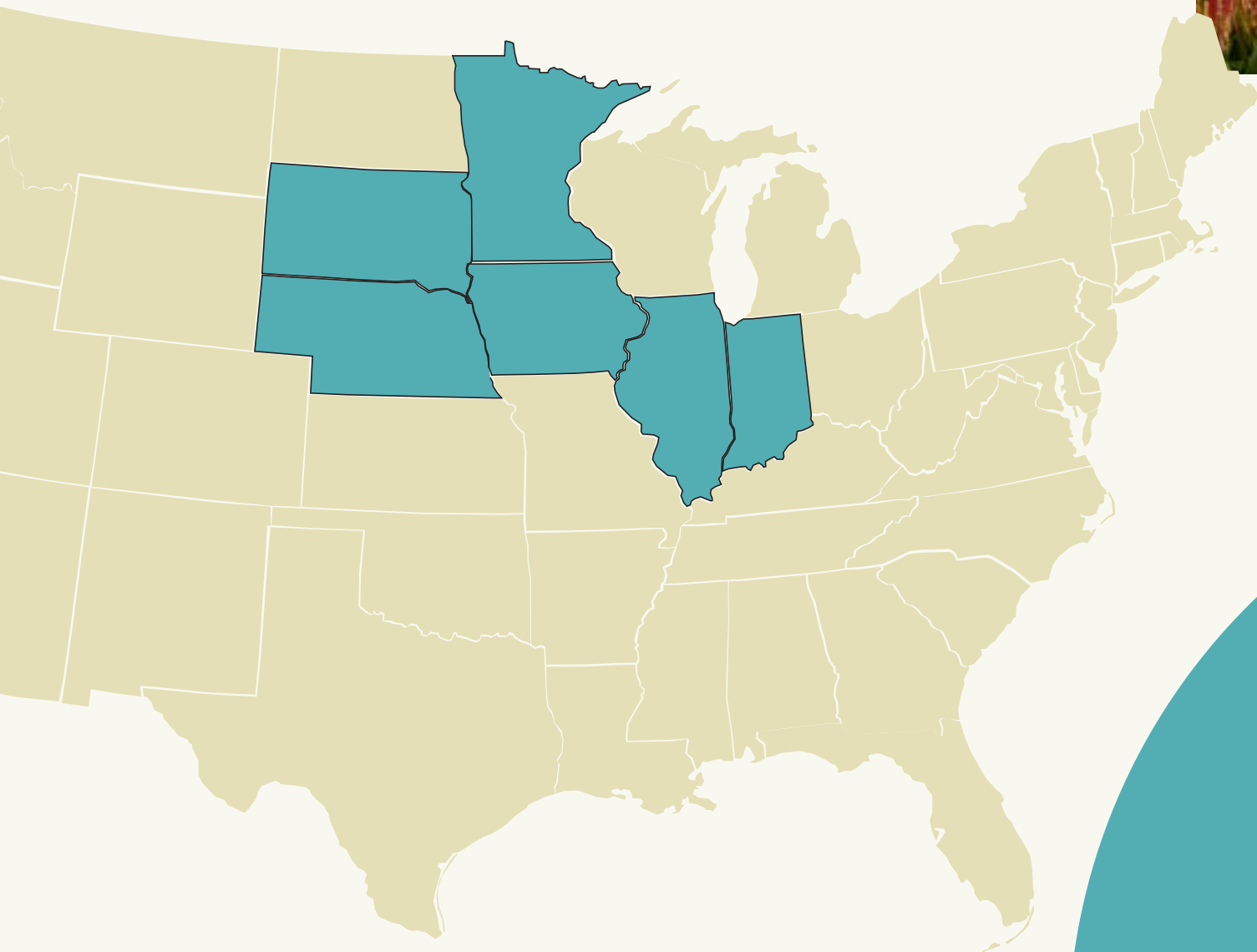


BY THE NUMBERS:

THE BIOFUEL BELT

By Jeffrey Winters

Ethanol is a fuel made from fermented corn, and the so-called Corn Belt is to ethanol what Texas is to oil. Just six states — **Iowa, Nebraska, Illinois, Minnesota, Indiana, and South Dakota** — account for 265 million barrels of ethanol fuel production, compared to around 100 million barrels for the other 44 states combined.



The debate as to the merits of ethanol as a suitable alternative to gasoline has not been settled. Regardless, the production of ethanol has stalled after a decade of rapid growth, hovering around **1 million barrels a day** for the past five years.



Ethanol has been touted as a means for promoting national energy security. But production is concentrated in just a few states.

While ethanol makes up about 10 percent of the content of motor fuel sold in the U.S., it seems unlikely that liquid biofuels will ultimately play more than a niche role in the national energy system.

1.1 million barrels a day

1 million barrels a day

2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019