

Budget Unit Brief

FY 2017



Motor Fuel Inspection

Purpose and History

The Weights and Measures Bureau in the Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (DALs) is responsible for licensing and inspecting Iowa fuel pumps to ensure fuel pumps are labeled accurately and that fuel is properly dispersed. This includes testing regular motor fuel and renewable fuel such as blended gasoline, biodiesel, and biodiesel-blended fuel. The inspectors also test for components in gasoline such as oxygenate, raffinate natural gasoline, and motor vehicle antifreeze, and compare to the standards established by the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM). Diesel fuel that is not in compliance with ASTM standards can only be stored in Iowa if fuel will be used to make a finished biodiesel-blended product. Also, motor fuel that contains more than 0.5% of methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE) by volume cannot be sold or stored in Iowa.

Inspectors have hand-held fuel analyzers that test gasoline samples for ethanol content and octane number. This ensures the fuel being sold is labeled correctly. The inspectors also test diesel fuel for biodiesel content and cetane number. In addition, the inspectors can collect samples that are analyzed for content and fuel quality.

Fuel samples are also collected from fuel production plants and pipeline terminals and are analyzed to ensure the fuel meets the minimum standards determined by Iowa Code and ASTM.

The DALs is also responsible for investigating complaints that are made related to motor fuel, motor fuel pumps, and fuel quality.

Program expenditures include salaries for the inspectors, vehicles for travel, expenditures related to travel, equipment to conduct various tests, and other related administrative expenses.

Funding History

The DALs appropriation varies from year to year for this program but the average amount for the past eight years is \$440,000.

Related Statutes

Iowa Code chapters [159A](#), [214](#), and [214A](#)

[21](#) Iowa Administrative Code chapters [12](#) and [85](#)

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More Information

Iowa Renewable Fuels Infrastructure Program: <http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/agMarketing/IRFIP.asp>

Iowa General Assembly: <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/>

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