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Carbon Green BioEnergy Re-opens Woodbury Ethanol Plant

LANSING, MICH. – Corn farmers across the state of Michigan applauded as the Woodbury ethanol plant fired back into production on June 26, 2009. The plant, previously owned by VeraSun Energy before it filed for bankruptcy last fall, was acquired by Carbon Green BioEnergy in March of 2009.

“The news that the Woodbury plant is officially operating again is exciting for corn farmers,” said Tom Durand, a corn grower from Crosswell who serves as president of the Michigan Corn Growers Association (MCGA). “As a corn farmer, it is great to see fellow growers and other people investing in the future of ethanol because it will not only provide more prospects for corn grown within the state, but also generate a clean, renewable fuel for our nation which continues to struggle through its ongoing energy problems.”

As production resumes at the plant, 40 Michigan residents head back to work. The plant will produce 48 million gallons of ethanol per year and will utilize approximately 17 million bushels of Michigan-grown corn. “This plant will increase market opportunities for our state’s corn farmers,” said Jody Pollok-Newsom, executive director of the MCGA. “The more corn we can sell and utilize in-state, the better Michigan’s economy will be.” In fact, a recent study reported that Michigan’s ethanol industry added nearly \$600 million to the state’s economy in 2007 while Michigan’s corn industry contributed more than one billion.

Pollok added that one bushel of corn can be processed into 2.8 gallons of ethanol, as well as several other valuable co-products such as dried distiller grains, a high-protein livestock feed, and carbon dioxide. More than two million acres of corn per year are planted in Michigan, representing Michigan’s largest commodity crop. In 2008, Michigan’s corn crop averaged 138 bushels per acre generating more than 295 million bushels of corn. Approximately 82 million bushels of Michigan’s corn crop is used for in-state ethanol production. Thanks to Carbon Green Bioenergy’s investment in the Woodbury ethanol plant, much of the corn grown in Michigan will continue to be processed right here in Michigan, by Michigan workers.

Composed jointly of Carbon Green, LLC and Energetix, LLC, Carbon Green BioEnergy is dedicated to the optimization of biofuel production through operational improvements, energy efficiency and management. Also partnering with those companies on their purchase of the Woodbury plant is United Cooperative, the largest farmer owned co-op in the State of Wisconsin. The sale represents Carbon Green BioEnergy’s first ownership of an ethanol plant.

Though the purchase presents a new set of hurdles and challenges for the first time owners, Carbon Green BioEnergy’s belief in the ethanol industry is unwavering, “Restoring confidence in this great industry is what we are working to achieve every day!” said Mitch Miller, CEO of Carbon Green

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BioEnergy and co-founder of Energetix, LLC. “Ethanol is the largest renewable resource in the U.S. transportation fuel supply and is the most viable solution we have today for reducing foreign oil imports. Ethanol is clean burning, domestic, renewable, and part of the solution to energy independence today.” Miller also commented on how pleased Carbon Green BioEnergy was to help aid the state’s struggling economy. “Our organization is very excited about the opportunity to have such a large positive impact within the Michigan economy.”

In addition to supplying the state with a greener fuel supply, the new owners of the Woodbury plant also plan to reduce the environmental impact of the plant itself by increasing its energy efficiency through operational and technology improvements. They are also evaluating opportunities to replace the fossil fuel used to power the plant with sources of renewable energy. The MCGA salutes Carbon Green BioEnergy for their commitment to Michigan’s farmers, residents and energy security.

For more information on selling corn to Carbon Green BioEnergy, contact Jim Kelley, the Carbon Green BioEnergy grain manager at (616) 374-3641 or Debbie Blundy, commodities assistant at (616) 374-3632.

Headquartered in Lansing, the MCGA is a grassroots-membership association representing the state’s corn farmers’ political interests. Since the 1970s, the MCGA has been looking out for the state’s corn farmers and working to keep them on the cutting edge. The MCGA works cooperatively with the Corn Marketing Program of Michigan (CMPM) a legislatively-established program that utilizes one-cent per bushel of Michigan corn sold and invests in research, education and market development. For more information, visit the website of the MCGA and the CMPM at www.micorn.org.

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