Yesterday's Washington Post front-page lead story summed up in seven words what's going on: "Siphoning Off Corn to Fuel Our Cars."

Yes, cars on American roads will burn up close to one-third of the enormous corn crop American farmers will grow this year. But because the United States is the world's biggest producer of corn, an essential staple, this massive diversion from the food bowl to the fuel tank threatens to wreak increasing havoc from here to Timbuktu.

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