

FOOD OR FUEL?

Nearly a billion people will go hungry tonight, yet this year the U.S. will turn 5 billion bushels of corn into ethanol. That's enough food to feed 412 million people for an entire year.

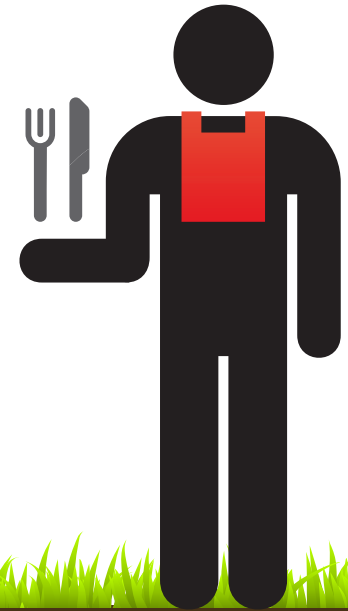
8 BUSHELS
OF CORN

=

21.6 GALLONS
OF ETHANOL
FUEL

OR

ENOUGH FOOD TO
FEED A PERSON FOR
A WHOLE YEAR



DOING THE MATH...

5 billion bushels / 8 bushels of corn
(enough calories to feed a person for a year) =
sufficient calories to support 625 million people,
minus one-third to account for distiller's grain
(DDG) = 412 million

8 bushels of corn (feeds a person for a year)
X 2.7 gallons of ethanol per bushel
= 21.6 gallons of ethanol per bushel

SOURCES

450 pounds of corn supplies enough calories for one person for a year
(<http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/62609/c-ford-runge-and-benjamin-senauer/how-biofuels-could-starve-the-poor>)

About 5 billion bushels of U.S. corn production is slated for ethanol production
(<http://www.usda.gov/oce/commodity/wasde/latest.pdf>)

One bushel of corn produces 2.7 gallons of ethanol
(Purdue Extension, "How Fuel Ethanol is Made From Corn," <http://www.extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/ID/ID-328.pdf>)


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