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## Central Indiana Ethanol celebrates producing over 100 million gallons

### Area ethanol plant finds success in being community oriented

by Shaun Tilghman

Central Indiana Ethanol (CIE), located in Marion, first began producing ethanol on July 17, 2007; and on Oct. 27, 2009, the company announced it had reached the 100-million-gallon mark.

The CIE mission statement, as listed on the company website, is “to add value to our local economy by producing renewable fuel and other products that are economically and environmentally friendly in order to reduce the United States dependency on foreign oil.”

According to Jeff Harts, Vice President of Grain Operations for CIE, “We feel that ethanol is really good for the environment and a great substitute for foreign oil, and we would hope the community feels the same way as we do. The benefits to the local economy can be seen not only in the jobs we’ve produced but also in the amount of businesses we have relationships with. Because CIE is here we’re paying more for corn than an elevator would have, so the farmers are more

profitable, and have more money to put back into the community.

“We feel we’ve made a capital investment in this area and that’s why we’ve been focused on building relationships with local farmers – instead of having to take the corn to the elevator and the elevator exporting it to the market, the market came to the farmers. The farming community is very community oriented and we want to build trust and form a relationship as the processor that brought the market to them.”

Local farmers or elevators bring whole kernel corn to CIE, which then uses the corn to produce 200 proof alcohol, Distillers Dried Grains with Solubles (DDGS), carbon dioxide, corn oil, and corn syrup. CIE also produces E85, which is a fuel blend of 85 percent ethanol and 15 percent gasoline. There is zero waste during the process because even the carbon dioxide is used as a co-product after being transferred to



**CENTRAL INDIANA ETHANOL** recently announced that it had produced 100 million gallons of ethanol. The plant, located at 2955 W. Delphi Pike, Marion, began producing ethanol on July 17, 2007. Pictured in front of the plant are (from left): Jeff Harts, Vice President of Grain Operations; Bart Fox, Value Added Ethanol Marketer; and Jeff Knutson, Plant Manager. (photo by Shaun Tilghman)

the nearby EPCO plant.

Plant Manager Jeff Knutson says one thing that makes CIE different is that the farmer or the customer never has to leave the truck because employees from CIE are available

to complete all steps of the process in a timely fashion.

“We also have E85 trucking that delivers DDGS or picks up corn,” Knutson added. “Ethanol is a big reason that we’re here but we need corn right now, we’re a corn

ethanol plant. The farmers give us something out of their fields and we give them something back – either as a blend of ethanol (E85) or DDGS – that’s why we feel we’re different.”

The DDGS are used by farmers to mix in as part of the rations for their livestock. Some farmers grind their own corn to use for feeding but when farmers elect to take their corn to CIE, the corn can be used to a greater extent.

“We don’t want our DDGS to start in the U.S. and end up getting shipped off to somewhere like China,” Knutson explained. “We want our DDGS to stay within a radius of approximately 100 miles. I can’t say that works out on a daily basis but that is a goal we have here at CIE.”


Harts said, “We’ve made a concerted effort to grow relationships on the DDG side so we’re shipping a lot of our DDGS to

local livestock operations and local feed mills. One of the myths regarding DDGS years ago was that they could only be fed to cattle, but research has been done to show DDGS are a great substitute in rations for all animals. Based on how we produce our DDGS, we strive to offer a DDG that flows real well and works well in livestock operations feeding systems.

(continued on page 2)



**BART FOX**, Value Added Ethanol Marketer, watches as the Distillers Dried Grains with Solubles (DDGS) continues to be piled in a warehouse awaiting the next step in the process. DDGS results from the whole kernel corn, which is brought in by local farmers or elevators, being ground into flour and then having much of the starch removed. (photo by Shaun Tilghman)



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# Central Indiana Ethanol celebrates... *continued from front page*

Bart Fox, Value Added Ethanol Marketer, has only been with CIE for a few months, since leaving a job in the auto industry

in Wabash, but he continues to see the benefits of the products from the ethanol plant.

"One thing I've heard from farmers since I started working here is that we're pretty well known for the quality of our DDGS," Fox said. "There's also a good chance that if farmers bring their corn here it can end up burning through their vehicles. We want to let everyone from individual farmers to busi-

nesses know that they can have one of these E85 tanks setting on their property.

"Besides the environmental issues of E85 (it burns cleaner), we want to keep stressing the local issue. With today's economy we all know how important it is to keep our money in the country; this is one of the best remaining ways to 'Buy American.' An increase in the use of E85 would result in a decrease in the depend-

ence on foreign oil - keeping with the idea that it's grown here, produced here, used here."

Harts also stresses the benefits of farmers establishing a relationship with CIE because of the relationship CIE has with the local community.

"I think one thing people see about CIE, and ethanol plants in general, is that we are good community partners," he added. "We're part of the local com-

munity not only as the company but as employees that live here.

"We think CIE is a great place to work; we have a great team atmosphere and our ownership and board of directors are very community oriented. We've donated to and been part of quite a few organizations, including: Oak Hill High School, Madison Grant High School, local sports teams (youth

league baseball and PAL soccer), Marion High School Band, Swayzee Farm Days, etc. There's just a real strong push for CIE to be involved in our community and support our community because we like to give back."

For more information about Central Indiana Ethanol or its products, go to the website at [www.cie.us](http://www.cie.us) or call 888-384-CORN.

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