

Activity Summary:

Expanding Biofuel Production: Sustainability and the Transition to Advanced Biofuels

Lessons from the Upper Midwest for Sustainability

Held June 23 – 24, 2009
Madison, Wisconsin

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Regional Biofuels Sustainability Meeting

Subject: Lessons from corn ethanol?
Future for cellulosic feedstocks?

Regional: Topics and members

Sustainability: Economic, social, environmental

Structure: 75 participants

Academia (broad expertise)

Government (state, federal)

NGOs

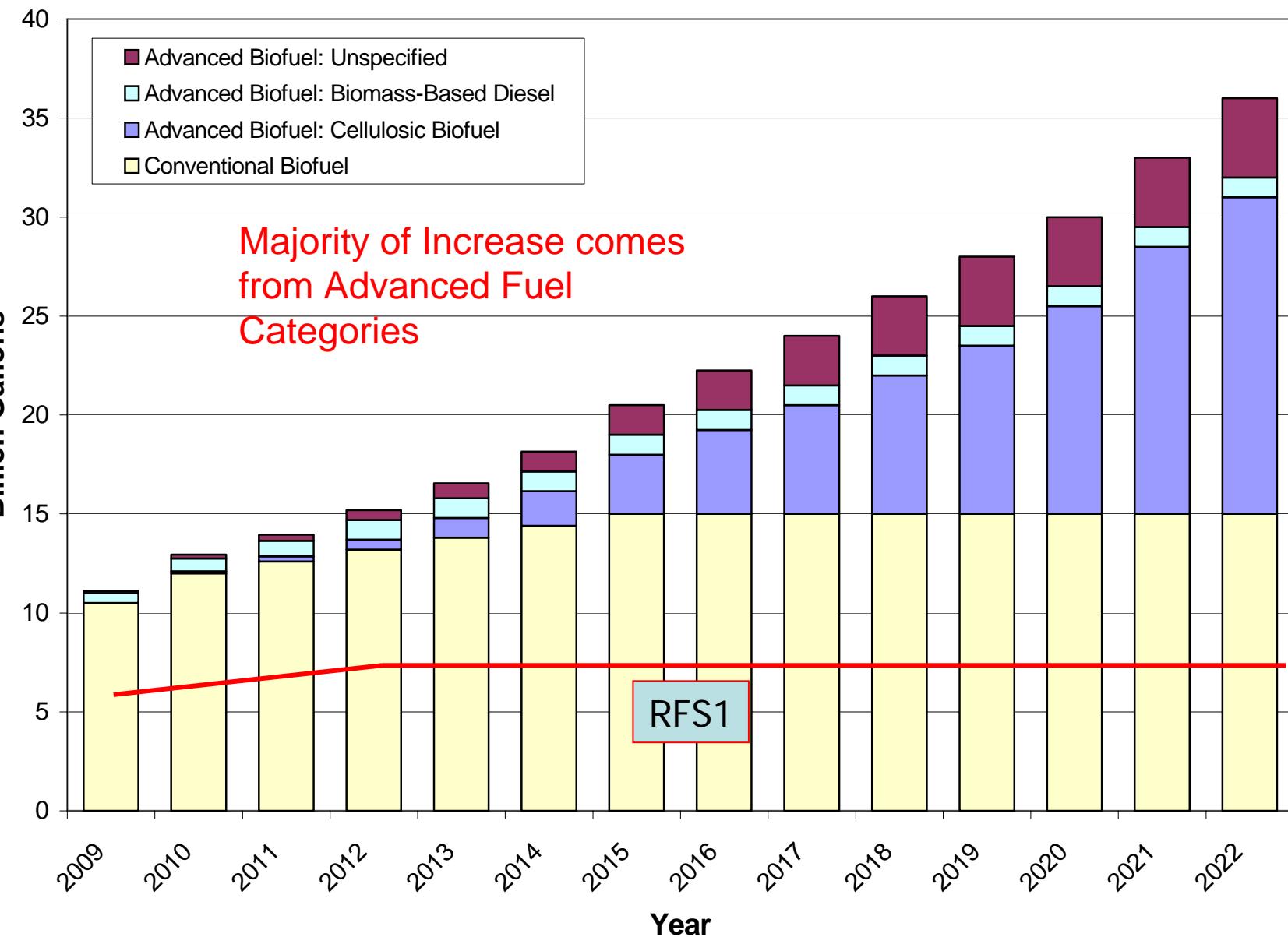
Business and venture capital

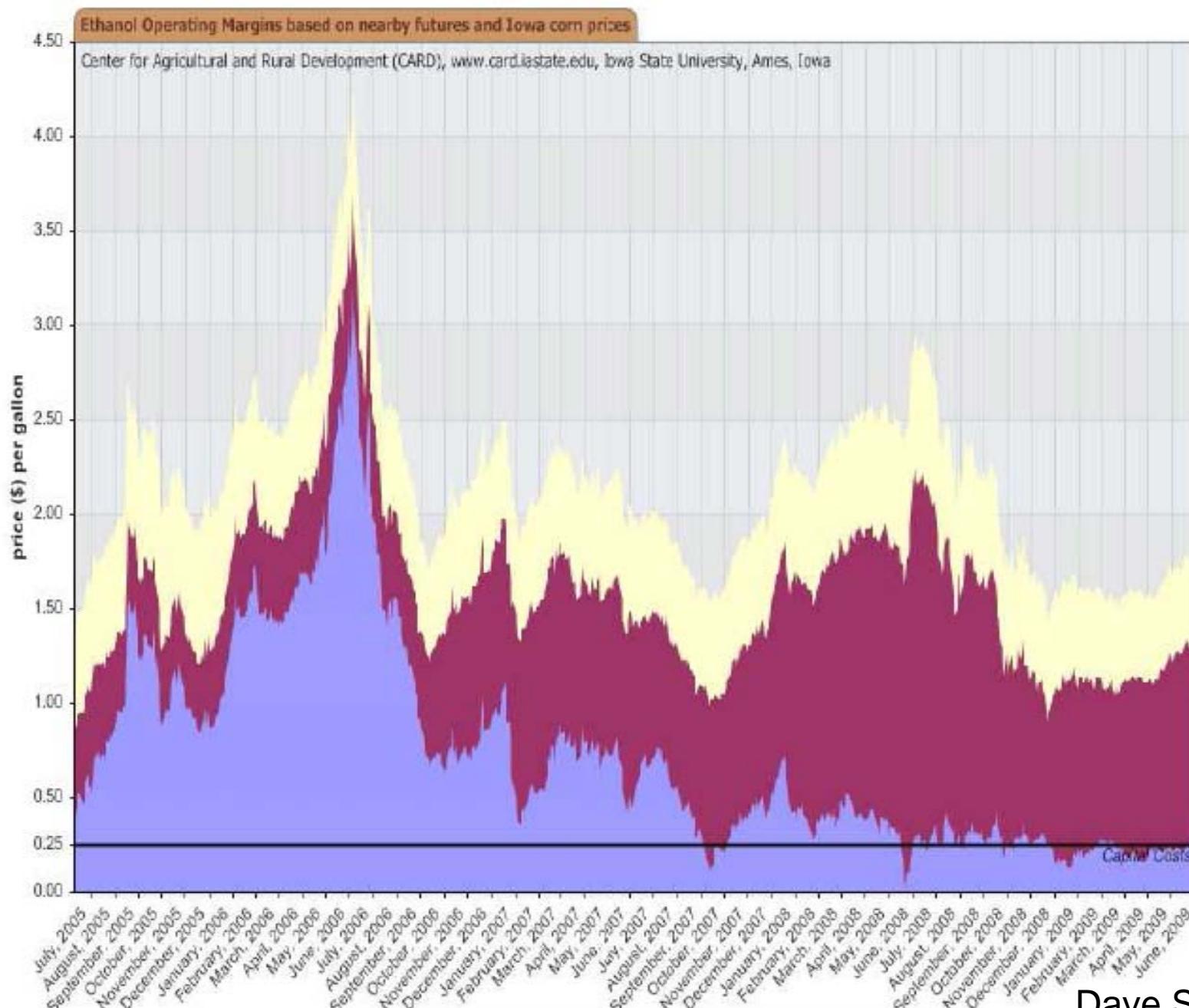
Plenary and breakout sessions

*NAS Organization



RFS Volume Changes Over Time – USEPA-OTAQ





Dave Swenson
Iowa State U

Results and Impressions

- Many impacts of corn ethanol: economic, social, environmental
- Uncertainty with cellulosic feedstocks; fuels produced
 - Investment requirements
 - Beyond GHG, limited influence on other sustainability aspects (food, water, biodiversity)
 - Land use (primary and secondary)
 - Health issues
 - Community issues
- Excellent meeting format: diverse expertise, open and informed discussion, regional input, cross-communication
- Timed before cellulosic, but late for corn ethanol
- Academy staff working on a summary report; website online
- * Similar informed science discussion across broad expertise would be invaluable before other major policy decisions