

Welcome to Marion Chronicle Tribune

Customer Service: [Subscribe Now](#) | [Place an Ad](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Make us your Homepage](#)

[chronicle-tribune.com](#) | [Weather](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Cars](#) | [Homes](#) | [Apartments](#) | [Shopping](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [Dating](#)

# Chronicle-Tribune.com

Your connection to Grant County, IN

Search Marion:  All

Tuesday, March 6, 2007

- Home
- News
  - Local News
  - Local Sports
  - H.S. Sports
  - Obituaries
  - Opinion
  - Our Towns
  - Announcements
  - Forums
  - Blogs
  - Photo Galleries
  - Multimedia
  - Business
  - Savvy
  - Weather
  - Nation/World
  - Travel
  - Technology
  - Archives
- RSS Feeds [XML](#)
- Text Alerts [TEXTME](#)
- Communities
- Customer Service
- Email Newsletter**

▼ ADVERTISEMENT ▼



THE PRIMITIVE INN

Join us for our 1st Annual *Spring Fling*

**March 3 10am to 4pm**

\* New "Back from Market" items  
\* Refreshments \* Door Prizes

**674-2466**

125 W. Main St.,  
Gas City, IN 46933

Email:  
theprimitiveinn@yahoo.com



## Closing in: Countdown to completion of ethanol plant

### Manager: Potential for competition not too worrisome

BY TERESA AUCH  
[tauch@marion.gannett.com](mailto:tauch@marion.gannett.com)  
Today, the corn silos start going up.

Construction on the Central Indiana Ethanol plant on the west edge of Marion remains on schedule, although it will not be completed as early officials hoped.

▼ ADVERTISEMENT ▼



CHANGING LIVES

General Manager Mitch Miller said he had hoped to have the site running by May, but bad weather has forced them to revert back to the original opening date of sometime in June.

"We were hoping we would trim time off of the construction schedule, but the many rain days that we have had, and some of the snow and excessive cold, have us right back to our original schedule," Miller said.

Miller said work on the silos, slated to start today, would require concrete to be poured nonstop for six days. About 35 workers will have to oversee the project, day and night. When finished, the silos will stand 120-feet high.

Construction started in November 2005. The plant will employ 40 when it opens.

While work was slow at first, as the framework was built, the number of construction workers increased from 65 people to 240 this year as work began on piping and electrical systems.

CIE also is continuing to buy corn for fall 2007 through 2009, Miller said.

As construction on the plant comes closer to completion, plans are being made for more ethanol plants in east central Indiana, which will mean more competition and demand for locally grown corn - something Miller said he is worried about.

"We are concerned about the concentration and space between ethanol plants that are proposed," Miller said.

Large ethanol plants, ones that produce 100 million gallons a year, can take up all the corn in a 25-mile radius.

CIE will produce about 45 million gallons a year, meaning a smaller radius - but one that could still see competition.

An ethanol plant announced last fall for LaFontaine would be close enough to compete with some of the local farmers CIE is hoping to buy from, Miller said.

However, he doesn't think it will reach the point of too little product for too much demand.

"We also believe that many of the proposed projects will not actually be built,"

+ Zoom Photo



+ Zoom Photo



OSCAR SALINAS / [osalinas@marion.gannett.com](mailto:osalinas@marion.gannett.com)

AT THE SITE - Work continues Monday at the Central Indiana Ethanol plant under construction west of Marion on Ind. 18. The rough winter has caused leaders to push back the likely opening date for the factory to June.

+ Zoom Photo



JEFF MOREHEAD / [jmorehea@marion.gannett.com](mailto:jmorehea@marion.gannett.com)

▼ ADVERTISEMENT ▼

SAVE-ON LIQUOR

Click Here  
To see our ad

▼ ADVERTISEMENT ▼

L MTECK

High Speed  
Broadband Internet  
(765) 384-7873

Miller said. "The cost for building ethanol plants has nearly doubled since we started, just based on the demand for plant construction."

And already some plans for area ethanol plants are being dropped, such as for one in nearby Wells County. Construction on a plant in Montpelier has been put on indefinite hold.

John Woodmansee, county director of Purdue Cooperative Extension Service, said he was expecting to see some of the announced projects go away.

"To be honest, I think there were more ethanol plants than we could have supported anyways," Woodmansee said. "... We could have gotten to the point where we were a net importer of corn."

There's no one issue to point to for the collapse of ethanol plant plans, Woodmansee said.

"It just gets down to supply and demand," he said.

Another factor is that ethanol plants need a lot of capital to get up and running.

"Very few people have \$50 (million) or \$100 million lying around," Woodmansee said.

An overabundance of ethanol plants won't be a problem for CIE for a while, though. Right now, only one ethanol plant is actually running in the state, in South Bend.

Three others are supposed to join CIE in opening this year, but all the others will remain under construction or in the planning stage for some time.

**Originally published March 6, 2007**

 [Print this article](#)  [Email this to a friend](#)  [Subscribe Now](#)

Gannett Indiana online network: [Indianapolis](#) | [Fishers](#) | [Lafayette](#) | [Muncie](#) | [Noblesville](#) | [Richmond](#)

[Contact Us](#) | [Subscribe](#) | [Place an ad](#)  
Copyright ©2007 Chronicle-Tribune.

All rights reserved.

Users of this site agree to the  
[Terms of Service](#) and [Privacy Policy](#)  
(Terms updated 7/20/05)

