

Excerpts from remarks delivered by Dr. Matt Veal, assistant professor of biological and agricultural engineering, at the college's Biofuels Field Day

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Williamsdale Farm and Agricultural Extension and Research Facility

“One of the big driving factors of biofuels is obviously energy security and national security. And, if we look at the petroleum reserves across the United States, one thing we find is that a lot of the petroleum reserves are in the Middle East, and then you have Africa and Central America. They make up the bulk of the oil-holding capacity of the world. The problem with that is a lot of these regions aren't very friendly to us. So we really want to be able to have access to energy, be able to count on that and be dependable.”

“In North America, we only have about nine percent of the world's oil reserves. And so what you see on these oil trade maps is a lot of the oil from around the world coming in to us. And the question is how long can we depend on that, as governments change and different people become hostile towards us, how long can we depend on this energy?”

“And then, even if we can work out our differences with these countries and we can count on oil from the Middle East long-term, the other problem is what's the long-term sustainability of petroleum-based products?”

“And so some people get kind of nervous about this and see that there's this pending crisis, but really we have an opportunity to use this crisis to develop new markets and new economies, especially for more rural parts of the country.”