

Garden State Moving Ahead With Ethanol Plans

Pa. Introduces Biofuel Bill In Senate

DAVE LEFEVER
Lancaster Farming Staff

BORDENTOWN, N.J. — The final planning stages are under way for a New Jersey facility that would produce ethanol and other products from corn, according to members of the group working on the project for the past two years.

"Everything is down to the wire now," said David Fink of the Garden State Ethanol (GSE) Board, a group of farmers and agribusiness professionals from the region.

Fink, a Lehigh County farmer and member of the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau Commodity Committee, said the board is reviewing contractor proposals for building the plant and preparing to file with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission for permission to sell stocks to farmers who want to invest in the project.

While a site has not been selected for the facility, several prospective locations in South Jersey are under consideration and will be finalized within the next two months, according to project coordinator Ed Stahl. Permitting and construction could potentially begin on the site within a year, he said.

According to Stahl, the proposed plant would be capable of converting 11 to 14.5 million bushels of corn per year to ethanol and its "co-products" — food-grade carbon dioxide and dried distiller's grain.

Ethanol is not feasible to produce in the eastern U.S. without

capitalizing on the other two products, according to board member Fink.

"The value of the co-products is actually more important than the ethanol," he said. Carbon dioxide would be marketable in the form of dry ice and in the carbonization of beverages, while dried distiller's grain is an "enhanced nutrient livestock feed."

The farmer-owned facility would be capable of producing more than 90,000 tons of dried distiller's grains and 90,000 tons of carbon dioxide per year, according to Fink's figures.

Producing ethanol in New Jersey would offer economic, agricultural, and environmental benefits as well as decreased dependency on imported oil and the gasoline additive MTBE, according to a recent GSE report.

Nationwide proponents of ethanol and other biofuels have been expressing their support for a federal Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS), as recently introduced by several bills in Congress.

Such a new RFS would mandate the increasing use of renewable fuels in motor vehicles.

Additionally, Pennsylvania Senator Mike Waugh (R-28) recently introduced legislation calling for support of the production and use of biofuels.

If adopted, Pa. Senate Bill 1253 would mandate direct producer payments to encourage biofuel production in the state, a capital investment program to encourage the development of production facilities, an agricul-

tural fuels tax rebate, and prohibition of MTBE.

Meanwhile, agricultural and economic development leaders from York County and the surrounding region have been exploring the possibility of ethanol production in the area.

At a Jan. 17 meeting of the Southcentral Pennsylvania Young Farmers Association, York County Ag Economic Development Specialist Scott Welsh spoke on the potential of ethanol production in southcentral Pennsylvania.

"The meeting was positive," Welsh said, estimating that about 50 farmers were in attendance.

Some who buy grain for their livestock expressed concern that a local ethanol plant would drive up corn prices.

Ethanol production, however, would provide investment opportunities for farmers rather than "directly impact corn prices," Welsh said.

A feasibility study begun late last year is still looking at a nine-county area for a possible ethanol production site. Results of the \$30,000 study should be available in early March, according to Welsh.

The ethanol steering committee, originally based in York County, is expanding to include members from a wider area, including Adams, Berks, Lancaster, Lebanon, Franklin, and several Maryland counties.

According to Welsh, ethanol facilities in both New Jersey and Pennsylvania would not be detrimental to the success of either project.

"We feel the total area could sustain two plants," he said.

While ethanol production to date has mostly occurred west of the Mississippi River, plans are under way for several plants in more easterly states, including Indiana, Kentucky, Florida, and Tennessee, according to information provided by Garden State Ethanol.

Bradford County Holstein Club Conducts Annual Meeting

CAROLYN N. MOYER
Bradford Co. Correspondent
ATHENS (Bradford Co.) — An enthusiastic group of Bradford County Holstein breeders braved winter weather conditions Saturday, Jan. 19, to elect board members and review plans for the coming year.

Newly elected as directors for 2002 are Joe Kenyon, Keith Thomson, and Dean Jackson. They join continuing board members Al Calkins, Jeff Jenkins, Scot Walrath, Sandy Crawford, Dick Packard, and Linda Kisner.

Junior Pennsylvania Holstein members are also planning a busy year. As a fundraiser, junior members plan to auction themselves off to work on a farm for a day. Suggested duties include catching up on registrations, fieldwork, and barn cleanup.

Bradford County junior members are also scheduled to compete in the Pennsylvania Dairy

Bowl competition. Serving on the junior team are Courtney Slater, Sierra Slater, Ben Miller, and Crystal Miller with Heidi Miller as the alternate. The senior team consists of Joshua Ford, Justin Ford, Angela Adams, and Bobby Sue Adams. The teams will compete Feb. 9 in Altoona.

In other business, the Northeast Holstein Championship Show will be Aug. 20 at the Troy Fairgrounds. Jim Burdette will officiate.

Roger Kingsley, a Bradford County Holstein member, entertained the group with a slide show featuring some of his favorite pictures. Kingsley is a field editor for Country, a national magazine. He has also had several photos published in the Hoard's Dairyman calendar and other farm publications. He also offered some tips to the group about improving their own pictures.

Quarryville To Host Grazing Conference

Innovative Producer/Marketers On Slate

QUARRYVILLE (Lancaster Co.) — Focusing on "opportunities for small farms," a southeast Pa. grazing conference set for Feb. 11 and 12 will offer the chance to learn about grazing and marketing from those who are doing it.

Mike Hartman of Minnesota and Wilmer Newswanger, Franklin County, will discuss their experiences with on-farm processing and marketing.

David Kline, Amish farmer from Holmes County, Ohio, and author of several books, will detail the profitability of small farms.

"Bigger isn't always better" will be the first of Kline's presentations on Monday. On Tuesday, he will discuss the future of small farms and how they can stay ahead.

Billy Wayson from Virginia will take us with him on the journey from a financial planner to a small seasonal family dairy operation. He has much practical experience in thinking "outside of the box."

Jerry Brunetti from northeast Pa., back by request, will discuss

how healthy soil contributes to success with grass.

A round table on direct marketing is set for Monday at 6:30 p.m. The discussion will be led by P. Newswanger, Hartman, and Doug Gunnick from Minnesota.

Tuesday starts with Gunnick detailing grass and portable fence management.

Art Thicke from southeastern Minnesota will talk about unconventional and low-cost methods of operating a grazing farm. In the afternoon, Brunetti will examine the basics of grass nutrition and how to supplement cows on pasture to maintain a healthy rumen and good milk flow.

Both days will allow plenty of time to ask questions and discuss with speakers various aspects of this business opportunity for small farms.

Exhibits will also be displayed related to grass and grazing.

Registration is \$30.00 per person and includes lunch both days. Space is limited and early registration is encouraged.

To register, contact Arden Landis at (717) 529-6644.

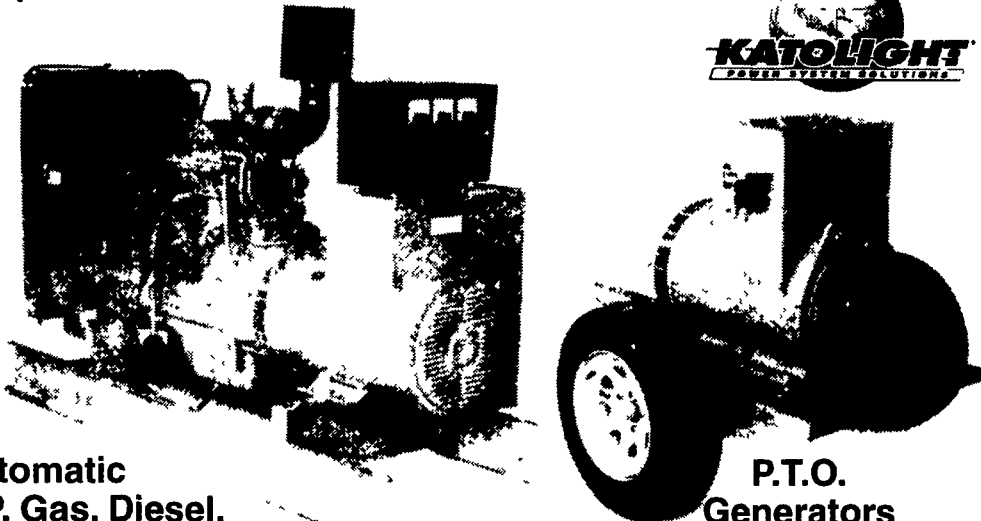
Lancaster Farming's quarterly exclusive booklet, *Dairy Plus*, begins its 2002 season with the Feb. 23 issue, devoted to manure management issues and techniques.

Special features include managing odors, manure handling guides, and other issues important to the dairy producer. Also scheduled: cooperative news and an update on a calf cloning project, in addition to farm calendar and university columns.



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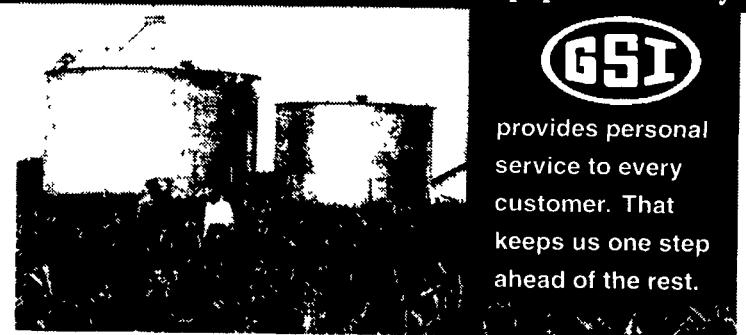
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