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Wheat plant dispatches bioethanol

The first tanker of sustainably produced bioethanol has been dispatched to Shell from the UK's and Europe's largest wheat biorefinery, which recently started production.

Annual production of the new Ensus biorefinery on Teesside is expected to meet about a third of the UK requirement under the Renewable Transport Fuels Obligation, which requires 3.5 per cent of all transport fuel to come from biofuels in 2010-11. The plant will also produce 350,000 tonnes a year of high-protein animal feed, which will replace imports.

Alwyn Hughes, Ensus chief executive officer, said: 'we are taking in animal-feed wheat, of which the UK has a large surplus, and refining it into bioethanol and high-protein animal feed. At the same time, we are capturing all the CO₂ we produce for use in the food and beverage industries.'

1.2m tonnes of wheat
produces $\approx$ 400m litres
of Bioethanol + 350000
tonnes of high protein
animal food each year.