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## **Growth Energy: USDA crop report 'Contradicts land use theory'**

**By Jon H. Harsch**

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USDA's Aug. 12 Crop Production report forecasting the largest soybean crop in history and potentially the second largest corn crop brought an immediate response from Growth Energy, a trade group which promotes ethanol and green jobs. Immediately after the report was released on Wednesday, Growth Energy CEO Tom Buis said "Today's record breaking estimates of this year's corn and soybean harvest are proof of what the ethanol industry has been saying from the start: the theory of indirect land use change is flawed and not based on the facts. Based on these reports, it's silly to still think that the demand for corn in the U.S. to make ethanol would displace land used to plant soybeans and in turn cause deforestation in other parts of the world."

Buis noted that the USDA report sees American farmers producing 12.8 billion bushels of corn, the second largest yield in U.S. history, up 5% from last year, and 3.2 billion bushels of soybeans, the largest soybean crop in U.S. history and up 8 percent from last year. The corn estimate is 400 million more bushels than was estimated in last month's report, which also included carryover from last year. "As this report confirms, the productive capacity of American agriculture is second to none," Buis said "The American farmer produces enough corn to both feed and fuel our nation and still have some left to export. This report proves once again that the U.S. is the leading exporter of both crops, further dispelling this bizarre land use theory, and it should once and for all put an end to the false claims being perpetuated against ethanol by the food industry."

The crop report comes at a critical time when the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is conducting analysis as the basis for EPA's decision on whether to raise the limit on blending ethanol with gasoline from the current 10% level (E-10) to perhaps E-12 or even E-15. This year's expected bumper harvest can be expected to reinforce the argument that the U.S. has ample productive capacity to increase ethanol and biodiesel use significantly without causing adverse effects such as higher food prices. Ethanol supporters point out that in the past, EPA analysts have failed to factor in the U.S. farm sector's track record for consistently raising yields, thereby providing adequate supply for all uses – food, feed, fiber, fuel and exports.

To access USDA's 49-page Aug. 12 Crop Production report, go to:  
<http://www.usda.gov/nass/PUBS/TODAYRPT/crop0809.pdf>