

DISCUSSION

Imagine you are a consultant hired to collect preliminary data for the purpose of locating a site for a cellulosic ethanol facility. The project will convert an existing plant to one that will be fed primarily by corn stover. Using the Biofuels Atlas query and analysis functions, answer the questions below identifying the location of the proposed plant and summarizing the total corn stover biomass and potential ethanol production from the facility. The only constraints are that the location must be an existing ethanol plant (idle, producing, or under construction) and the corn stover must be obtained within 100km of the site. Other factors including proximity to other ethanol plants, ethanol (E85) fuel stations and density of flex-fuel vehicles may be considered.

1. Explain how you used the query and/or analysis functions and other factors to choose a location
2. Identify the plant that will be converted and describe total corn stover and potential ethanol production.
3. Explain why the location was chosen and describe other factors that may influence site selection (including those not inventoried in the Biofuels Atlas).

APPLYING SPATIAL INFORMATION TO BIOMASS MANAGEMENT