



RIN Update: Estimating Potential Stocks for 2014

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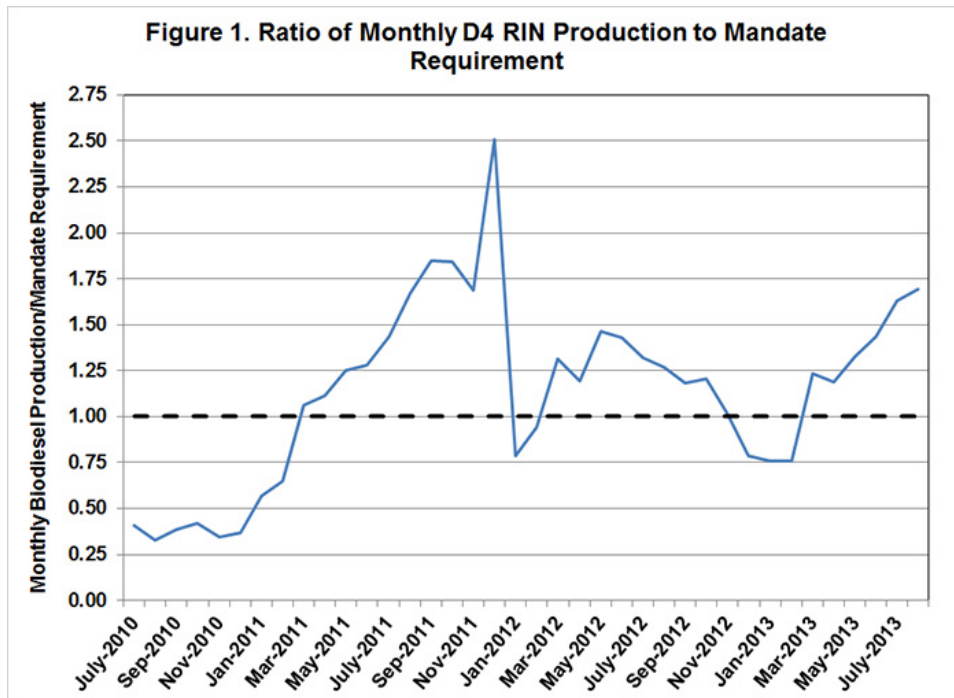
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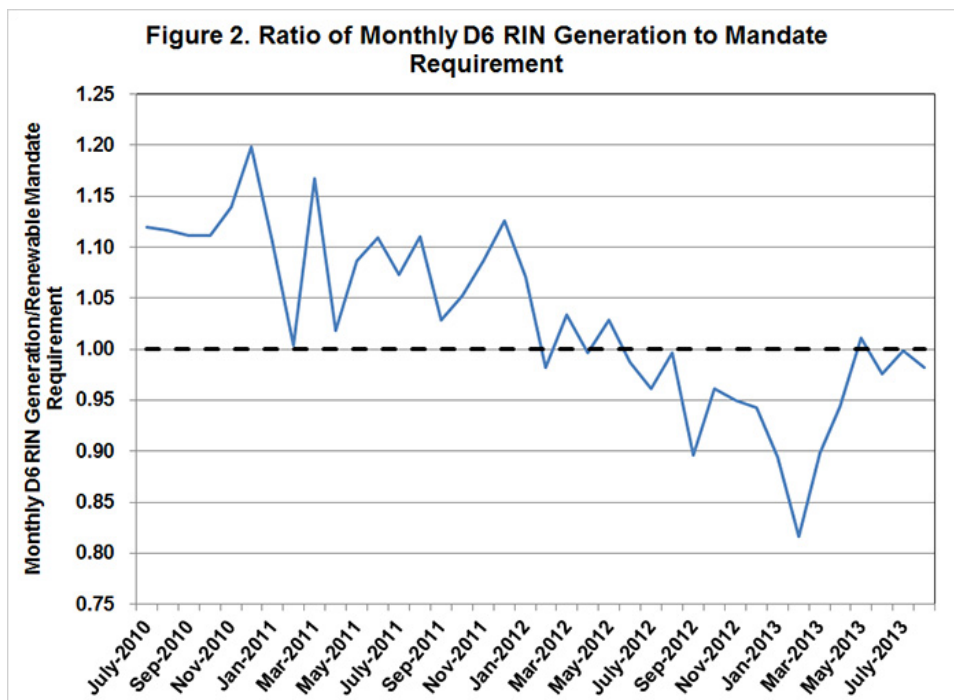
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In yesterday's daily post (available [here](#)) Scott Irwin highlighted the production responsiveness of the biodiesel industry. Motivations for this ramp up in production include the blenders tax credit being reinstated for 2013, the increase in the biodiesel component of the RFS mandate from 1 billion gallons to 1.28 billion gallons, and the potential use of "extra" D4 biodiesel RINs in meeting the advanced and renewable RFS mandate components. Today's post focuses on the potential impact this increase in RIN generation may have in generating RIN stocks for carry over into 2014.

Figure 1 uses data from [EPA's EMTS](#) to plot monthly D4 RIN generation relative to implied mandate needs (annual mandate/12) from July 2010 through August 2013. RIN generation has exceeded implied mandate needs for 2013 since March, and has followed a pattern similar to that experienced in 2011 under similar blender's tax credit circumstances. Using the average production level over the most recent three months (June, July, and August) to project monthly totals through the end of the year results in an estimate of total D4 RIN generation in 2013 of 2.62 billion RIN gallons (1.75 billion volumetric gallons).



Monthly D6 RIN generation has also picked up in the past few months. Figure 2 plots D6 RIN generation relative to implied mandate needs since July 2010. The pace of RIN generation fell well below implied mandate needs in the first quarter of 2013, but has since rebounded. Monthly RIN generation is now averaging nearly 1.1 billion gallons, resulting in an estimate of total D6 RIN generation in 2013 of more than 13.1 billion gallons.



Through August, nearly 410 million gallons of D5 advanced RINS had been generated. Generation of advanced RINS began to increase pace in June, averaging 70 million gallons per month over June, July,

and August. Assuming monthly D5 RIN generation averages 70 million gallons through the end of the year, total D5 RIN generation for 2013 would be 690 million gallons.

Table 1 provides estimates for 2014 RIN carry-in, or RIN stocks which are estimated to be rolled over for use in RFS compliance next year. These estimates are based on the projections for total RIN generation in 2013 in addition to the following assumptions:

- RIN carry-in for 2013 is based on the values provided in [EPA's final rulemaking](#).
- Cellulosic RIN generation for 2013 is assumed to be just enough for mandate compliance so that D3 RIN stocks levels remain at zero.
- Projected RIN generation for each D-code assumes that monthly production through the end of the year equals average monthly generation over the June, July, and August months.
- Based on EMTS data, not all RINs that are generated are ultimately used for mandate compliance. RINs can also be retired for other purposes such as exports. The net RIN generation values reported in table 1 are based on the assumption that 93% of the generated D4 RINs will be available for compliance, and 95% of the D5 and D6 RINs generated in 2013 will be available for compliance.
- The 20% rollover limit is applied across D-codes based on the statutory mandate levels for 2014, which are also provided in table 1. The biodiesel mandate in 2014 is assumed to stay at the 2013 level of 1.28 billion volumetric gallons (1.92 billion RIN gallons).

Two estimates for 2014 carry-in levels are provided. Potential carry-in, estimated as 2013 carry-in plus net generation less the 2013 mandate level, does not impose the 20% rollover limit. The total advanced mandate of 3.75 billion gallons would only allow for 0.75 billion gallons of the advanced (D3, D4, and D5) RINS to be rolled into 2014. The limited carry-in estimate applies the 20% rollover limits to the potential carry-in estimates and suggests that while total rollover will not exceed the limit, some of the advanced RIN categories rolled into 2014 may have to be “demoted” and applied towards other mandate categories.

Biofuel Type	D-code	2013 Carry-in ¹	2013 Net Generation ²	2013 Mandate	Potential 2014 Carry-in ³	Limited 2014 Carry-in ⁴	2014 Mandate
Cellulosic	D3	0.000	0.006	0.006	0.000	0.000	1.750
Biodiesel	D4	0.353	2.432	1.920	0.865	0.384	1.920
Undifferentiated Advanced	D5	0.196	0.655	0.824	0.027	0.366	0.080
Renewable	D6	2.117	12.524	13.800	0.841	0.984	14.400
Total Advanced	D3,D4,D5	0.549	3.093	2.750	0.892	0.750	3.750
Total	All	2.666	15.618	16.550	1.734	1.734	18.150

¹Taken from EPA's 2013 Final Rule
²Projection of generation less retirement for non-compliance purposes such as exports
³Potential carry-in equals 2013 carry-in plus net generation less the 2013 mandate
⁴Limited carry-in applies the 20% rollover limit to potential carry-in based on the statutory 2014 mandate levels

Net RIN generation of D4 RINs is estimated to reach more than 2.4 billion RIN gallons (1.62 billion volumetric gallons). RIN generation at these levels plus the carry-in from 2013 would result in 865 million D4 RINs in excess of mandate needs for the year. Net generation for D5 RINs is estimated to be 655 million gallons. Adding 2013 carry-in provides approximately 27 million gallons more than is needed to meet the 824 million gallon undifferentiated advanced portion of the mandate with D5 RINs. Net generation of D6 RINs is estimated to be 12.524 billion gallons in 2013. With 2013 carry-in, 841 million D6 RINs would be available for rollover into 2014 after compliance this year.

Totaling up potential carry-in for 2014 yields 1.734 billion RIN gallons across the D4, D5, and D6 categories, which is less than 20% of the total mandate of 18.15 billion gallons for 2014. However, total advanced rollover (892 million gallons) does exceed 20% of the advanced portion ($0.20 \times 3.75 = 0.75$ billion gallons). In applying the rollover limits, it is assumed that obligated parties prefer to hold RINs with lower D-codes (i.e. preference for a D4 over a D5 or D6) due to the added flexibility they provide for mandate compliance.

Applying the rollover limits results in 384 million D4 RIN gallons (20% of 1.92 billion RIN gallon mandate assumed for 2014) which could be applied towards the biodiesel mandate in 2014. The remaining 481 million D4 RINs would also be rolled into 2014, but potentially have to be used in place of D5 or D6 RINs. Rollover of D5 and demoted D4 RINs are estimated at 366 million RIN gallons to fill the 20% advanced rollover limit of 750 million RIN gallons. The remaining 142 million advanced RINs ($865 - 750 = 142$ million) would be rolled forward for application towards the renewable component along with D6 RINs, increasing total carry-in for the renewable mandate component to 984 million RIN gallons.

The final column in table 1 provides the 2014 mandate levels as outlined in the RFS, along with the assumption that the biodiesel mandate remains at 1.28 billion volumetric gallons (1.92 billion RIN gallons). Carry-in of 750 million advanced RINs would require net generation next year of at least 3 billion advanced RINs. This could be achieved with D5 generation at projected 2013 levels of 650 million, and D4 generation of 2.35 billion gallons or roughly 1.6 billion gallons of biodiesel production. Note that this assumes the cellulosic mandate is again waived down to nearly zero, but the total advanced mandate remains at 3.75 billion gallons for 2014.

D6 RIN generation requirements for 2014 would be estimated at more than 13.4 billion gallons. Assuming all D6 and D5 RINs represent ethanol (produced from either corn or sugar cane), this would require ethanol blending in 2014 of approximately 14 billion gallons (13.4 billion plus the 0.65 billion advanced gallons), which exceeds EPA's blend wall estimate for 2014 (available [here](#), pg. 49823) by 800 million gallons. This 800 million gallon gap would need to be met with D4 RINs generated from additional production of biodiesel or increased use of higher ethanol blends such as E85. The use of additional biodiesel for the entire gap would require another 500 million gallons of production, pushing total biodiesel production to more than 2.1 billion gallons, approaching the 2.2 billion gallon industry capacity assumed in [EPA's 2013 final rule](#). Note also that this assumes that RIN stock levels are driven to zero; ethanol and/or biodiesel blending would have to be larger to allow for any carry-in for 2015.

Implications

The recent increase in U.S. biodiesel production and, as a result, D4 RIN generation is estimated to lead to a surplus of D4 RINs for 2013 and a total RIN carry-in of more than 1.7 billion gallons across all D-codes for 2014. Thus, the ramp up in biodiesel RIN generation as producers take advantage of 2013 market conditions, including the blender's tax credit, is generating a surplus of D4 RINs which could relax blend wall constraints in 2014. Furthermore, at this level of carry, the statutory advanced mandate for 2014, including the portion currently designated for cellulosic, could be met with biodiesel and advanced RIN generation levels similar to those projected for 2013.

However, the remaining renewable mandate requirements would still exceed the E10 blend wall by approximately 800 million gallons. This gap could be filled by increasing biodiesel production near estimated industry capacity in 2014, increased use of higher ethanol blends, or a combination of both.

There has been considerable scrutiny over the EPA's discussion of the potential for a waiver on the total mandate to address difficulties related to the ethanol blend wall (see post [here](#) for more discussion). The estimates for 2014 RIN carry-in provide some insight into the likelihood and potential size of such a waiver for next year. Note that the estimates discussed here are based on a number of assumptions. Actual RIN generation levels for 2013 could vary from the projections used to estimate RIN carry-in for 2014, and the resulting generation needs to comply with the mandates ultimately implemented in 2014.