

Around Dakota Ag

N.D. biodiesel plant opens

Key Points

- ADM cut the ribbon on a new canola biodiesel plant.
- Plant will have the capacity to produce 85 million gallons per year.
- Facility is located next to ADM's canola crushing plant in Velva, N.D.

ARCHER Daniels Midland Co. officials cut the ribbon on a new canola biodiesel plant in Velva, N.D.

The 85 million-gallon plant is ADM's first wholly owned biodiesel production facility in the United States. It is located adjacent to ADM's existing canola seed crushing facility and will employ 12 to 15 people.

"As global demand for energy grows, renewable fuels from crops play an increasingly important role in the world's energy supply," said John Rice, an ADM executive vice president, at the Velva ribbon cutting. "The opening of this biodiesel facility is the next step on a journey that will strengthen rural economies, reduce overall pollution and improve the energy security of our nation and our world."

"This is an exciting time for North Dakota," said Sen. Kent Conrad, D.-N.D., who attended. "Our state has the potential to serve as the nation's powerhouse. North Dakota's vast resources can be used to reduce our nation's dependence on foreign oil, control energy prices and



RIBBON CUTTING: (Left to right) Velva Mayor Cindy Shattuck; U.S. Sen. Kent Conrad; John Rice, executive vice president, ADM commercial and production; North Dakota Gov. John Hoeven; U.S. Sen. Byron Dorgan and ADM plant manager Sean Rath cut the ribbon for ADM's new biodiesel production facility in Velva, N.D.

grow our state's economy. This plant in Velva is leading the way."

ADM is also a partner in Mid-America Biofuels LLC, which opened a biodiesel production plant in Mexico, Mo., in October 2006. In Europe, ADM operates the world's largest biodiesel plant in Hamburg, Germany.

"America's energy future is not in the

fields of the Middle East. It is here, in the farm fields of the Midwest," Conrad said. "This new plant in Velva will create good-paying jobs here at home and help lead the way in lessening America's dependence on foreign sources of energy."

Sources: ADM and Sen. Kent Conrad's office

Calendar of Events

November

15-18: North Dakota Farm Bureau Convention & Exposition, Ramkota Inn, Bismarck, N.D. Contact Patricia Foss-Bennie. Phone: 701-238-4586. Web site: www.ndfb.org.

27-28: Horizons Conference, S.D. Wheat Inc. and the S.D. Crop Improvement Association, Pierre, S.D. Phone: 605-773-4645. Web site: www.sduheat.org.

28: Commercial Pesticide Re-

Certification, Fargo, N.D. Contact Andrew Thostenson. Phone: 701-231-8050. Web site: ndsustainable.org.

28-29: 2007 NDAA Northern Ag Expo, Fargodome, Fargo, N.D. Phone: 701-282-9432. Web site: www.ndag.org/northernexpo.html.

28-29: North Star Classic, Valley City Winter Show, Valley City, N.D. Phone: 800-437-0218. Web site: www.northdakotawintershow.com.

28-29: South Dakota Cattlemen's Association 59th Annual Convention & Trade Show, Ramkota Hotel-Watertown, S.D. Contact: Kathy Heiss. Phone: 605-945-2333. Web site: www.sdcatlemen.org/2007conventiontradeshow.aspx.

30-Dec. 1, 14, 15: Farm Transition Planning Workshop at Radisson Hotel,

Fargo, N.D. Four-day (two Friday-Saturday sessions). Phone: 701-231-8642. Web site: www.ag.ndsu.nodak.edu/aginfo/farmmgmt/workshops.htm.

December

2-3: South Dakota Grain and Feed Association Convention, Ramkota Inn, Sioux Falls, S.D. Phone: 605-225-7845.

5: Commercial Pesticide Recertification, Dickinson, N.D. Contact: Andrew Thostenson. Phone: 701-231-8050. Web site: ndsustainable.org.

12-13: Prairie Grains Conference, Alerus Center, Grand Forks, N.D. Phone: 218-253-4311. Web site: www.smallgrains.org.

Aflatoxins found in S.D. corn crop

ALVARO Garcia, South Dakota State University Extension dairy specialist, warns milk producers that there have been reports of aflatoxins showing up in corn in southeastern South Dakota this year. That contaminated feed may pose a threat to dairy cows.

Aspergillus, which produces aflatoxins, is among the most common corn mold fungi. Consumption of low concentrations by animals sensitive to aflatoxins can lead to death in 72 hours.

Health and productivity of animals that eat corn contaminated with non-fatal levels of aflatoxins is seriously impaired, Garcia says.

"Research performed at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute suggests that mechanical screening of corn can reduce aflatoxin concentration in contaminated corn," Garcia says. "Samples from a bin were collected with a probe at a depth of 3, 9, and 15 feet. The samples were mechanically shaken to separate fines from intact kernels. The aflatoxin concentration in the whole kernel fractions was 86% to 89% lower than that in the fines."

Garcia says that total aflatoxin concentration and concentration in the fines was higher in samples collected at 3 feet than that at the other two depths. These findings show the difference in aflatoxin concentration at different locations within a bin, which underscores the importance of getting a representative sample when assessing aflatoxin concentration. Screening to remove fines can be an effective and practical way to reduce aflatoxin concentration to levels that pose less of a risk when the corn is fed to cattle.

For more information, see agbio-pubs.sdstate.edu/articles/FS907.pdf or contact your county Extension office or the SDSU Dairy Science Department at 605-688-5488.

Source: SDSU AgBio Communications



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