

## \$10 Million Earmarked For Clearfield County Ethanol Plant

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — State Rep. Camille "Bud" George, D-74 of Clearfield County, said \$10 million in state bond money has been earmarked to build an ethanol plant utilizing waste coal in Clearfield County.

"The money has been earmarked in the state's capital budget, but many hurdles remain before this plant becomes a reality," said George, whose amendment to Senate Bill 582 provides for the money. "I thank the governor for his support and look forward to advancing this project."

According to a business plan presented to the governor in April, a \$56 million plant proposed for Karthaus Township would utilize waste coal to produce 40 million gallons of ethanol annually. Ethanol is a gasoline additive produced from corn that reduces dependence on foreign oil, helps balance the trade deficit, and prevents groundwater contamination.

Under the proposal, 41 full-time jobs would be created at the plant, and 694 jobs throughout the economy. The region would realize a one-time boost of \$142 million during construction.

"The governor and the heads of his departments of Community and Economic Development and Environmental Protection must have been favorably impressed by the consortium's presentation or the budget item would not have been approved," George said. "However, the earmarked funds are for an ethanol plant in Clearfield County utilizing waste coal and are not tied to any specific proposal."

George said he arranged the meeting in the capitol among the governor and his staff, local economic-development officials and the consortium — which includes engineering, construction, financial, and energy officials. The business report, prepared with assistance from the Carnegie Mellon Center for Entrepreneurship, said the ethanol plant would:

- Expand the local economic base by \$110.2 million each year through direct spending of \$56 million.

- Increase the local price of corn by an average of 5-10 cents a bushel, add-

ing significantly to farm income.

- Increase household income by \$19.6 million annually.

- Boost state and local sales tax receipts by an average of \$1.2 million.

George said the business report noted that 17 states have now banned the use of MTBE, a gasoline additive that is blamed for contaminating groundwater, and all major oil companies are eliminating MTBE from gasoline. According to the business report, demand for ethanol, a renewable, cleaner-burning energy source is expected to triple over the next decade.

"It was estimated that Clearfield County has enough waste coal to fuel the manufacturing of ethanol for decades," George said. "Markets also exist for the plant's by-products, including the used corn residue as feed and carbon dioxide and other gases for the cryogenic industry."

George said the consortium now must secure investors and stakeholders, secure transportation upgrades, and obtain environmental permits.

## Area Corn Grower Is State Winner

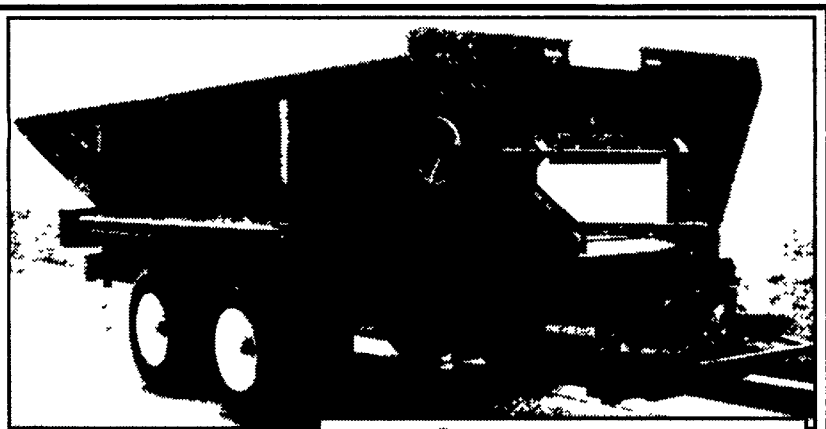
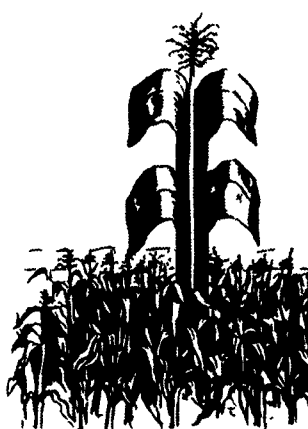
ST. LOUIS, Mo. — An area corn grower has been named a state winner in the 2002 National Corn Yield Contest (NCYC), sponsored by the National Corn Growers Association (NCGA).

Kyle L. Henninger of Breinigsville, placed first in the state in the A no-till/strip till nonirrigated class with a yield of 223.7372 bushels per acre. The hybrid planted in the winning field was Dekalb DKC60-09.

The local operation was one of 497 state winners nationwide.



Kyle Henninger, Breinigsville, received a state award in the 2002 National Corn Yield Contest sponsored by the National Corn Growers Association. From left, Tim Hume, NCGA chairman from Walsh, Colo., presented the trophy on Feb. 28 to Debra and Kyle Henninger and their daughter, Brienne, during the annual Commodity Classic in Charlotte, N.C.



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