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# *Biofuels R&D*

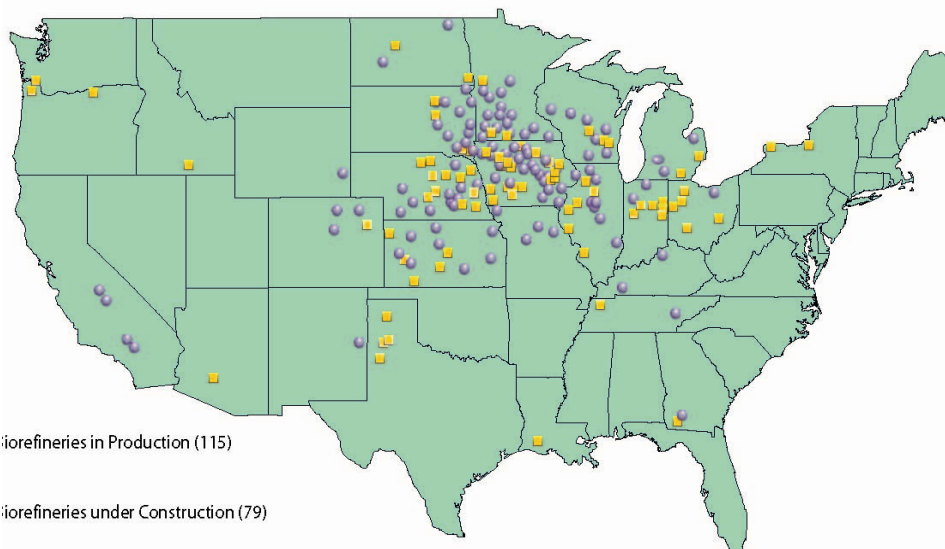
*The Role of R&D in Agriculture and  
Related Industries: Today and  
Tomorrow*

*Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago*

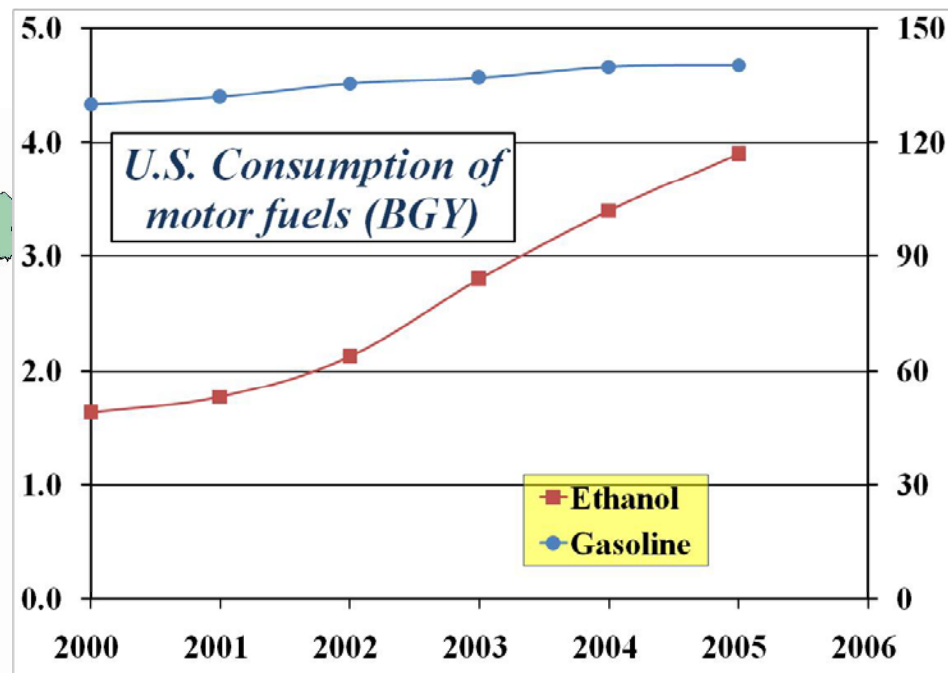
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*2007 September 24*

# Ethanol production



Source: Renewable Fuels Association  
4.3.07



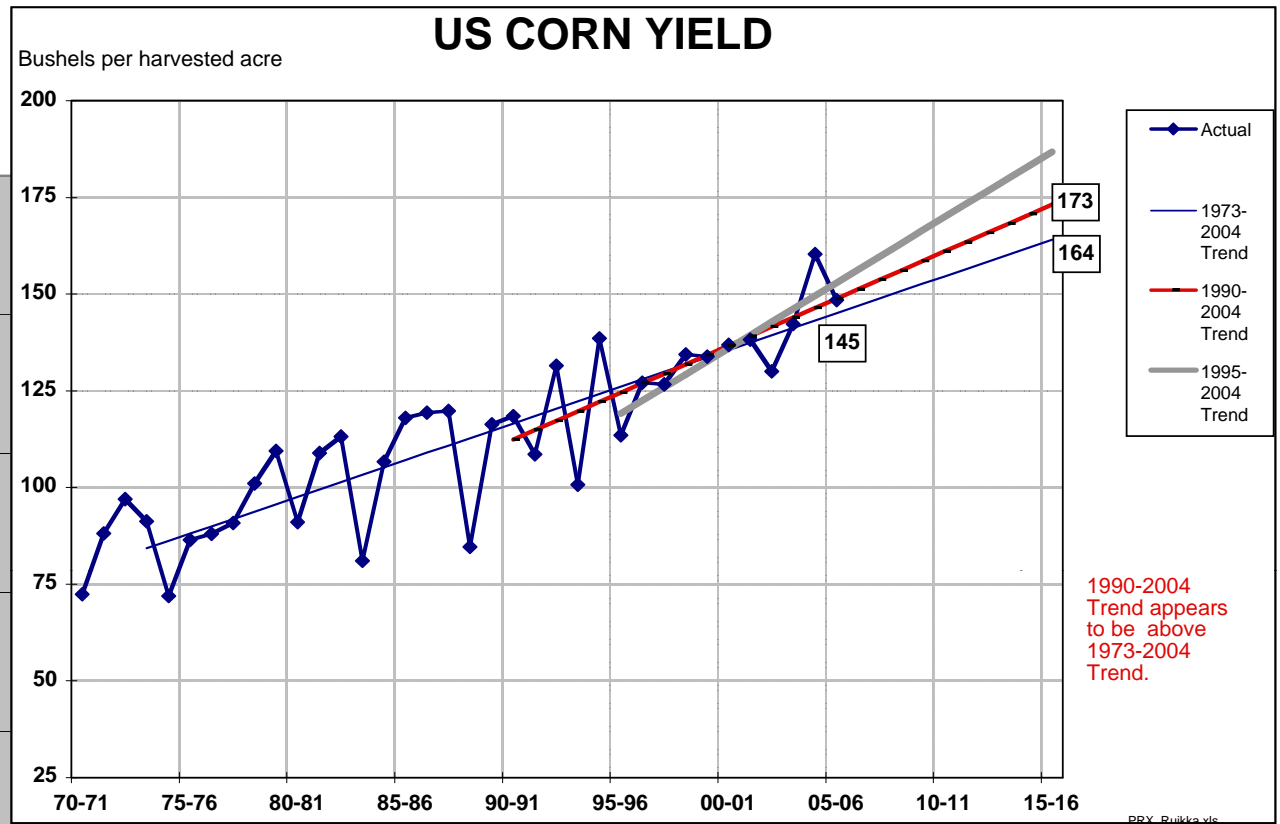
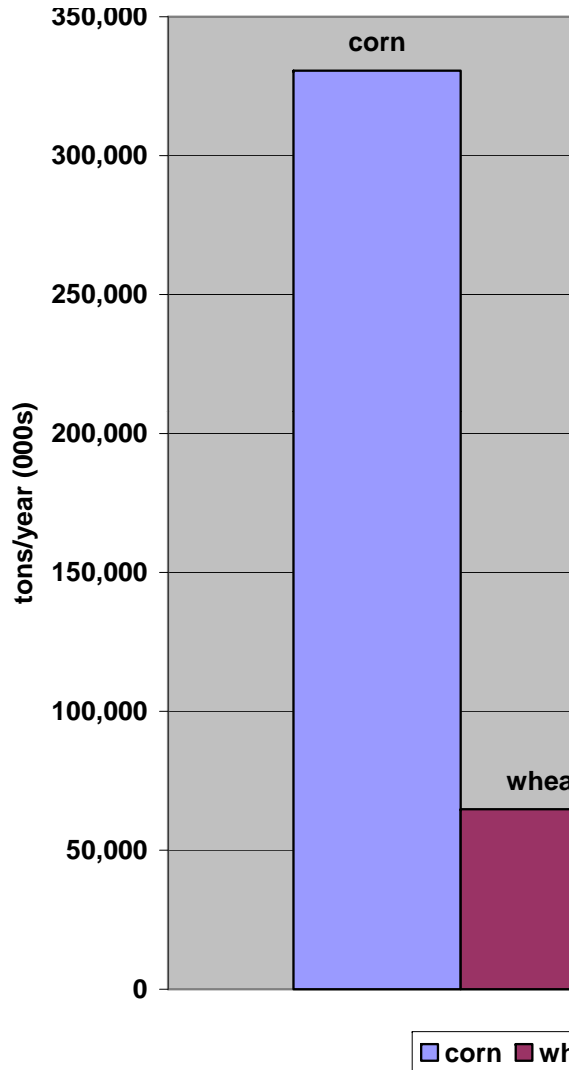
## Detailed Biofuels Market Report: 9/17/07

Ethanol Plants and Production Capacity <sup>(1)</sup>	Units	Current 9/17/07
Current number of Ethanol Production Facilities	Facilities	129
New Ethanol Production Facilities	Facilities	76
Ethanol Production Facility Expansions	Facilities	9
Current ethanol production capacity	MGY	6,843
Planned ethanol production capacity	MGY	6,586
Current & Planned ethanol production capacity	MGY	13,429

# *Biofuels Growth*

- Current ethanol production = 6.8 BGY
- With expansions = 13.4 BGY
- EPACT 2005 calls for 7.5 BGY by 2012 (Energy Policy Act)
- Presidential and Congressional plans call for upwards of 35 BGY by 2017 “20-in-10”
- The 2006 State of the Union called for “30-in-30”, which is 60 BGY in 2030
  
- DOE/USDA predict maximum production from corn is 12-16 BGY
- Corn growers predict ~20 BGY with slow growth from there
- Monsanto has reported that corn hybrids we will achieve 33 BGY
  
- *Strong need for R&D to achieve national goals!*

# Why corn?



*Corn production is increasing much more rapidly Than feed/food use → More available for biofuels*

# *The real cost of oil!*

- At \$60 / barrel crude oil:
- Hydrocarbons are \$0.20 /lb or \$10 / MM BTU
- Natural gas is has ranged from ~\$5 - \$15 MM BTU
- At \$0.07 captured dextrose costs:
- Hydrocarbons are \$0.07 / lb or ~\$9 / MM BTU

■ If consumers paid the environmental costs of crude oil directly, prices would be \$7 - \$27/barrel higher. Source: Governor's Ethanol Coalition

# *Approximate Current Economics*

<b>Process</b>	<b>CAPEX (\$/annual gal)</b>
<b>CTL (w/CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration) <sup>(1)</sup></b>	<b>\$4.25-\$6.50</b>
<b>Starch ethanol<sup>(2)</sup></b>	<b>\$1.00-\$1.75</b>
<b>Biochemical ethanol<sup>(2)</sup></b>	<b>\$1.85-\$3.00</b>
<b>Thermochemical ethanol<sup>(2)</sup></b>	<b>\$2.00-\$3.00</b>

(1) L. Scully “The Business Case for Coal Gasification with Co-Production, July 2006

(2) 30x30 Vision document and references therein

\* Prepared by Dave Dayton (NREL)

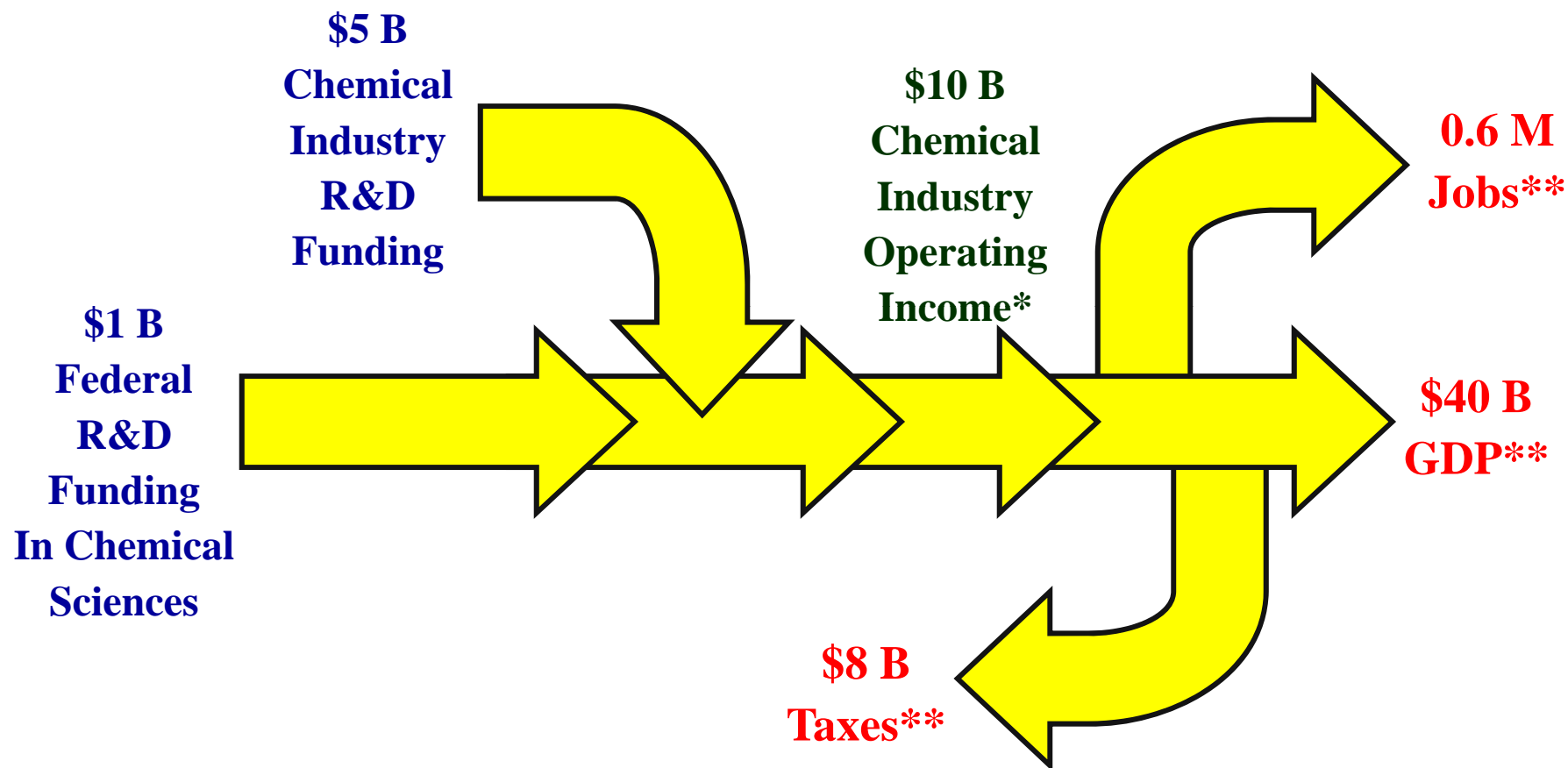
# *Products: Petroleum vs. Biobased?*

- Biobased feedstocks are cheaper than petroleum.
- In petroleum, feedstocks ~75 % of manufacturing costs
- In biobased, feedstocks ~25 % of manufacturing costs
- *Why?*

Biofuels and biobased products  
must compete on a cost basis!

- *What do we need to do?*
  - Better conversions (enzymes, organisms, catalysts)
  - Better separations/product recovery
  - Better process integration (engineering)
  - Large volumes of affordable feedstocks (energy crops)

# *The Role of R&D: Macroeconomic Implications*



Basis:

\*estimated from CCR study

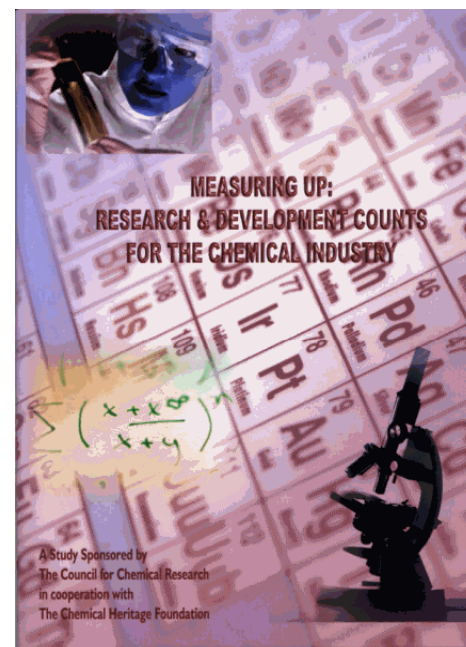
\*\*extrapolated from LANL study by Thayer, et al., April 2005 using REMI economic model

The Council for Chemical Research ([www.ccrhq.org](http://www.ccrhq.org))



# “Measuring Up: R&D Counts for the Chemical Industry”

- \$2 Operating income per \$1 R&D invested
  - 17% after tax return
- Publicly funded science links highly to chemical patents, 6 citations per patent
- Basic research to patented invention typically takes 13-16 years
- Lag to commercialization from patent is 5+ years
- Overall cycle time of 18-21+ years.



The Council for Chemical Research

# *Biofuels, Biobased Products, Chemicals*

- Commodities that ultimately compete on a cost basis
  - *Lower margins*
- Product differentiation is difficult
- Incentives are required for R&D investment and growth of the industry
  
- Many of the tools of biotech/biomedical research are transferable to biofuels.
- The value equation is very different

# *The Federal Cost Share Model*

## ■ Basic Research

- 100 % Public
- NSF, DOE Office of Science, USDA

## ■ Applied Research

- 80 /20 % Public/Private
- DOE EERE, USDA

## ■ Development

- 50/ 50 % Public/Private
- DOE EERE

## ■ Deployment – First of a kind

- 20/80 % Public/Private
- Loan guarantees
- DOE EERE

## ■ “N” th plants

- 100 % Private

- EERE = Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy
- EERE is the home of the Office of Biomass

# *Major funding announcements*

## ■ **2002 DOE EERE – Biobased Products**

- \$20-50 M
- DuPont (PDO – Serona), Cargill, NatureWorks (PLA), etc.

## ■ **2007 GTL Bioenergy Centers**

- \$125 M - 100 % Federal – optional cost shares included
- UC Berkeley, Oak Ridge National Lab, U Wisconsin

## ■ **2007 Cellulosic ethanol – “commercial scale”**

- Up to \$385 M federal/ \$1.2 B total
- Abengoa, Alico, Blue Fire, Iogen, Poet (Broin), Range Fuels
- 11-40 MGY

## ■ **2007 Loan guarantees**

- To be announced shortly

## ■ **2008 10 % scale biorefineries**

- Under review

## ■ **Several privately funded centers**

- BP \$500 M Energy Bioenergy Institute
- UC Berkeley/U Illinois

# *Biofuels funding issues and opportunities*

## ■ VC Investment

- Khosla Ventures – invested in several companies

## ■ Incentives

- \$0.51 cents/gallon
- Extra credit for cellulosic
- E85 Vehicles - CAFE requirements

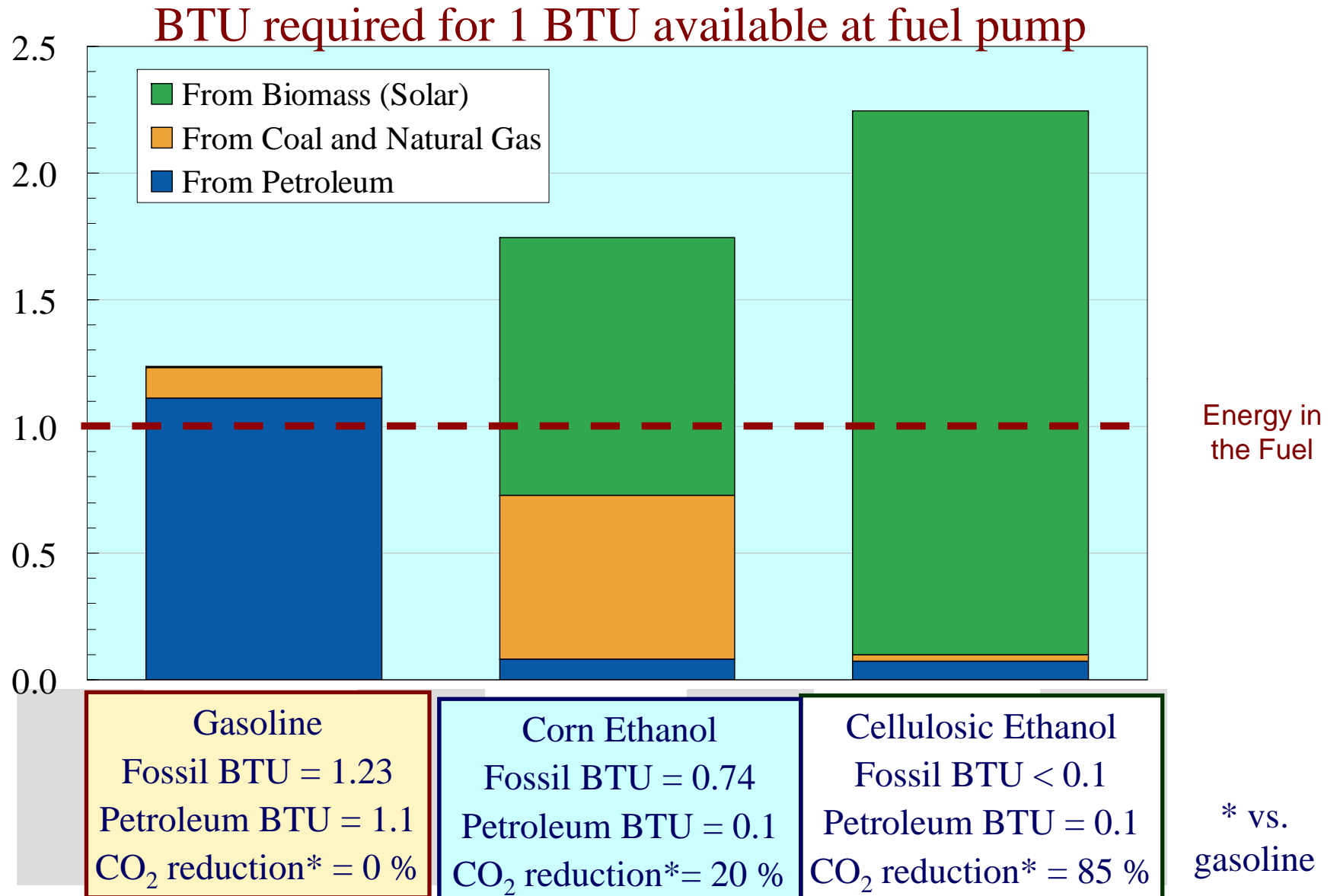
## ■ Potential premiums

- CO<sub>2</sub>
- Domestic supply

## ■ Potential risks

- OPEC – price of crude oil
- Infrastructure does not keep up with production
  - *Fuel distribution – rail, barge, pipeline*
  - *Exceed need for 10 % blends*
  - *E85 availability*

# Energy Balances: The Type and Amount of Energy



# What will the feedstocks be?

## ■ Now

- **Corn starch** → *ethanol (U.S.)*
- **Sugar cane** → *ethanol (Brazil)*
- **Rapeseed** (canola) → *biodiesel (Europe)*
- **Forest residues** → *heat & power (No. America and Europe)*

## ■ Mid term

- **Corn starch** – *continued growth for 1-2 decades*
- **Agricultural residues**: *Corn fiber, corn stover, etc.*
  - Cellulase R&D
- **Forest Products**: *Paper and pulp mills, black liquor, forest residues → syngas*
- **Oil crops**: *soybean, canola (upper Midwest), tropical oils*

## ■ Longer term

- **Energy crops** – *poplar trees, switch grass, etc.*
- Growth on marginal lands → R&D opportunity

- See “Billion-ton study”:

[http://feedstockreview.ornl.gov/pdf/billion\\_ton\\_vision.pdf](http://feedstockreview.ornl.gov/pdf/billion_ton_vision.pdf)

# *How does nature degrade biomass?*

- Starch/sugars

- *Its food*

- ← *Glucose fermentations*

- Biomass – lignin/cellulose/hemicellulose

- *Fungal degradation – slow*

- ← *Biochemical conversion*

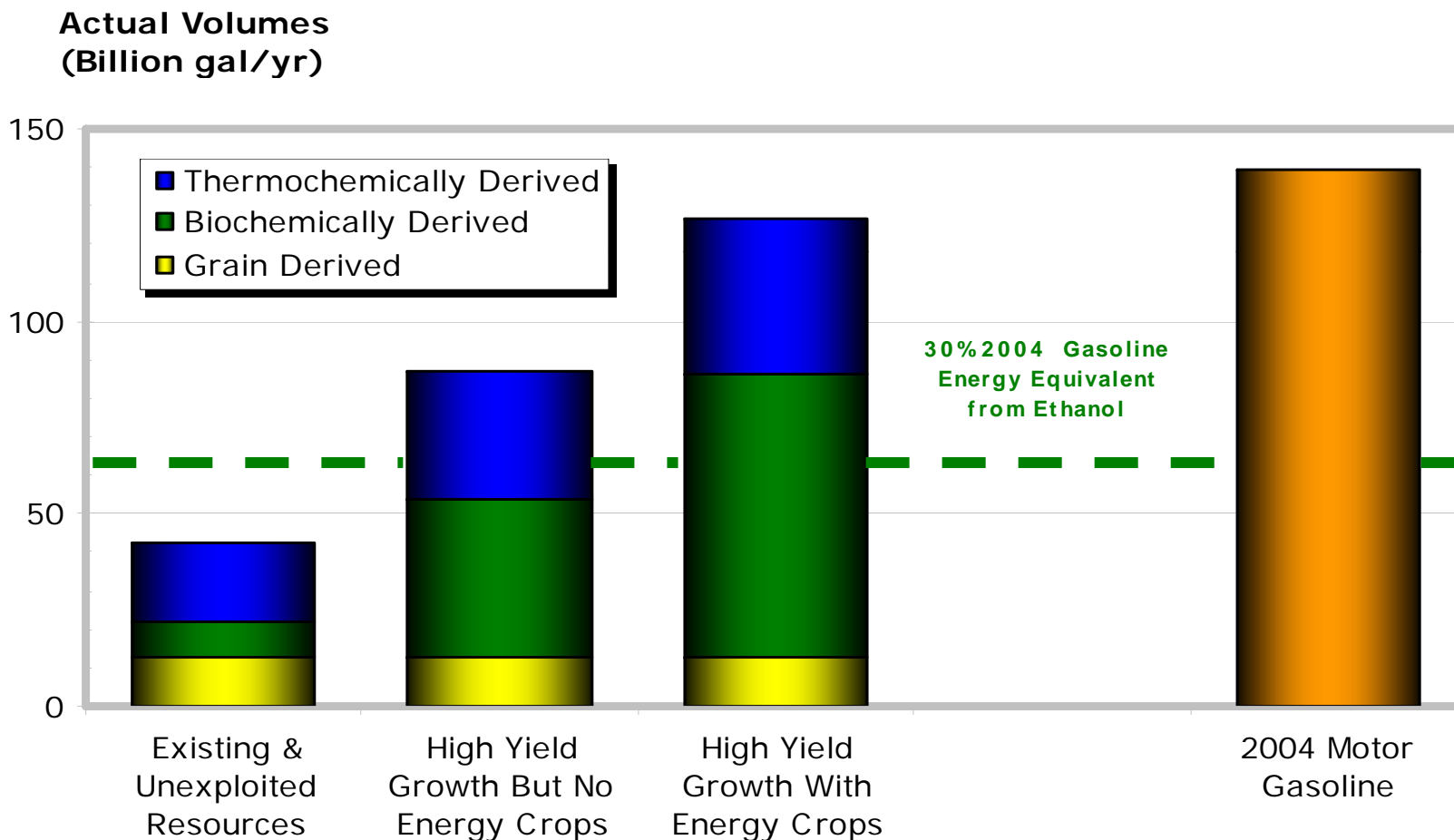
- *Combustion - fast*

- ← *Thermochemical conversion*



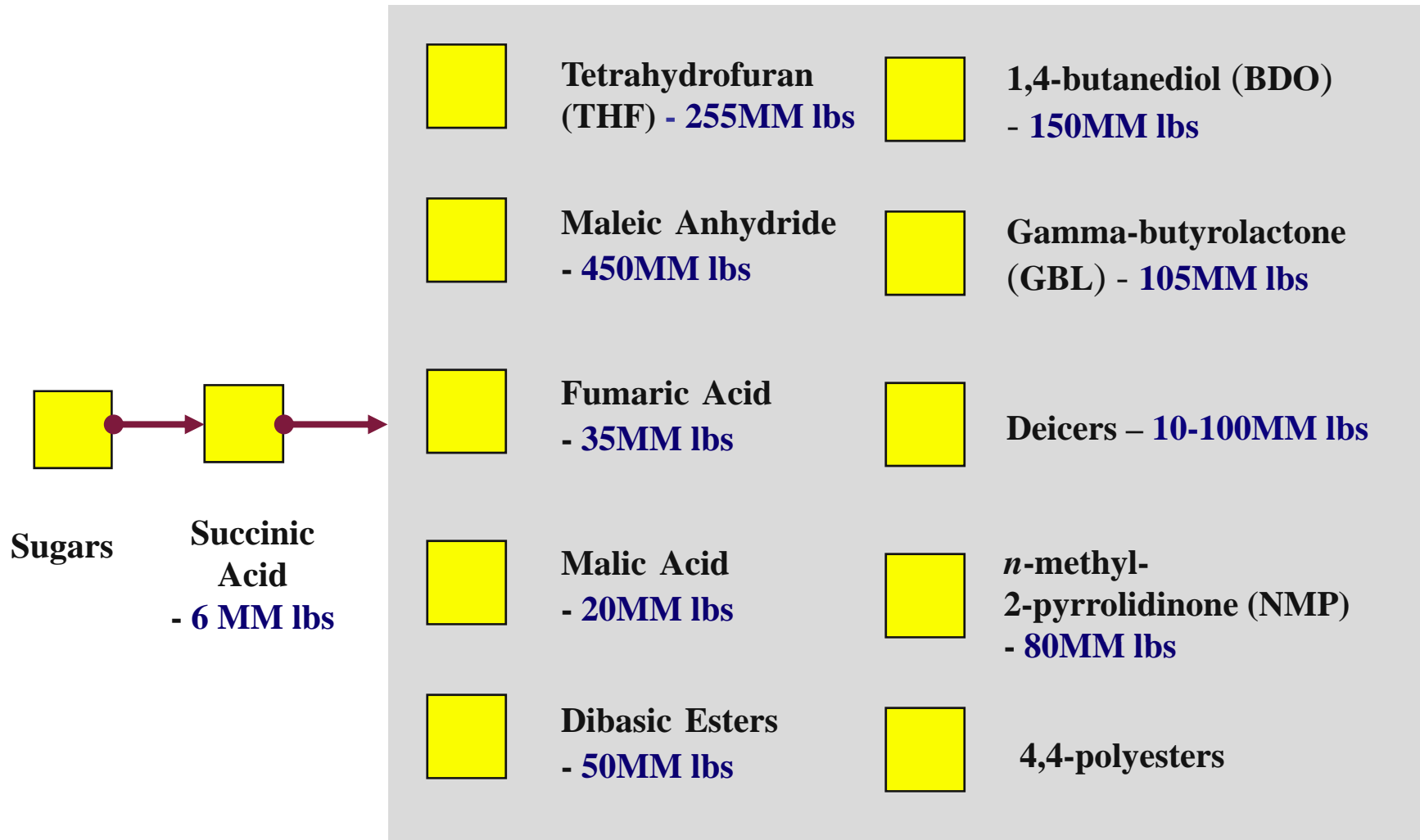
# DOE EERE biomass model

## ■ Biochemical & Thermochemical - *Need both*





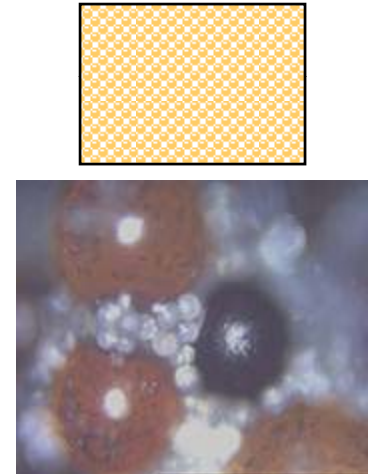
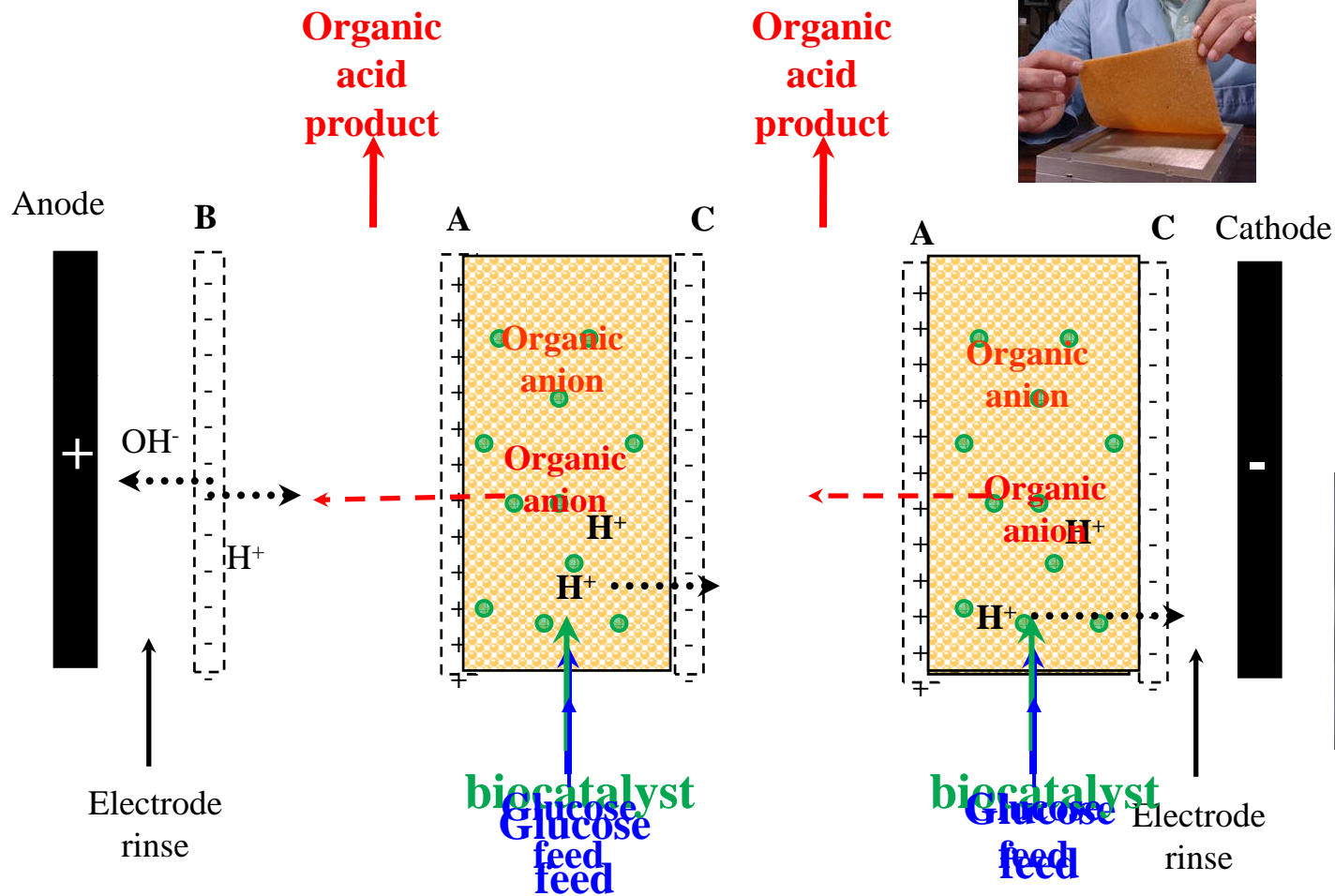
# Opportunities for Succinic Acid Derivatives



# Separative Bioreactor



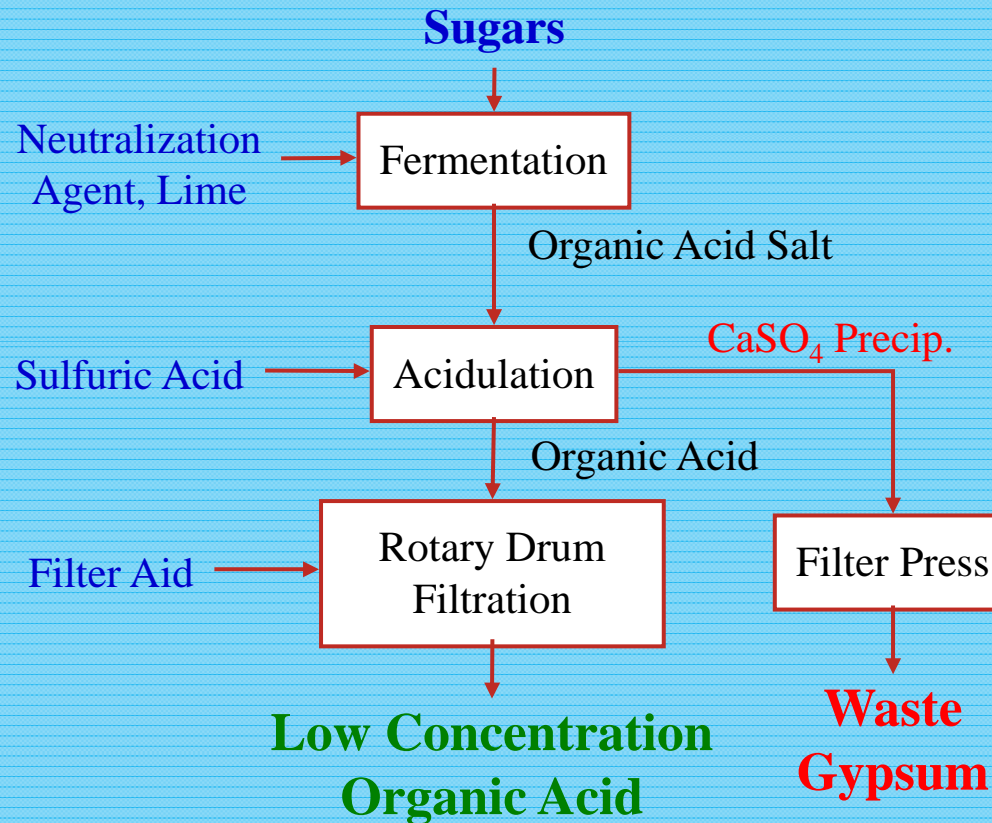
Cells or enzymes are immobilized in the porous resin wafer



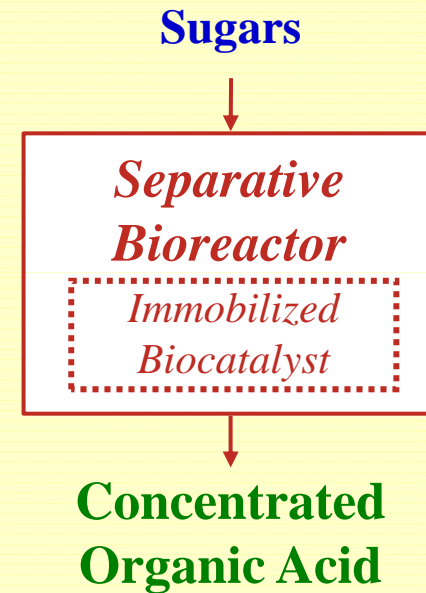
Argonne controls IP (key IP is in the background)

# Biobased Chemicals

## Conventional Process



## Separative Bioreactor



- *Costs competitive with petrochemicals!*

- **Partnership with ADM**
- **Integrates bioprocessing and separations**

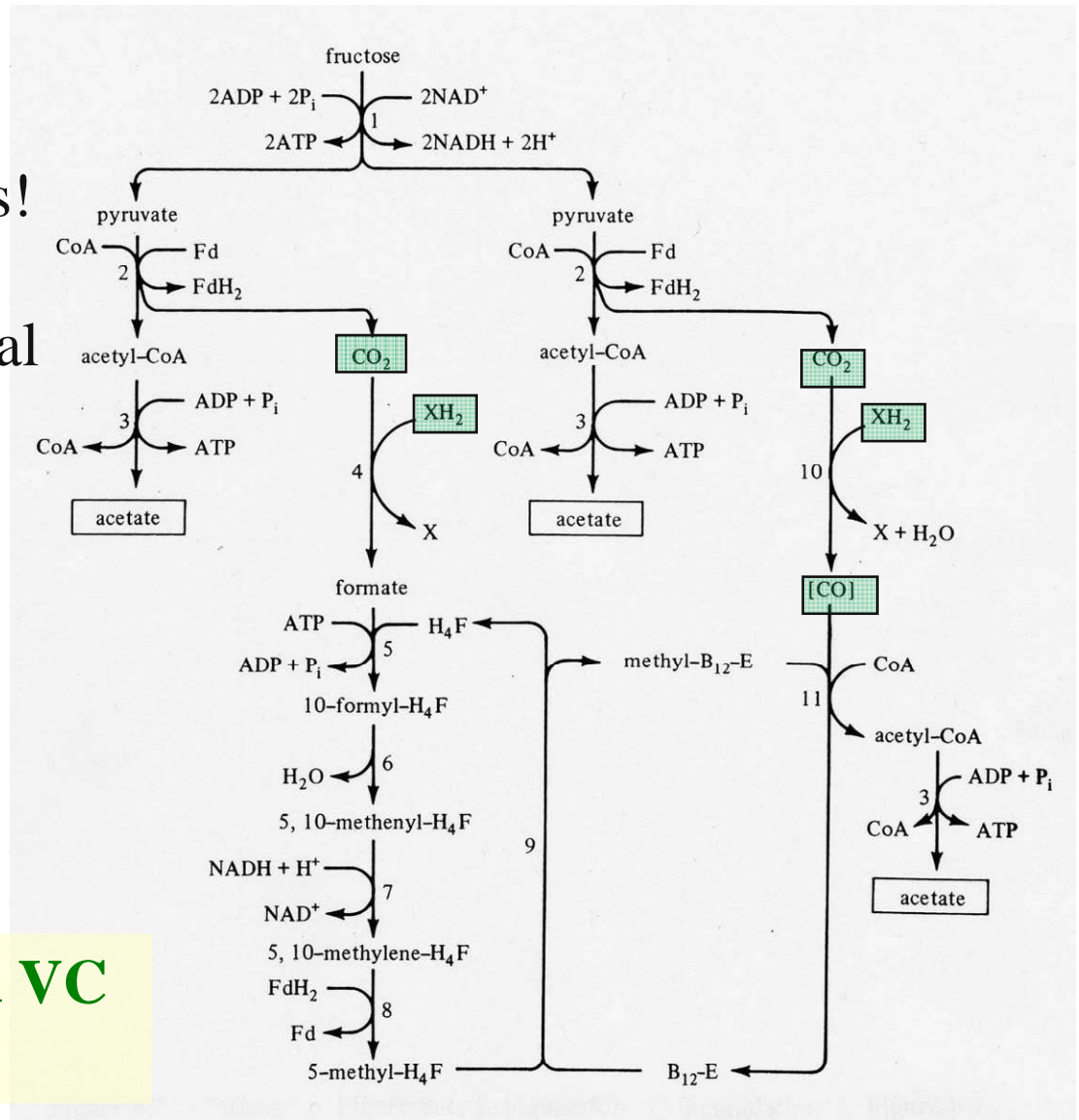
# Syngas fermentations?

- $H_2/CO/CO_2$
- Yes you can ferment syngas!
- Anaerobic bacteria
- Some of the oldest biological mechanisms in existence

## Technical barriers

Organism development  
Gas/liquid mass transfer  
Product titer

- Partnerships with BP and VC funded companies



# *Creating our Biobased Future*

- **It will take the biochemical and thermochemical routes**
  - Feedstock and regional emphasis
  - Produce every available fuel, chemical, material
  - There will be multiple commercial opportunities
- **Maximize product output will minimizing impact/use**
  - *Land*
  - *Water*
  - *Emissions*
  - *Infrastructure*
  - *Capital*
- **Don't overlook**
  - CO<sub>2</sub>
  - Sustainability
- ***To create the biobased future will take biologists, chemists, and engineers!***

# Argonne National Laboratory

## *America's first national laboratory*

- Chartered in 1946 from Enrico Fermi's work on the Manhattan Project.
- Operating budget of ~\$500 million
- As of 2006, Argonne is operated by the UChicago-Argonne LLC
- 25 miles southwest of the Loop

*Seth Snyder, Ph.D.*

*Section Leader*

*Chemical and Biological Technology*

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The white deer are native to Northern Africa and Europe and were a gift to Gustav Freund, the estate owner in the 1930's.

The Advanced Photon Source is the North America's most brilliant X-ray.

