America’s ethanol biorefineries continue to provide the world with high-protein, low-cost animal feed for livestock, poultry, and aquaculture. In 2022, U.S. ethanol producers generated 36.4 million metric tons (mmt) of distillers grains, gluten feed, and gluten meal. In addition, biorefineries extracted over 4.2 billion pounds of corn distillers oil, a poultry feed ingredient and major feedstock for biodiesel and renewable diesel.

U.S. biorefineries not only satisfy domestic animal feed needs, but they also export about one-third of the distillers grains they produce to customers around the world. In 2022, more than 50 countries purchased a cumulative 11.4 mmt of U.S. distillers grains. Half of these exports landed in Southeast and East Asia. Meanwhile about 20 percent of total U.S. distillers grains exports were shipped to Mexico, as the country extended its reign as the top DDGS importer for a sixth consecutive year.

One Chemical, Many Uses

Beyond fuel use, ethanol also is one of the oldest organic chemicals known. Aside from its use in beverages, ethanol is involved in the manufacture of many significant everyday products. Ethanol’s solvent power is particularly useful for the extraction of beneficial ingredients from plants. It is also used in processing vaccines and is essential to the manufacture of pharmaceuticals such as antibiotics. As an industrial raw material, ethanol is also involved in the manufacture of products like adhesives, cosmetics, detergents, explosives, inks, hand creams, plastics, paints, textiles, vinegar, and more.