well received. I was living in Iowa at the time (aka the Corn State), where ideas critical of corn or ethanol are, to many, a form of local heresy.

I bring all this up because of an article I read in [Investor's Business Daily](#) last week. Here is what it said: