

April 2021, Issue 72



SafeSourcing e-Newsletter

Have comments, questions, or suggestions about the SafeSourcing e-Newsletter? Let us know what you think by emailing us at the following address. We look forward to hearing from you!
events@safesourcing.com

Trivia!

What is a Web Portal?
www.safesourcing.com

Industry News

Got Gas?

Reducing Cattle's Methane Gases

Scientists have found feeding seaweed to cows is a viable long-term method to reduce the emission of gases from their burps and flatulence. Researchers who put a small amount of seaweed into the feed of cattle over the course of five months found that the new diet caused the bovines to belch out 82% less methane into the atmosphere.) "We now have sound evidence that seaweed in cattle diet is effective at reducing greenhouse gases and that the efficacy does not diminish over time," said Ermias Kebreab, director of the World Food Center and an agricultural scientist at University of California, Davis.

Cows produce methane via microbes in their stomachs as they digest their fiber-filled food, in a process a little like fermentation. Methane is shorter-lived in the atmosphere than carbon dioxide but is more than 30 times as effective in trapping heat, making it a major greenhouse gas. A type of seaweed called *Asparagopsis taxiformis* can partially counteract these emissions from cows. Agriculture makes up about 10% of emissions in the US, much of it from cows that belch, and to a lesser extent, fart out methane. This has led to some climate campaigners to urge people to eat less meat. The next challenge, according to the researchers, will be finding ranchers enough supply of *Asparagopsis taxiformis*, a crimson marine grass that drifts on waves and tides, given there isn't a bountiful supply of it available to farms. ■

The Guardian, 2021

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COMING NEXT ISSUE

May	Answer to our Trivia!
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Recent Savings

Cups, Lids, and Straws

Savings were over 42% of total spend. ■

Bottled Water

Savings were over 45% of total spend. ■

*Please [contact SafeSourcing](#) to schedule your RISK FREE event today.

Gas Prices Surge

Summer is coming, and with that comes higher gas prices. People want to travel again after a year of living through the pandemic. According to AAA, gas prices rose to an average of \$2.88 per gallon this past week. That is up by one-third from last year when the pandemic lockdowns cut fuel use. “Rising prices are an early season gift for fuel makers including Valero Energy Corp. and Phillips 66 after a bruising year, helping to make energy shares the top-performing sector this year in the S&P 500. A proxy for profit margins at refiners, calculated from the gap between gasoline and crude-oil futures, recently neared its highest level in three years at more than \$24 per barrel.”

Drivers in some states are paying more for gas, such as California where prices are approximately \$3.88 per gallon, whereas states such as Mississippi, Ohio, and Texas are paying \$2.60 per gallon. Prices vary depending on tax policies and closeness to pipelines. The price for gasoline also rises during the summer months as the blends change to accommodate for evaporation during the heat. ■

Joe Wallace, WSJ, 3/25/2021

Cargo Ship Wedged in the Suez Canal Causes Shipping Delays of Oil and Gas

Recently, a giant cargo ship by the name of Ever Given (which is one of the world’s biggest ocean vessels) got stuck in the Suez Canal, blocking all traffic in one of the busiest waterways in the world, compounding global supply chains woes. The 1300-foot cargo ship was lodged sideways with its bow wedged in one bank and its stern nearly touching the other side during a sand storm with winds reaching up to 40 miles per hour. Tug boats and a dredger worked tirelessly to partially refloat and drag the ship along the bank. More than 100 ships in the 120-mile canal, connecting the Red Sea and the Mediterranean, were stuck. The delay and extra costs associated with the grounded container ship added to the already pressured logistic industry. Oil prices rose and shipping stocks fell on March 24. The Suez Canal is a trade route for tankers carrying oil and natural gas, along with manufactured goods. Over 19,000 vessels traveled through the canal in 2020. “The passage is a particular choke point for the energy industry, with about one-tenth of the world’s seaborne oil trade flowing through it and the associated Sumed—or Suez Mediterranean— pipeline in 2018, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.” ■

Costas Paris, Parmy Olson, Sarah McFarlane, WSJ, 3/24/2021

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q: How can I subscribe or unsubscribe to these newsletters?

A: You can subscribe or unsubscribe to these free newsletters by simply going to our [website](#), and clicking the option “e-Newsletter” or by contacting us directly at events@safesourcing.com.

Q: I have run events in the past, is there any chance I could be saving more?

A: Yes. No matter when your past event ran, the team at SafeSourcing can find ways for your company to save.

Q: I want to know more about what SafeSourcing does. Who can I talk to about this?

A: You can contact a customer services representative by calling us at 1-888-261-9070 or by going to our [website](#) and trying our “Risk Free Trial” offer.

Trivia! From March 2021 Issue
What does Vertical Exchange mean?

A Vertical Exchange is an e-marketplace that serves a particular industry.

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