

Ethanol Production from Triticale Grain

Summary

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Triticale has proved to be a good feedstock for production of ethanol, and is being successfully used for that purpose commercially. In addition to commercial production, researchers in Canada, Germany, and Latvia have published studies documenting the suitability of triticale grain for ethanol production. Researchers at University of Saskatchewan and the Saskatchewan Research Council found that fermentation rate and efficiency for triticale was comparable to that of wheat, and that thin stillage and distillers' grains derived from the two were of comparable nutritive value. Researchers at University of Latvia concluded that triticale and wheat were the most promising feedstocks for ethanol production in that country. Researchers at University of Hohenheim concluded that based on ethanol per hectare of grain production that triticale was superior to wheat and rye.

The plant manager for Pound-maker Agventures ethanol plant in Lanigan, Saskatchewan reports that they use both triticale and wheat in their production, and intermix the two indiscriminately. The varieties of triticale that they use have slightly lower starch content than the wheat varieties, so they pay less for the triticale. The plant manager stated, however, that the plant operators cannot discern a difference between the two.

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