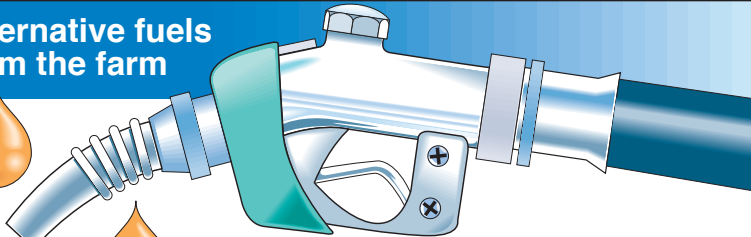


# Alternative fuels from the farm



**European Commission** – plans to set excise duty on ‘biofuels’ – made from potatoes, sugar beet and oil seed – at just 10 percent of the current tax on unleaded petrol. This tax relief is intended to offset the high production costs of biofuels, reduce pollution from exhaust emissions and dispose of Community agriculture surpluses

**Brazil** – four in five cars run on alcohol distilled from sugar cane, cost of imported oil reduced by \$2bn a year

**U.S.** – corn-based alcohol is used in Los Angeles to fuel a fleet of buses, part of a two year programme

**France** – government has reduced the tax level on fuels incorporating alcohol, four buses in Tours run on ethanol

**Germany** – pilot projects for alcohol-fuel research station at Ahausen-Eversen and a production plant in Lower Saxony

**Denmark** – government and private industry setting up ‘bio-refineries’ to harvest, process and extract bio-fuels

**Sweden** – thirty diesel engined buses running on alcohol in an experiment to eliminate soot emission

**Rest of world** – alcohol powered vehicles in use in Canada, New Zealand and Chile



SOURCES: ICI,  
Scientific American,  
Press Association

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