

July 2015

A Change in Assignment

Center for Agricultural and Rural Development

Follow this and additional works at: <http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/iowaagreview>

Recommended Citation

Center for Agricultural and Rural Development (2015) "A Change in Assignment," *Iowa Ag Review*: Vol. 14 : Iss. 3 , Article 5.
Available at: <http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/iowaagreview/vol14/iss3/5>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Center for Agricultural and Rural Development at Iowa State University Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in Iowa Ag Review by an authorized editor of Iowa State University Digital Repository. For more information, please contact digirep@iastate.edu.

A Change in Assignment

Chad Hart first contributed to the *Iowa Ag Review* in September 1995. In the article he examined the merits of revenue insurance as a replacement for yield insurance in the U.S. crop insurance program. His analysis appeared well before any revenue insurance program was available for sale.

Since then Chad has contributed to nearly every issue of the *Review*, providing readers with clear, concise, and timely analysis on a wide variety of topics, including farm policy, agricultural outlooks, World Trade Organization



agreements, biofuels, crop insurance, and trade. It is rare to find agricultural economists who are good at both analyzing complex issues and writing about them in way that increases awareness and understanding. Chad will be using this combination of skills in his new position as an assistant professor in the Department of Economics here at Iowa State University.

Although Chad will no longer be a regular contributor to the *Iowa Ag Review* or head of the Biorenewables Policy Division in the Center for Agricultural and Rural Development, he will continue to provide insights into the issues that are important to Iowa and U.S. agriculture because he will be responsible for conducting grain market research and outreach programs for the department. We look forward to working with Chad in his new position and wish him well. ♦

Breaking the Link *Continued from page 3*

First, Congress could place a hard cap on ethanol made from corn and on biodiesel made from refined vegetable oil. The current RFS is a floor rather than a cap, and existing tax incentives combined with high crude oil prices could make future production of corn ethanol and biodiesel made from refined vegetable oil increase to unintended levels.

Second, Congress could better target tax credits and fuel standards by basing them on the impact each biofuel feedstock has on food prices. Given the link between land use for

food crops and greenhouse gas emissions, such targeting could be set based on full greenhouse gas targeting. This type of greenhouse gas targeting would automatically give a greater incentive to producers who use waste and by-product feedstocks in biofuel production. Thus, for example, biodiesel producers who use the high fatty acid by-products from vegetable oil refining or algal oil would be given as high a tax credit as a biofuel producer who uses corn stover as a feedstock. These producers would all receive a much higher incentive than an ethanol producer who uses corn or a biodiesel producer who uses soybean oil.

And finally, Congress could mandate that the Energy Department and Agriculture Department ramp up research programs for biofuel feedstocks, with priority being given to developing feedstocks that do not affect food prices and that have large greenhouse gas reductions. The justification for this expanded research is that food, energy, and climate change will likely be the three biggest issues facing the United States and the world over the next 10 to 20 years. ♦

Editor's note: This article is adapted from CARD Briefing Paper 08-BP 53 of the same title.