

Ethanol Plant Construction To Begin

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The proposed facility will convert corn into ethanol, a renewable gasoline additive used mainly in automobiles. It is projected to produce more than 50 million gallons of ethanol from as much as 20 million bushels of corn per year, ranking it in the top 15 of the nation's 70 ethanol facilities.

At this point, the nearest ethanol plants to Pennsylvania are in Michigan, Indiana, and Kentucky.

Co-products generated from the ethanol production process include dried distillers grain — a high-protein livestock feed, and carbon dioxide used for carbonating soft drinks and in food-processing facilities. According to planners, a major part of the project's success depends on the marketing of these co-products.

A feasibility study completed last year by an independent consulting firm showed good economic prospects for the project. One of the bright spots in assessing ethanol's future is that the fuel oxygenate MTBE is being phased out in many states because it has been shown to be an environmental and health hazard.

Ethanol is an environmentally safe fuel oxygenate.

Penn-Mar plans to have a final site chosen for the facility by May and to begin construction late this year or early 2004, according to Dan Wolf, Penn-Mar president and corn producer from York County.

Wolf led a press conference on the topic Thursday in the new lobby of the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex. Also speaking on behalf of the project were Dennis Wolff, Pennsylvania secretary of agriculture designee; Russ Montgomery, president of the Regional Economic Development Dis-

trict Initiative (REDDI); Scott Welsh, project manager; and state Sen. Mike Waugh (R-28).

"Currently, we are focused on a short list of sites in Adams, York, and Lancaster counties," Wolf said. The proposed \$80 million facility would be built on about 30 acres adjacent to a railway, in order to have access to corn shipments by rail from the Midwest.

In March, Penn-Mar signed agreements with Lockwood Greene, a global engineering firm, to design and construct the facility, and Buchart-Horn, Inc., an international multidiscipline company, to perform permitting and land development planning.

According to Project Manager Welsh, about a third of the corn

summer to pursue an ethanol facility in the area. The 13 founders of the company represent the farm and agribusiness community in southcentral Pennsylvania and northern Maryland. To date, the company has a total of about 45 investors.

"As lifelong residents and farmers from Pennsylvania and Maryland, those of us who have worked long to make this project a reality are truly excited about the opportunity that Penn-Mar will bring to agriculture, the economy, and the environment of our home region," Wolf said.

In response to a question on how the production of distillers grain will impact the livestock business in the region, Wolf said, "We're actually importing more distillers grain today than this plant will produce."

Ag Secretary Wolff praised the initiative.

"I want to thank the farmers who stepped out of the box to promote a project like this," he said. "Pennsylvania is a natural fit for this project."

Russ Montgomery, REDDI president, said the facility will generate \$85 million per year in economic activity and require 30-35 employees to operate.

According to Montgomery, ethanol production in Pennsylvania "can help reduce our need for foreign oil" and benefit farmers, the urban community, and the economy as a whole.

"Agriculture is no longer just about food and fiber," he said.

Waugh said the project promotes "innovation, good stewardship, and a solid ag economy in our state."

Waugh also praised the joint effort of planners across the Mason-Dixon line in launching the project.

"Biofuels, in my mind, are a win-win," he said.



Russ Montgomery, president of Regional Economic Development District Initiative, said an ethanol facility will be a boost to the region's economic development.

for the facility would come from the Pennsylvania and Maryland area, with the rest being railed in from the Midwest.

Penn-Mar was formed last



Dan Wolf, president of Penn-Mar Ethanol, LLC, outlines the final planning stages for a new ethanol facility in the area that would produce more than 50 million gallons of ethanol from corn per year.

Search Committee Seeks Gelbvieh Executive Director Candidates

DENVER, Colo. — The American Gelbvieh Association (AGA) board of directors has formed a search committee seeking candidates for the AGA executive director position.

Current AGA executive director, Don Schiefelbein, has chosen to return to the family farm and not seek a contract extension.

The executive director manages the affairs of the American Gelbvieh Association, an 1,800-member organization. The

AGA office is headquartered in Denver, Colo., and Gelbvieh breed is the seventh largest beef breed organization in the country.

For a complete description of the position, visit the AGA website at www.gelbvieh.org or contact search committee chairman Bill Wilkinson via email at bnwbulls@amigo.net. Applications for the position will be accepted until May 15.

Qualified applicants should send a complete resume, list of references, and a cover letter to: Bill Wilkinson, c/o AGA.

One of our favorite times of year is just around the corner: **June Dairy Month!**

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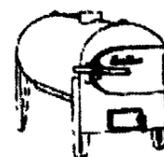
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