

Potential Environmental Impacts of Biofuels in Indiana Agricultural Ecosystems

(And other Important Research Initiatives in the Center for the Environment)

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Abstract

The current interest in the development of biofuels stems from the desires to cut greenhouse gases and decrease dependence on foreign oil. Ultimately the value of these products will be influenced by a multitude of factors, including environmental ones. We are only beginning to understand the diversity of potential environmental effects, some beneficial and others detrimental that will be realized by the maturation of the biofuels industry. This talk focuses on some of the detrimental environmental effects of modifying our agricultural practices to produce biofuels and how they might impact other grand challenges in the environmental arena. In addition, I will discuss some of the programs and initiatives in the Center for

John W. Bickham is Director of the Center for the Environment (C4E) and Professor of the Department of Forestry and Natural Resources (FNR) at Purdue University. John received his Ph.D. in Zoology from Texas Tech University in 1976. He worked as a faculty member at Texas A&M University in the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences from 1976 to 2006. He joined the faculty at Purdue in 2006. As Director of the Center for the Environment, he is responsible for university-wide leadership in the environmental area. The C4E has 138 faculty participants representing 30 academic departments. John's activities in C4E primarily involve promoting interdisciplinary environmental research projects. The objectives of his research program are to understand genetic processes that act at the levels of populations and species and to apply this knowledge to the conservation and management of natural resources