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Fall 2018

POET[®]

Year-round E15: On the Horizon

Nationwide Adoption of E15 Could Mean 2 Billion Bushels Annually in New Grain Demand

Dakota Gold ProPellet: A Promising New Product for Livestock Producers

POET Breaks Ground on Fifth Bioprocessing Plant in Indiana



opportunity is everywhere if you know where to look



At POET, the workday ends, but the work never does. We're using renewable resources and our endless passion to create biofuels, nutrient-rich protein and oil alternatives.



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Visit **VitalByPOET.com** for exclusive online content, including a video about POET's Watch Me Grow program at POET Biorefining – Corning. Learn how this community outreach program is giving elementary school students the chance to practice farming and to learn more about POET firsthand.

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POET's Vital magazine is an important conduit to share how POET is moving our country and our world from depending on fossil fuels to producing sustainable resources from the Earth. We will represent the voices of producers and biofuels supporters, as well as educate and inform readers about agriculture and industry knowledge, opportunities and the power of the human spirit.



In the spirit of its continued commitment to being good stewards of the environment, POET is proud to produce Vital using 100% recycled paper, with eco-friendly soy-based ink.

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Publication Design & Layout:
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IN SIGHT

Promise Made, Promise Kept by Trump

by Jeff Broin, Executive Chairman and CEO of POET

On Oct. 9, President Trump directed the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to initiate rulemaking to enable year-round sales of E15! This is something we've worked extremely hard for since the introduction of the Green Jobs Waiver nine years ago; it is a massive victory that marks a milestone for our industry.

President Trump has been a consistent supporter of biofuels, and I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to him for fulfilling his promise. I'd also like to thank our team members at POET, who have worked tirelessly on both sides of the aisle to achieve year-round E15. We're fortunate to have a lot of extraordinary people in our corner who fight every day to change the world, and we couldn't have achieved this victory without their efforts.

Political shifts of this magnitude don't happen by accident, and there were several key factors leading up to this directive. This was the result of countless strategic decisions and tens of thousands of hours of dedication from our industry. There are many people who deserve recognition: the POET and Growth Energy teams for their unwavering focus on this issue; our legislative champions for their relentless communication with the president; President Trump for following through on this critical first step; and supporters like you for stepping up when you were needed most.

I could use any number of words to express my appreciation, but I'll use the two that matter most — **thank you**. Each individual effort was fundamental in moving the needle to make year-round E15 a reality.

As Senator Chuck Grassley said, this historic announcement is "good, good, good" for farmers, consumers and the nation as a whole. Nationwide adoption of year-round E15 will utilize an additional 2 billion bushels of corn annually, drawing down worldwide stocks of commodities and making farmers more profitable — not only in the Midwest, but across the globe. And the potential doesn't stop at corn; cellulosic and other feed stocks will feel the effects as well.

New bioprocessing plants will also be constructed to meet the rising demand for biofuels, creating jobs and opportunity in

rural communities. The markets created domestically will help restore the economies of our ag states, and no trade agreement or foreign government can take that away. That's all in addition to cleaning up our air and providing a lower-cost, higher-octane option at pumps across the country.

"We do have the authority to move forward on E15," said the EPA's acting administrator, Andrew Wheeler, after the announcement. "And I hope the oil industry would join us in helping make [U.S. biofuel policy] function better for the American public, rather than taking it to court."

I couldn't agree more. Although we're all thrilled by this victory and should certainly take time to celebrate, it's important to remember that the fight is far from over. We expect the oil industry to work overtime with their high-powered lobbyists and highly funded political organizations during the rulemaking process to discredit ethanol and reverse this decision. I've said for many years that this isn't just a battle between biofuels and oil — **it's a war between the entire agriculture industry and oil producers worldwide**. And we need soldiers.

We are going to need your help in the upcoming comment period to show our government that the American people support biofuels. We've done it before, and I'm certain we can do it again; the fact that year-round E15 will soon be available is proof that your voice matters in this fight. We need you to continue to make it heard!

For the time being, you can visit www.E15now.com to thank your government officials for their dedication to achieving year-round E15. We'll follow up with more ways you can show your support during the comment period to ensure the EPA takes action in time for the 2019 summer driving season and establishes a rule that can withstand legal challenges and opposition from Big Oil. As with most matters in this industry, the next few months will present challenges, but with your help I know we can push this over the finish line.

Congrats to all who contributed to this victory. Now let's finish what we started!

We're fortunate to have a lot of extraordinary people in our corner who fight every day to change the world, and we couldn't have achieved this victory without their efforts.



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Our processes and equipment contribute to thousands of products people use every day...from immune-boosting juices to the wine we drink in celebration. Even the condiments on our burgers, the cheese on our sandwiches and the vegetables that nourish us are processed with GEA equipment. Going beyond food, GEA solutions are put to use in power plants, on all types of boats and in water treatment plants.

What's more, sustainability and environmental conservation are key in each and every process we develop. That's why our commitment to provide the separating technology required to produce renewable biofuels and agricultural co-products is as strong as ever. To learn more about GEA's centrifuges and separation equipment and the industries we serve, email us at sales.unitedstates@gea.com, call 800-722-6622, or visit us online at gea.com.



2018 Midterm Elections:

E15 Announcement from Trump Helped Biofuels Industry Secure Wins in Key Races

President Trump's October 2018 announcement that he will direct the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to lift year-round restrictions on E15 had positive implications on the outcomes of several key races during November's midterm elections, biofuels industry leaders say.

The industry counted significant wins in Governor and House races across the Corn Belt.

Several biofuels champions won their races thanks in part to increased support following the E15 announcement. Those individuals included Gov. Kim Reynolds (Iowa) and Governor-elect Kristi Noem (South Dakota). In the House, Dusty Johnson (South Dakota), Jim Hagedorn (Minnesota's 1st District) and Rodney Davis (Illinois' 13th District) all secured victories despite stiff headwinds heading into these elections.

"Midterm elections are never easy for the party in control of the White House. In these rural, ag-heavy states, it was important for Republicans to have something positive to show especially in light of very challenging times on the farm. The E15 announcement from the President gave these candidates something to hold on to and sell to the electorates," said Rob Walther, Vice President of Federal Advocacy, POET.

During the Oct. 9 campaign rally in Council Bluffs, Iowa, where Trump made the announcement, Gov. Reynolds stood next to Trump and touted the news to a cheering crowd.

"And Mr. President, thank you for

year-round E15! Our farmers thank you, Iowans thank you, and we are grateful. Promises made, promises kept. The Midwest has a partner in the White House with President Donald Trump!" she said.

In these rural, ag-heavy states, it was important for Republicans to have something positive to show especially in light of very challenging times on the farm.

Rob Walther, Vice President of Federal Advocacy, POET

Gov. Reynolds ran against Democratic candidate Fred Hubbell in a race that was described by the Des Moines Register as a "virtual dead heat" days before the election. Gov. Reynolds has been a tireless champion for biofuels with the Trump administration. Year-round E15 was one of the topics of conversation during Ivanka Trump's visit to Iowa in early November before the midterm election.

South Dakota's governor race was another hotly contested seat, with Noem running against Democratic candidate Billie Sutton. Noem will

make history in 2019 when she's sworn in as the first woman elected to the state's highest office.

Noem also has shown constant support for biofuels, most recently during a round table discussion in October 2018 with Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue at POET Biorefining – Chancellor. The meeting also included Senator Mike Rounds (SD), POET CEO Jeff Broin, and farmers and biofuel producers across South Dakota. Noem discussed how she had been in previous discussions with Perdue about securing year-round E15 sales ever since President Trump announced during his campaign that he supported biofuels.

"This is a win-win not just for our state but also for the country and, really, our renewable energy supply," Noem said during the round table.

Walther, who was also at the meeting, said afterwards, "It was clear that the announcement on E15 was highly impactful in the lead up to the election given Rep. Noem's focus at that roundtable."

While the newly divided Congress in 2019 will create political challenges and opportunities, industry leaders are optimistic about building new relationships with new politicians across the board.

"Ultimately, our political outcomes will be determined by our collective ability to build relationships and tell the success story of biofuels and its positive impact for rural communities across the Midwest," said Kyle Gilley, Senior Vice President, External Affairs & Communications, POET.

2018 Election: Key Victories for Biofuels Industry



KRISTI NOEM (R)
Governor Race
SOUTH DAKOTA



KIM REYNOLDS (R)
Governor Race
IOWA



DUSTY JOHNSON (R)
House Race
SOUTH DAKOTA



JIM HAGENDORN (R)
House Race
MINNESOTA'S 1ST



RODNEY DAVIS (R)
House Race
ILLINOIS' 13TH

Congressman Comer Brings Personal Experience, Passion for Agriculture to Drive Progress in Washington

Congressman James Comer, who represents Kentucky in the U.S. House of Representatives, brings his personal experience working in agriculture, including managing and operating Comer Family Farms, to his work on the House Committee on Agriculture and on the 2018 Farm Bill. Comer represents the largest corn and soybean-growing district in Kentucky and sees the great opportunity to continue growing biofuel production in the state, along with the benefits that the biofuels industry brings to the nation overall. We asked Comer about the importance of the biofuel industry in Kentucky, why consumer choice is worth fighting for, and why the development of the biofuel industry is critical for economic growth for the U.S. as a whole.

QUESTION: Tell us about your background in agriculture and how it informs the work that you do.

ANSWER: Throughout my career I have worked to promote agriculture and support my fellow farmers. As a student at Western Kentucky University I majored in agriculture, where I learned more about the background and practices of our industry. After serving six terms in the Kentucky General Assembly while managing and operating Comer Family Farms, I was elected as the Kentucky Commissioner of Agriculture. During my tenure as Commissioner I

traveled throughout the Commonwealth to advocate for Kentucky agriculture and promote initiatives that advanced the lives of rural Kentuckians. As one of the few farmers in Congress, I bring a firsthand knowledge to the House Committee on Agriculture and in our ongoing negotiations as a conferee for the 2018 Farm Bill. I advocate for federal policies and programs which benefit our producers, rural Americans and the industries that support agriculture.

Q: Can you share with our readers why the biofuels industry is important to Kentucky?

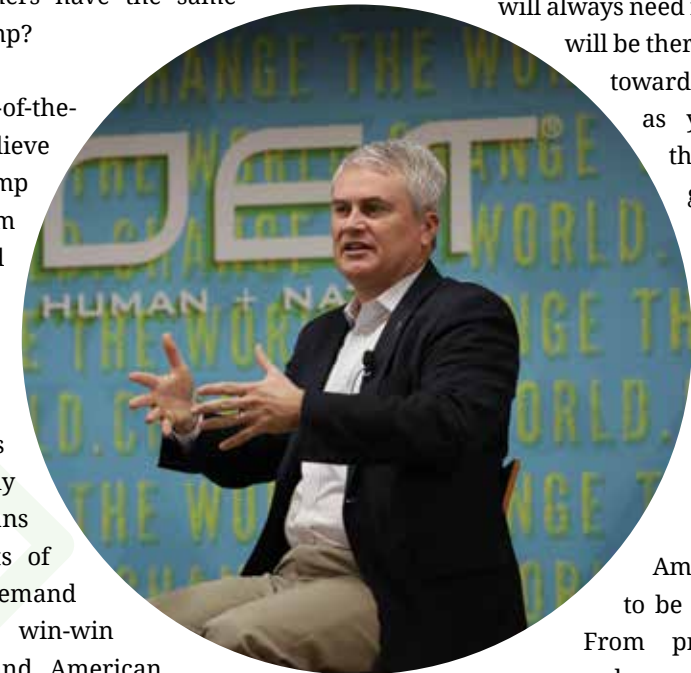
A: Kentucky's growers, especially my constituents in the First District, have made important contributions to the biofuels industry. I represent the largest corn- and soybean-growing district in Kentucky, providing a high-quality, consistent supply of grain for biofuel production. Under Secretary Bill Northey had the opportunity to see not only the success of Kentucky biofuels when he came to Commonwealth Agri-Energy in Christian County, Ky., but also the incredible opportunity for growth that the announcement of year-round E15 will bring. As consumer preferences shift to renewable energy options, these emerging industries hold the opportunity for new jobs in Kentucky and a growing demand for the corn produced in my district.

Q: Your district currently offers E15.

Why do you think consumer choice at the pump is so important?

A: Consumer choice is a fundamentally American principle. When you walk into the grocery store you can choose from a wide variety of foods. When you want to buy a car, you have a range of makes and models to choose from. Why shouldn't American consumers have the same kind of choice at the fuel pump?

As a supporter of an "all-of-the-above" energy strategy, I believe consumer choice at the pump is key to our long-term energy independence and biofuels play a vital role in our fuel mix. E15 and E85 are available at stations throughout my district. At those stations consumers regularly see significantly lower prices. That means more money in the pockets of Americans and a growing demand for American corn. It's a win-win for American consumers and American farmers.



Q: If you could share one last message with our readers who are invested in the future of agriculture, what would that message be?

A: While commodity prices are low right now, I am confident in the future of American agriculture. People will always need food, fuel and fiber, and farmers will be there to meet that demand. Working toward sound federal policies — such as year-round E15, a Farm Bill that provides the certainty our growers need and trade deals that increase global access for American commodities — the federal government can help ensure that future is bright. I will continue to bring my passion for agriculture to Congress to help ensure we keep moving in that direction.

American agriculture continues to be on the forefront of innovation. From precision farming to genetic research, we continue to see rapid growth in the way we farm. One way I am working to advance the future of agriculture is by putting more tools in our farmers' toolboxes through new crops like industrial hemp. I am proud of my work as Agriculture Commissioner to establish the hemp pilot program in Kentucky that has become the model for other states to provide their growers the opportunities hemp can bring. Today, I am working with Senate Majority Leader McConnell to advance provisions of the Farm Bill that will remove further hurdles to hemp as an agricultural commodity and give not just Kentucky farmers but all farmers another way to build on their success.

Photo: Congressman James Comer speaks to POET team members in October 2018 during a visit to the POET headquarters in Sioux Falls.

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DAKOTA GOLD PROPELLET:

A PROMISING NEW PRODUCT FOR
LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS

New Product Can
Help Livestock
Producers Feed
Cattle, Bison
More Efficiently

by Rob Swenson | photos by Greg Latza

John Cammack, who ranches in western South Dakota, feeds his cattle Dakota Gold ProPellet.



ProPellet is a highly nutritious form of distillers dried grain that can help livestock producers more efficiently feed cattle and bison.

For South Dakota rancher Dustin McIntosh, cost ultimately will determine the best future feed for his cattle. Dakota Gold ProPellet — a promising new product from POET — is among his options.

McIntosh's test with ProPellet resulted in reduced feed losses, and he found the quality of the durable product to be highly consistent. In addition, livestock performance with ProPellet was similar to the cattle's performance with a previous feed ration.

"It's definitely encouraging," McIntosh said.

ProPellet is the latest example of how POET continuously strives to create or improve products that serve domestic and global needs. It's a highly nutritious form of distillers dried grain that can help livestock producers more efficiently feed cattle and bison.

"We're always looking to find new uses or new markets for our products, whether it is with different species, shipping product to different geographic regions or finding new ways to use a product," said Greg Breukelman, President of POET Nutrition, POET's animal feed division. "We're always trying to meet the needs of the market and find better solutions for our customers."

With a network of 29 production facilities, POET is widely known as the world's largest producer of biofuels. POET bioprocessing plants also produce valuable coproducts, such as Dakota Gold DDGS (distillers dried grain with solubles), a popular animal feed.

Dakota Gold is a loose feed for swine, poultry and dairy cows as well as beef cattle. Company research indicates that compressing Dakota Gold DDGS into a sturdy, portable

pellet can help beef, dairy and cow-calf producers lower feed costs, largely by reducing product loss.

The innovative, cold-cooking method that POET uses to make Dakota Gold — known as the BPX® process — results in hard, durable pellets that are made without binding materials and are consistent in quality. Converting starch from corn to sugar and then fermenting it into ethanol without heat preserves nutrients and produces a feed rich in protein and phosphorus.

Although converting loose DDGS to pellets adds processing costs, the reductions in product loss, or shrink, make pellets a more cost-effective and convenient way for ranchers to feed livestock, according to Gregg Koerner, Merchandising Manager for POET Nutrition.

Producers who have tried the pellets are excited about the product,

ProPellet offers advantages to bison ranchers as well.



Koerner said. "Quite a few people feel it's going to give them a different feeding option and one that, in the long run, will save them a little bit of money," he said.

Mixing pelleted Dakota Gold with forage results in a highly digestible feed mix, said Kevin Herrick, Ph.D., Technical Services Director in POET Nutrition. The durability of the pellets makes transporting the feed easier, with reduced risk of crumbling

We're always looking to find new uses or new markets for our products, whether it is with different species, shipping product to different geographic regions or finding new ways to use a product.

Greg Breukelman, President of POET Nutrition

and potential loss. That durability increases flexibility for feeding operations, Herrick said.

Pellets can be moved around easier to be placed on feeding bunks or on the ground. To add to the versatility, POET makes ProPellet in two diameters: one-fourth of an inch and three-fourths of an inch.

"You get something a little bigger, a little harder. There's much less loss to the environment," Herrick said.

Feeding loose forms of any brand of DDGS to livestock outside can be less efficient because lighter feed can blow away or more easily be stomped into the ground by animals. POET's experiences indicate that using ProPellet can reduce feed losses by as much as 38 percent.

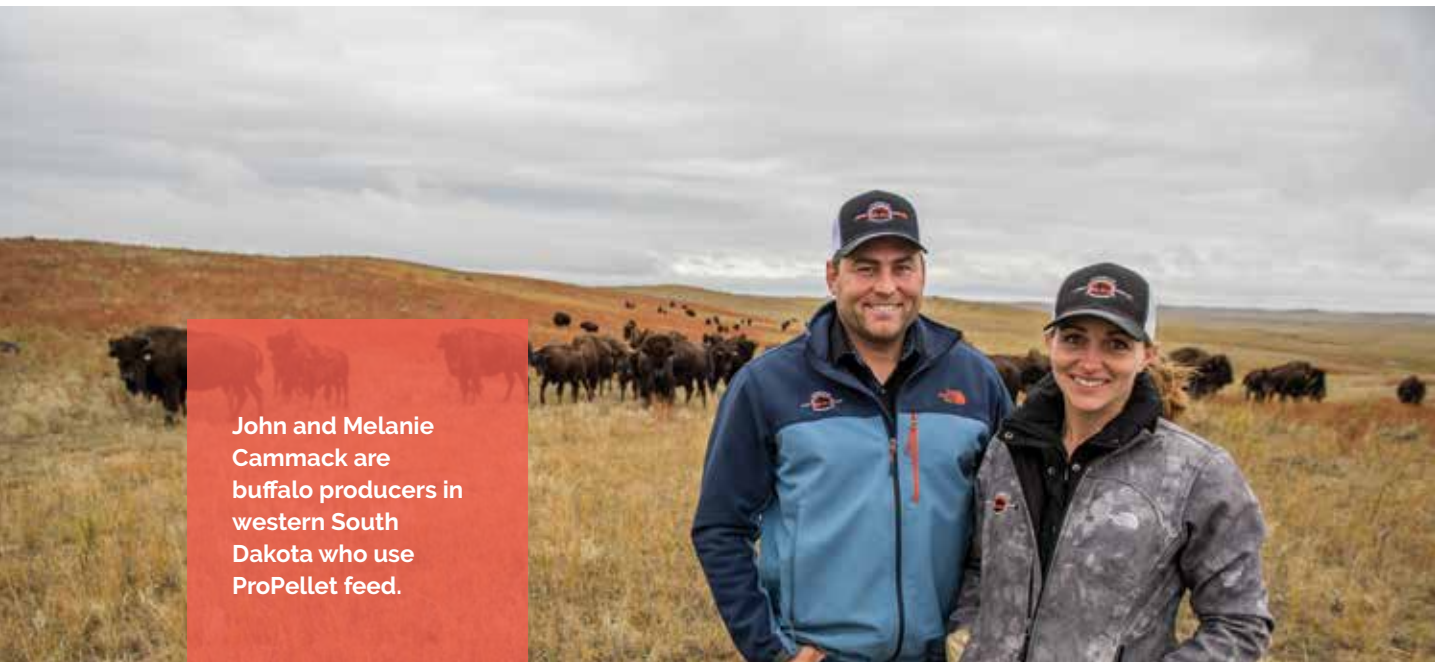
POET Biorefining – Mitchell, S.D., is making ProPellet. Mitchell was a logical place to begin production because of the large and potentially growing inventory of cattle in nearby ranches, POET executives said. National agricultural data from 2017 indicated that South Dakota ranked fifth among states in beef cow population and eighth in cattle sales.

Cattle numbers in western South Dakota and in parts of neighboring states are likely to increase as the livestock economy improves or as production challenges in other parts of the nation get tougher. Initial marketing efforts have focused on serving cattle and bison producers in western South Dakota and parts of Nebraska, Wyoming and Montana.

POET has been contacting prospective customers and holding regional meetings in the targeted marketing region, said Isaac Crawford, Vice President of Trading and Merchandising in POET Nutrition. He is part of a four-member team that has helped launch the new product. Team goals include providing top-notch customer service.

"We've had a really good response with everything we've done," Crawford said. "There are a lot of opportunities for producers to save and be more efficient in their operations."

McIntosh — the cattle feeder who has tested ProPellet — also works as a loan officer in Kennebec, S.D. He ranches with his father, Marvin, in the



John and Melanie Cammack are buffalo producers in western South Dakota who use ProPellet feed.

Gregory, S.D. area.

The McIntoshes buy cattle at about 400 or 450 pounds, feed them up to about 900 pounds, and resell them. Marvin cares for the cattle on a day-to-day basis. Dustin handles the financial

I've noticed that it really shines them up. Their hair glistens. When you get an animal and its hair starts shining up, you know they're getting everything they need.

John Cammack, buffalo producer in western South Dakota

end of the business, including figuring out the best feed rations.

ProPellet sells at a premium, but less feed is lost to the environment and, in wet conditions, to mold, Dustin McIntosh said. In addition, the smaller-sized pellets appear to be highly palatable for calves, said.

ProPellet offers advantages to bison ranchers, too.

"We've discovered that there is pretty good demand in the buffalo industry as well. That one has kind of been a surprise to us," said Koerner. "There are some very big buffalo feedlots out there."

John and Melanie Cammack are buffalo producers in western South Dakota who have tried ProPellet. John ranches buffalo with his uncle, Lane Cammack, and with his father, Mike Cammack, in Stoneville, S.D. In addition, John works with his grandfather, Floyd Cammack, who raises beef cattle.

John Cammack and his partners feed about 400 buffalo cows. They fed buffalo ProPellet mixed with a soybean product during a drought last year and continued the ration through the winter. ProPellet had the same amount of protein and more fat than a wheat product they previously had been using, he said.

"I've noticed that it really shines them up. Their hair glistens," he said. "When you get an animal and its hair starts shining up, you know they're getting everything they need."

Despite their similarly large size, buffalo cows eat less than beef cows and seem to like cold weather more.

However, feeding bison can present special challenges, John Cammack said. For example, buffalo have a strong pecking order in which animals eat first. So special effort is required to make sure all animals get adequately fed.

When ProPellet is stacked in small piles around a pasture, buffalo will eat it down to the dirt, Cammack said, so they obviously like it. "They don't waste anything. That kind of surprised me. I thought there would be more waste," he said. "I thought it would be dustier, too."

POET has been selling ProPellets on a small scale for more than a year, and sales efforts are ramping up. With the new, \$5 million pellet-producing system operating in Mitchell, production is expected to increase to about 70,000 to 100,000 tons of pellets per year.

POET Biorefining – Mitchell will continue to produce wet and dry Dakota Gold DDGS, too. Pellet-making capacity could expand beyond Mitchell in the future.

"If it goes as we expect it to go, we foresee adding some mills down the road," Koerner said.

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POET Breaks Ground on Fifth Bioprocessing Plant in Indiana

Community Leaders Call Project an 'Exciting Partnership'

by Rob Swenson

Agriculture is the No. 1 industry in Shelbyville, Ind., the largest city and county seat of Shelby County, located southeast of Indianapolis.

So when POET announced plans to build the company's next bioprocessing plant in the town, community leaders saw the great benefits it would bring to the community.

"It's really exciting to be able to work with a company like POET. They're held in high regard around the agricultural community. It's an exciting partnership," said Tony Titus, a farmer who grows corn, soybeans and wheat. He is also the President of the Shelby County Council, which is the budgetary arm of county government. "POET has been great to

work with, from the first time we met them."

"We welcome them here. We think they'll be a great diversification to our employee base," Mayor Tom DeBaun said. "We're happy to have them."

Construction of the \$160 million plant in Shelbyville began this summer and is expected to be complete in spring of 2020. Building the plant

will require 250 to 300 workers in construction and related fields. The completed plant will employ about 45 people.

POET Biorefining – Shelbyville is expected to grind about 28 million bushels of corn and produce 80 million gallons of ethanol annually. The plant also is expected to produce about 250,000 tons of high-protein animal feed a year. Shelbyville will be the 28th starch biofuel plant in POET's network and the fifth in Indiana.

"This is the right project in the right location at the right time," POET CEO Jeff Broin said. "Farmers desperately need the income boost from this new market for grain, and President Trump's recent announcement of year-round E15 sales has the biofuels industry poised for new growth and prosperity. Shelbyville is leading the way for future production to meet new E15 demand. We're excited to partner yet again with Indiana to create a cleaner, healthier environment for our children and grandchildren."

Although POET hasn't built a new

It's really exciting to be able to work with a company like POET. They're held in high regard around the agricultural community.

Tony Titus, farmer and President of the Shelby County Council

plant in recent years, the company has been increasing its biofuel production by improving, expanding or acquiring plants. Increasing global demand for biofuel is driving the need to build a new bioprocessing plant, said Buck Yerdon, Commercial Development Manager for POET.

"This is the first plant we have built from scratch in 10 years, which makes it a really exciting

project," he said. "There's new capacity required in the marketplace to satisfy demand for E15, along with growth internationally. That's why we feel the size and scale of a new plant makes a lot of sense," he said. E15 is a 15 percent biofuel blend.

Shelbyville, population 19,400, is located in an agricultural area, but the city is only about 26 miles southeast of Indianapolis.

Brian Asher, Executive Director of the Shelby County Development Corporation, recalls being initially contacted by POET in mid-2017. He helped bring together a team of local officials to explore the possibility of POET locating a plant in the area. The group's preparation included visiting a POET plant in Alexandria, Ind., that had opened in 2008.

Initially, Asher was not very familiar with POET. However, hundreds of emails, phone calls and face-to-face meetings helped him and other local officials learn a lot about the company and the process of making a renewable alternative to fossil fuel.

"We were all very impressed. We were impressed at how clean of a company they are, and with the efficiency they do business," Asher said.

Kevin Nigh, Chris Ross and Don



Shelbyville's annual BBQ & Brew Fest, sponsored by Mainstreet Shelbyville and Shelby County Tourism, features Indiana Breweries and local food vendors.

Photo credit: Shelby County Tourism and Visitors Bureau



During Wine Walk, organized by Mainstreet Shelbyville, individuals visit local businesses downtown for wine samples from Indiana wineries.



Photo credit: Mainstreet Shelbyville



Downtown Shelbyville, Ind.

We were all very impressed. We were impressed at how clean of a company they are, and with the efficiency they do business.

Brian Asher, Executive Director of the Shelby County Development Corporation

Parker of the Board of Shelby County Commissioners are among the local officials who have been working with POET.

POET's bioprocessing plant will complement and strengthen the county's strong agricultural base, said Nigh, President of the Board. "I feel sure that they'll be good neighbors."

In addition to Alexandria, POET has plants in Cloverdale, Portland and North Manchester.

"We have a strong relationship with the state. It's very much an agricultural state, but it has strong ties with technology and manufacturing, even food and beverage," Yerdon

said. "While strongly agricultural, it's diverse. We think we fit very well into the overall state plan."

POET considered a handful of potential locations for the new plant. Shelbyville stood out and has been a great partner to work with, Yerdon said.

"They are very vibrant. They're a growing community. They have strong leadership, a group that really has a vision of where they want the community to go and how they're going to get there," he said. "We're very excited to be moving forward in Shelbyville."



Shelbyville hosts an annual Strawberry Festival.

Get to Know Shelbyville

by Rob Swenson

Shelbyville is becoming the fifth community in Indiana to host a POET bioprocessing plant. Construction of POET Biorefining – Shelbyville will be the company's first addition to the state since the acquisition of a plant in Cloverdale in 2010.

Bioprocessing plants in Alexandria, North Manchester and Portland also are part of POET's network in Indiana.

Shelbyville is the largest city and county seat of Shelby County, an agricultural area 26 miles southeast of Indianapolis.

Shelbyville has approximately 19,400 residents, said Mayor Tom DeBaun. "Agriculture is our No. 1

net producer, economically. The auto industry is No. 2," he said.

DeBaun expects area farmers to benefit significantly from the new market for corn that a bioprocessing plant will create.

Although the community is doing well economically, the 45 permanent jobs that POET will create are welcome because of the ag-related, technical nature of the plant and economic diversity it will help provide, DeBaun said.

"The obvious bump to the tax base is important, too," he said.

The Shelbyville plant is scheduled to open during the first quarter of

2020, said Buck Yerdon, Commercial Development Manager for POET.

The Shelbyville area appealed to POET as a good, prospective location for a bioprocessing plant for many reasons, Yerdon said, including the proximity to large metro areas, strong county and local leadership, robust corn production in southeastern Indiana and the relatively limited markets currently available to local farmers, Yerdon said.

He estimates that the new plant will boost local corn prices 8-10 cents a bushel. "It's going to be a significant boon for area farmers and the local economy," he said.

It's going to be a significant boon for area farmers and the local economy.

Buck Yerdon, Commercial Development Manager for POET

Tony Titus, a fourth-generation farmer and president of the Shelby County Council, expects farmers to welcome the plant. "It's just great for the farming community as a whole to have somewhere to market corn, especially for renewable energy fuel," he said.

Farmers in the area also grow soybeans and wheat.

Shelby County has a few other towns and nearly 45,000 residents. Brian Asher, Executive Director of the Shelby County Development Corporation, said the majority of industrial businesses in the county are located in Shelbyville.

In addition to being an agricultural hub, Shelbyville is home to more than a dozen international manufacturing companies, most of which supply parts to automakers in the region. The largest industrial employer in

town, according to the Development Corporation, is Ryobi Die Casting USA, Inc., which has 900 workers.

It's exciting that Shelbyville will help reduce U.S. dependency on foreign oil, Asher said. "I'm looking forward to POET joining Shelby County's strong agriculture past and pushing it into the future with a new ethanol plant," he said.



E15 Adoption Is Growing, Including in New Market Areas

by Janna Farley

President Trump's October announcement to allow year-round sales of E15/Unleaded 88 sent ripples of excitement among farmers and ethanol producers across the country's heartland.

"This announcement is great news for farmers, biofuel workers, retailers and consumers everywhere who want to enjoy cleaner, more affordable options at the fuel pump," Growth Energy CEO Emily Skor said. "This is a critical step toward giving American motorists higher-octane options at a lower cost all year long."

But just as excited were the two newest E15 retail partners to join the Prime the Pump program: Cumberland Farms and Casey's.

Massachusetts-based Cumberland

Farms will begin offering E15 at more than 120 of its stores in the Northeast United States over the next four years. Casey's, headquartered in Ankeny, Iowa, will expand its offering of E15 to potentially more than 500 of its locations over the next few years and will soon be the nation's largest E15 retailer.

These are two prime examples of how E15 adoption is growing at retail sites across the country, says Mike O'Brien, Vice President of Market Development for Growth Energy.

The fact that two national, high-volume retailers are adopting the product is causing many other retailers to stop and take notice. "You have two of the top retailers in the nation saying we're launching

Iowa-based Casey's, Massachusetts-based Cumberland Farms Make New Prime the Pump Commitments

commercial programs. Others are realizing, 'Now, there's something going on here, and we should start laying plans to join the party, if you will.'"

Prime the Pump played an instrumental role in the decision to sell E15, leaders with Cumberland Farms and Casey's said.

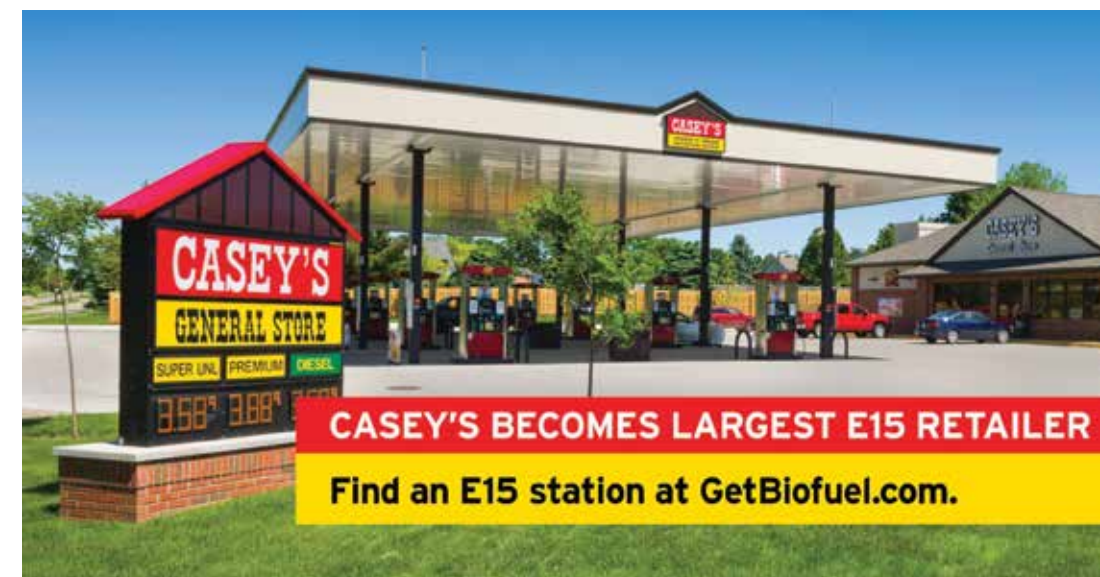
Prime the Pump targets high-volume, high-profile retailers to provide E15 access and assists early retail adopters of higher-level biofuel blends by awarding grants to help with their initial investments in infrastructure and consumer marketing and education. The biofuels industry has invested nearly \$70 million in this initiative.

"That was a critical component to our decision," said David Masuret, Senior Vice President of Petroleum Supply and Operations for Cumberland Farms. "Partnering with Growth Energy made the decision to offer E15 an easier one due to their expertise and financial incentives."

Trump's decision to lift the ban on year-round E15 sales makes the decision even sweeter.

Before Trump's announcement, the terminals that supply E15 were always a little reluctant to discuss making E15 available to end-users like Cumberland Farms and Casey's.

"If we choose to sell E15 at our stores, but we can't get it at oil storage



facilities, that's a problem," Masuret says. "This is a good piece of news for the ethanol industry."

Having another retailer based in the Northeast step up and notice the value of the product has been significant, O'Brien says. "It reinforces what we've

This is an opportunity for us to bring a new product to our customers that's good for their vehicles, but also a way to give the value right back to the farmers and ethanol producers in our communities.

*Nathaniel Doddridge,
Director of Fuels for
Casey's*

long known to be true — that E15 is more than a Midwest product. It says it's a good product for consumers and a good business opportunity."

For Casey's, the new partnership means the chain will be able to expand its E15 offerings faster than originally anticipated.

"This announcement has gotten fuel suppliers more comfortable with higher blends of ethanol and opens up even more opportunity," said Nathaniel Doddridge, Director of Fuels for Casey's. "Now we have suppliers that will sell us pre-blended E15. We can take E15 into markets where we didn't have the capital invested already. We couldn't have done that a few months ago."

That means long-term consistency for E15 retailers.

"We know we can invest in E15 and stand behind the product because it's going to be around long-term," Doddridge said.

When it comes to sales, that consistency is important — especially as customers get more comfortable with putting E15 in their cars.

"When people pull up to the gas pump and see something different, their natural inclination is to not touch it," Doddridge says. "But every town

we're in is surrounded by agriculture. This is an opportunity for us to bring a new product to our customers that's good for their vehicles, but also a way to give the value right back to the farmers and ethanol producers in our communities."

In the New England area, people aren't quite as familiar with ethanol blends as they are in the heartland, Masuret said. But thanks to Prime the Pump's assistance with marketing, Masuret is confident that will change.

"It's going to get the attention of our customers," Masuret says. "The higher octane at a good value is going to be what attracts customers."

That value is especially important for Casey's.

"The majority of our customers are value-seeking customers," Doddridge said. "Historically, ethanol prices stay below gasoline. This really puts us in a position where our competitors can't catch up. E15 can be a market leader for Casey's."

Though it's too early to predict how well E15 will sell for Cumberland Farms, "it will definitely distinguish us from our competition," Masuret says. "We're proud to expand our fuel offering and give our customers more choice."





FARM FRESH

Worry Less. Farm More.

by Brian Hefty

One of my favorite verses in the Bible is Philippians 4:6, which says, “Don’t worry about anything.”

Jokingly, I often ask farmers, “Does that verse say ‘Don’t worry about anything when the corn price is over \$7?’”

As human beings, we are inclined to worry, often about things we can’t control. Over the summer, these were some of the headlines that “worried” farmers:

- “New insect, gall midge, could devastate your soybean yields”
- “Farmers are now facing ‘super weeds’”
- “China and U.S. impose trade tariffs, damaging U.S. farm export market and commodity prices”
- “It’s going to rain ... or not”

OK, the last one I just threw in there for fun, because what farmer doesn’t worry about rain, either too much or too little? With the other three headlines, while things may look bleak as I write this article, I want to share my thoughts on each one.

First, while we are certainly concerned about the gall midge, we have only seen it on a tiny percentage of U.S. soybean acres. This insect is a fly in the adult stage. It lays eggs inside soybean stems. Those eggs then hatch as worms that feed safely inside the soybean plant. We have found yields damaged as much as 90 percent. However, gall midge is often primarily on field

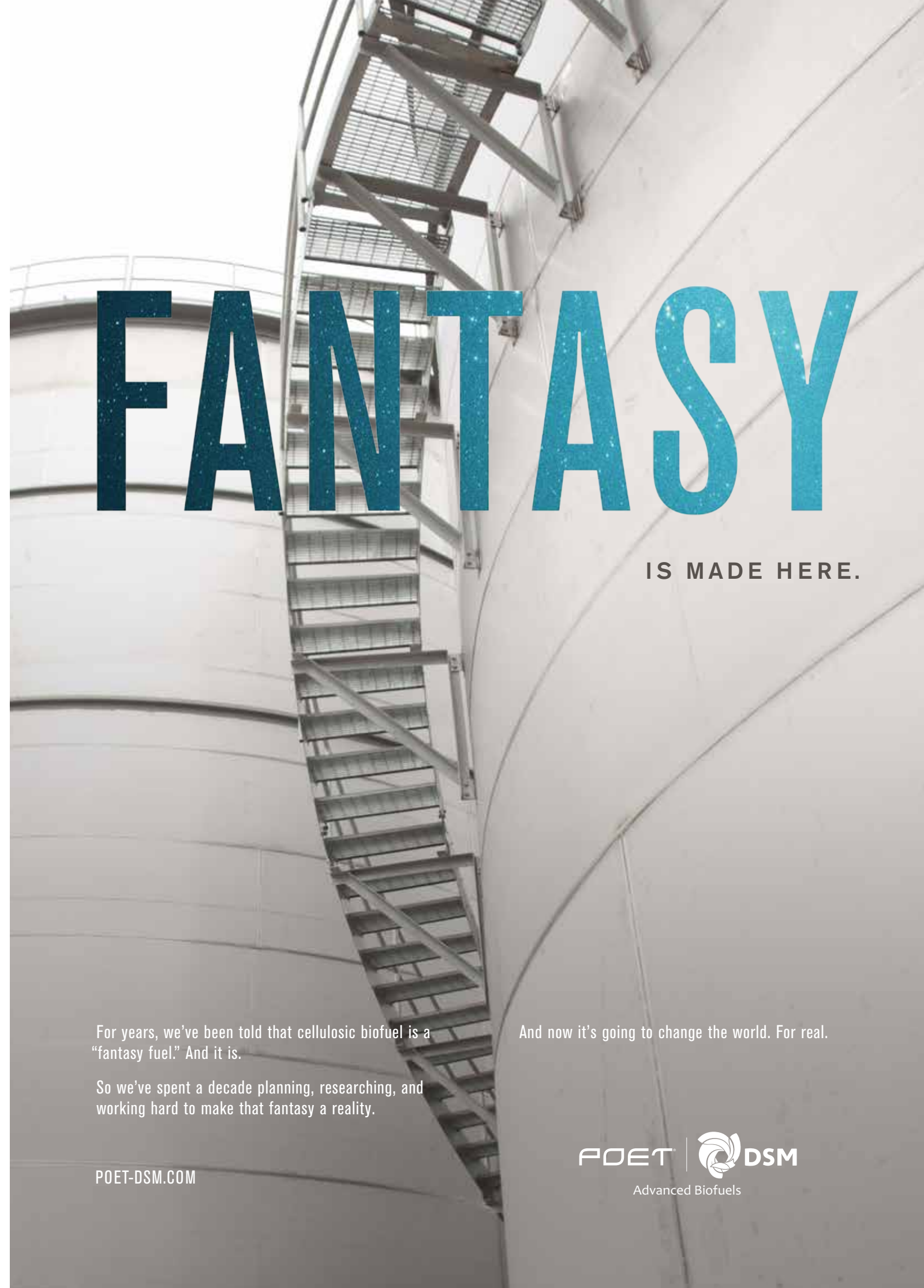
borders, and multiple applications of a \$2 insecticide can lessen the numbers.

Next, the “super weed” comment is one that really cracks me up. There is no such thing as a super weed; no, not even Palmer pigweed or waterhemp or marehail or kochia. We can still control them all quite effectively with a planned approach. In addition to herbicide use, perhaps the No. 1 thing we always stress is crop canopy. Getting a crop up quickly and feeding it properly to create a lush, dense canopy is the best thing any farmer can do to choke out weeds.

In terms of trade with China, I believe we will work something out, especially since China needs the U.S. as a trading partner. Since China wants tech and ag products primarily, I have to assume that bodes well for U.S. ag exports in the future. I don’t know when that will be, but as a farmer I can store my crop for several months until I need to sell it. In other words, I’ve got some time before I need or want the markets to come up.

Here is what I want to leave you with today: Have you ever noticed how many headlines are written in a way that would make the average person worry? Whether you are a farmer or not, I encourage you to focus on what you can control. For example, as a farmer I am responsible for seed selection, soil testing, fertilizer and soil amendment application, water management (drainage and irrigation), how and when I plant the seed, how and when I harvest the crop, and a whole bunch of things in between. The better I do with what I can control, the more yield and profit I will make. Yes, there are many things I can’t control that affect my farm, but if I can’t control them, what good does worrying do? Worrying will only wear me out and keep me from staying focused on what I can achieve.

The title of this article is “Worry Less. Farm More.” I’m not saying to farm more acres. I’m saying, spend more of your time farming and less of your time worrying. If you are a non-farmer, the same principle holds true: Stay busy working and focusing on what you can control, and in the long run, you will come out ahead.



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For years, we’ve been told that cellulosic biofuel is a “fantasy fuel.” And it is.

So we’ve spent a decade planning, researching, and working hard to make that fantasy a reality.

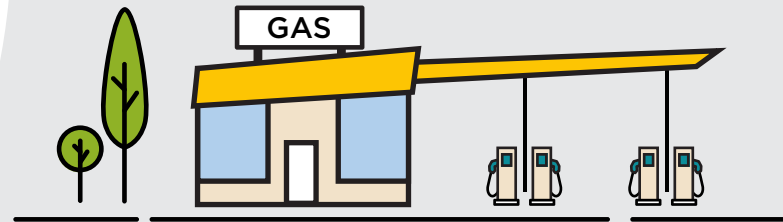
And now it’s going to change the world. For real.

POET-DSM.COM



YEAR-ROUND E15 /UNLEADED 88

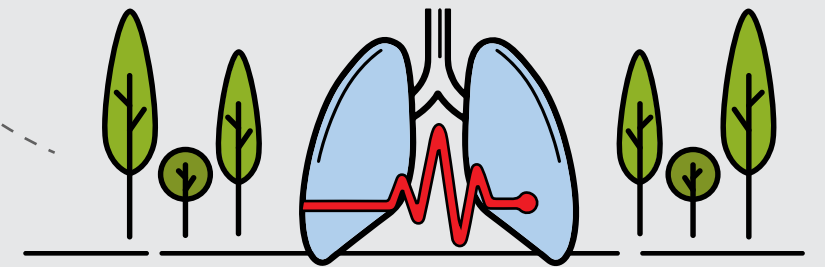
THE BENEFITS OF 15% BIOFUEL AT THE PUMP



Provides regulatory certainty for retailers and lowers compliance costs for refiners



Protects rural jobs, investment and family farms

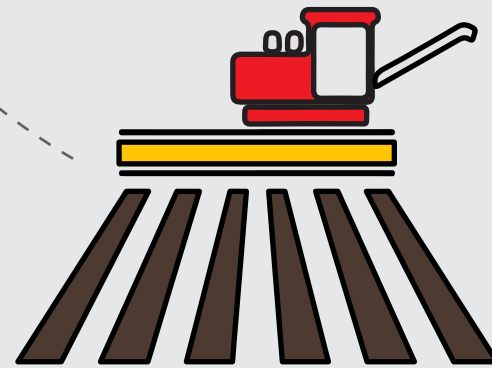


Better for the environment and public health



Delivers savings for drivers

Up to 10 cents less per gallon at the pump, and \$6.6 billion each year nationwide



Grows domestic grain demand for farmers

Up to 2 billion additional bushels each year



Strengthens America's energy security

More gallons of biofuel (7 billion with nationwide adoption) reduces need for oil imports from OPEC



BENEFITS

PRESIDENT TRUMP DIRECTS EPA TO LIFT E15 RESTRICTIONS



POET CEO Jeff Broin, along with POET Biorefining – Chancellor General Manager Dean Frederickson, discusses the benefits of year-round E15 with Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue.



Official White House photo

Biofuels champions including Sens. Chuck Grassley, Joni Ernst, Deb Fischer and John Thune, along with Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue and Rep. David Young, join President Trump for his announcement about E15 on Oct. 9, 2018, in the Oval Office.

Biofuels Supporters Express Thanks to Trump, Biofuels Champions in Congress

by Steve Lange | photos by Brian Koch

Nearly 30 years after they were first implemented — and long after they’ve been considered by many to be “outdated and antiquated” — the restrictions on year-round sales of E15 may finally be lifted.

On Oct. 9, President Donald Trump, fulfilling a campaign promise, announced that he’s directing the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to start “unleashing the power of E15 to fuel our country all year long.” The news came first from the White House, where biofuels champions including Sens. Chuck Grassley, Joni Ernst, Deb Fischer and John Thune, along with Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue and Rep. David Young joined Trump in the Oval Office for his announcement. Later that day, Trump addressed a rousing crowd during a campaign rally in Council Bluffs, Iowa, saying, “I kept a major promise

to the people of Iowa and Nebraska ... and my administration is protecting ethanol.”

First enacted in 1990, the Reid Vapor Pressure (RVP) regulation restricts retailers from marketing E15 (a fuel with 85 percent gasoline and 15 percent ethanol) from June 1 to Sept. 15. That could now change by June 1, 2019.

“We want to eliminate the intrusive rules that undermine your ability to earn a living, and we will protect the corn-based ethanol and biofuels that power our country,” Trump told farmers. He also noted that he plans to “uphold his commitment to ethanol and the Renewable Fuel Standard program to give consumers more choice.”

It’s an announcement POET founder and CEO Jeff Broin has been hoping to hear for nearly a decade.

“I would like to thank President

Trump, on behalf of our 2,000 employees and our 30,000 producers, for fulfilling his promise to the Midwest and our industry,” says Broin. “This is a historic directive — not only for our farmers, but for the nation as a whole. The move to E15 will provide consumers with the choice to fill up with low-cost, high-performance fuel year-round, while improving air quality in our country’s largest cities.”

That “choice” aspect has been a key component for everyone who has lobbied for so long against the regulations, from consumers to gas station owners, from farmers to ethanol manufacturers

For Mike Lorenz, the Executive VP of Petroleum Supply at Sheetz (an American chain of 500 convenience stores), year-round sales of E15 mean consumers would no longer have seasonal restrictions on access to the

product.

“We’ve been depriving the consumer of the most affordable, cleanest-burning, higher octane fuel during the peak driving season,” says Lorenz, who notes that Sheetz serves 1.5 million customers every day. “There is no other product that we sell — fuel or in store — that has a restriction that you can only sell it seasonally. Sheetz customers have driven nearly a billion miles on E15 without a problem. We just want them to have that choice.”

That choice will open the door for more retailers to sell E15, says Emily Skor, the CEO of Growth Energy, the country’s leading biofuel trade association.

“Eliminating this unnecessary bureaucratic red tape will entice more retailers to sell E15,” says Skor, whose organization represents 100 biofuel producers across the country. “Since the President announced this decision, we’ve gotten more calls from a greater variety of retailers than ever before about carrying E15.”

Major retailers across the country are already starting to take notice, including retailers in new market areas. Massachusetts-based Cumberland Farms will begin offering E15 at more than 120 of its stores in the Northeast United States over the next four years. Iowa-based Casey’s will soon be the nation’s largest E15 retailer. They have plans to expand E15 offerings to potentially

THIS IS A HISTORIC DIRECTIVE—NOT ONLY FOR OUR FARMERS, BUT FOR THE NATION AS A WHOLE. THE MOVE TO E15 WILL PROVIDE CONSUMERS WITH THE CHOICE TO FILL UP WITH LOW-COST, HIGH-PERFORMANCE FUEL YEAR-ROUND, WHILE IMPROVING AIR QUALITY IN OUR COUNTRY’S LARGEST CITIES.

*Jeff Broin, POET
Founder and CEO*



Sen. Mike Rounds, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue and Governor-elect Kristi Noem meet with POET CEO Jeff Broin and other biofuels supporters at POET Biorefining – Chancellor to discuss Trump’s E15 directive.

more than 500 of its locations over the next few years.

Having a retailer that is located outside of the Corn Belt commit to selling E15 has been significant, says Mike O’Brien, Vice President of Market Development, Growth Energy. “It reinforces what we’ve long known to be true — that E15 is more than a Midwest product. It says it’s a good product for consumers and a good business opportunity.”

More retailers mean more E15-specific pumps, more ethanol sales, more ethanol production, and, maybe, a stabilization of corn prices and a dent in America’s excessive corn carryouts (the amount left over after the immediate need for a grain has been met). The 2018-19 corn carryout is projected to be roughly 1.7 billion bushels. Average corn yields are expected to reach an all-time high of 183 bushels

per acre.

“E15 is good for the engine, good for the environment and good for the pocketbook,” says Skor. “It’s good for rural America. It’s a solution that doesn’t cost the taxpayer a cent. It’s exactly what farmers need right now.”

One of those farmers is Bill Couser, who grows corn and soybeans (along with raising 5,000 head of cattle) at his Couser Cattle Company in Nevada, Iowa.

“Why is it important to farmers? We’re continually increasing yields,” says Couser, who is renowned for his innovative approaches to farm management and conservation. “When I started farming 40 years ago I was hoping to average 120 bushels of corn. This year, we’re probably going to average 250 bushels. We have too much corn, and ethanol has proven to be a savior

E15 IS GOOD FOR THE ENGINE, GOOD FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND GOOD FOR THE POCKETBOOK. IT’S GOOD FOR RURAL AMERICA. IT’S A SOLUTION THAT DOESN’T COST THE TAXPAYER A CENT. IT’S EXACTLY WHAT FARMERS NEED RIGHT NOW.

*Emily Skor, the CEO of
Growth Energy*

**Engine Smart.
Earth Kind**

**Unleaded88/E15
Regular88**



Burns cleaner



Higher octane



Better for your engine



Kinder for the Earth

for the environment, and a savior for farmers.”

While the President’s directive to the EPA is an important first step, more hurdles must still be cleared. “The EPA needs to come out with a final rule and then go through a public comment period,” says Skor. “We have to make sure that nothing happens to derail this timetable. We want to be a constructive partner to make sure this process is done by June 1 of 2019.”

For Bill Couser, that date has been too long coming — and the impact will

be too important — to put it off any longer.

“We need this, and we need this now,” says Couser, who is driving his muddy combine through the fields as he talks to us on the phone. “Farmers need this. Drivers need this. America needs this. This is about more than just selling E15 year round. This is about an administration showing that it believes in the ethanol industry and in rural America.”

VISIT
E15NOW.COM
TO THANK YOUR
GOVERNMENT
OFFICIALS
FOR THEIR
DEDICATION TO
ACHIEVING YEAR-
ROUND E15.

Thank you Mr. President

For unlocking year- round sales of E15.

When outdated regulations are out of the way, year-round sales of E15 will boost the rural economy and provide drivers with a cleaner, more affordable choice at the fuel pump.

America’s ethanol producers and farm supporters at Growth Energy commend the steadfast leadership of rural champions who are fighting to revitalize rural growth.



Learn more at [E15 Now.com](http://E15Now.com).



During a tour of POET Biorefining – Chancellor, Governor-elect Kristi Noem and U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue meet with POET CEO Jeff Broin and Dean Frederickson, General Manager.

BACK TO THE SPEEDWAY

by Ryan Welsh

Not too long ago my kids and I ran across what could only be described as the bounty of a lifetime: My daughter held up what first looked like a gray electrical box, but this was different. On the other side the cover was transparent, and inside we could see the brightest glowing lights that were pulsing from three corners to the center.

“Oh my,” I thought, “It was a flux capacitor with an energy generator!” These were the components necessary for time travel that was made famous in the 1985 science fiction film “Back to the Future.” They were also the components that would allow us to take a trip back in time to see what racing used to be like and experience some earlier days of racing.

That Sunday morning we were dumpster diving. (I feel this activity encourages the kids to be frugal and enterprising even though my wife finds it repulsive and doesn’t participate.) It was still dark, as an early start is essential to beat out other treasure hunters. I hid the flux capacitor under my shirt, and we hurried back to the garage to see if the flux capacitor was compatible with a Toyota Camry, as I didn’t have access to a DeLorean.

After viewing a few YouTube videos and doing a little wrenching, we were set. I just needed to set a time and destination, and then we were off to the Interstate to reach the required 88 miles per hour needed launch our new time machine.

“If you could go anywhere, where would you guys want to go?” I asked the kids.

“Tona Beach, Dad,” replied Brinlee with her adorable pronunciation.

“Yeah, “Tona Beach!” repeated her little brother.

They often heard me talk about Daytona Beach, and I had given them gifts of Daytona 500 T-shirts from my trips to the track. I

plugged in Daytona International Speedway as the destination. Now, which one? I know: I wanted to go to the first 500 and see what that was like.

Being from Iowa, I remembered that a local racer named Johnny Beauchamp unofficially won the first Daytona 500 until it was overturned to Lee Petty after three days of NASCAR™ studying the photo finish.

The destination was set: Feb. 22, 1959. I set the return time so the three of us would be back before breakfast.

We landed, and I hid the car in some brush across from the track. We also were wearing our dumpster-diving clothes, so surprisingly we didn’t stand out that bad, and I had \$27 on me, which was plenty to sustain us all day with tickets and food. I keep a travel diary, and for this first mission I wanted to record what has changed from the first Daytona 500 to the 2018 500.



The Flux Capacitor

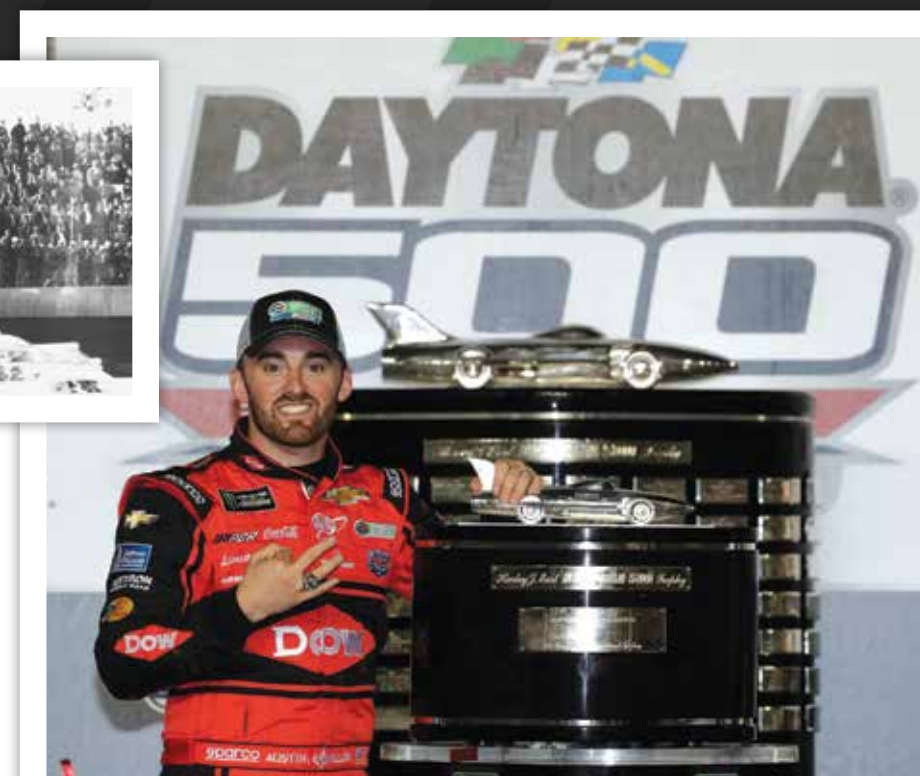
1959 Daytona 500

2018 Daytona 500

Attendance	41,921	101,500
Average speed	135 mph	151 mph
Laps under green	200	170
Cautions	0	8
Pit stop time	approximately 1 minute	12-15 seconds
Average ticket price	\$8	\$220
Cost of a hot dog	5 cents	\$5
Winner	Lee Petty	Austin Dillon



Lee Petty #42 and Johnny Beauchamp #73 come to a photo finish in the inaugural Daytona 500 in 1959



Austin Dillon wins the 2018 Daytona 500

In summary, the Inaugural Daytona 500 was a lot different race than the one we celebrated in February 2018 when Austin Dillon took home the checkered flag. There were 59 racers on the track compared to 40 today. They would pit when needed for tires and fuel and just race 500 miles straight. The cars were spread out and it was up to the driver’s wives to record what lap they were on — not that official.

Today the race is broken up into three segments, or stages, to keep up the excitement level of close car- to-car racing. There were no wrecks that day, which is good because the safety I witnessed was inadequate at best. The driver donned a helmet and drove, hopefully latching the factory seat belt.

There were no fire suits or window net, and medical personnel was scarce. Teams back then weren’t limited in the number of tires used, and the rules were easily bent. Cheating seemed to be encouraged unlike today where the playing field is monitored under a microscope and teams police each other. To be honest, I found today we get to see the most competitive racing in the history of NASCAR.

So while my visit to the 1959 original Daytona was a fun field trip, I much prefer getting to experience today’s racing environment — no flux capacitor required.

IT'S A MATTER OF THE HEART

by Melissa Fletcher, Spiritual Care Advisor, POET

“Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” –1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Fall brings to mind the changing of the seasons, the beauty of nature and the harvest of God’s blessings. There is something sacred about this time of year. During the holiday season, we see the words thanksgiving and gratitude used all around us. It’s a time of year when we are encouraged to pause and reflect on the blessings that we have been given. Sometimes we can get so caught up in the busyness of life that we don’t take time to enjoy our blessings.

That’s why this verse of Scripture is so wonderful. It speaks of making rejoicing, praying and thanksgiving a daily part of our lives — not just something to celebrate once a year. The Apostle Paul penned these words to remind us that we are to thank God for every circumstance that comes our way — and that includes trials, tribulations, illness and pain. Why? Because everything we go through in life has a purpose. We may not always understand God’s plan or His timing, but we don’t need to.

We only need to trust that He has our best interest in mind and that He can make good out of every situation. There is nothing that God cannot handle! We just need to allow Him to do His part and then we contribute by doing our part. What’s our part? Rejoice always, pray continually, and give thanks in all circumstances.

Will that be difficult to do? Yes, at times. But as you continue to practice these three things, it will become easier to do. And the best part is you will begin to look at life with a whole new attitude, one that is filled with joy no matter the circumstances you are going through.

Give thanks for the LORD is good!

PLAN, PRIORITIZE AND PREP TO ENJOY A HEALTHIER HOLIDAY SEASON

by Cole Fricke, Wellness Coordinator, POET

The holiday season can be rough on anyone’s health. From cold and flu bugs, to Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD), to the stress of all those events you have going on, there’s no shortage of health hardships to battle. Add in all of the food that normally accompanies this time of year, and it can be a perfect equation for illness and weight gain that can have a long-term impact on your life.

But there are plenty of things you can do to mitigate the health impact from the holidays and still enjoy the season! It all begins with self-awareness and the three P’s (plan, prioritize and prep) to help you create a game plan for healthy choices.

PLAN

If you’re like me, you probably do a lot of the same traditions and go to similar events each year, so use that previous experience to get a leg-up on the season’s festivities.

- *Think in advance about your choice of foods, your portion size, and what to do if you go over that amount. Be deliberate in your planning.*



PRIORITIZE

I love pretty much everything my mom makes for the holidays, but I know which foods are my absolute favorites versus the things I can take or leave.

- *Prioritize which foods are going to give you the most enjoyment and satisfaction, and look to minimize the ones that don’t provide that value.*
- *At some point, having more food stops being enjoyable and starts being detrimental to your goals (and health). Sometimes you may need to give yourself a taste and not the whole cake to satisfy a craving.*

PREP

You’ve got your plan put together and you’ve prioritized your choices. Now get everything together to give yourself the best shot at success.

- *Bring a healthier option to the family gathering, or make sure you eat beforehand so you don’t make poor decisions when you’re hungry.*
- *Schedule a workout for the day after to get yourself back on track, or have enough groceries in the fridge so you don’t have to go out to eat when you arrive home from traveling.*

Combine these principles to give yourself a fighting chance this holiday season. Remember, if you fail to plan, you plan to fail.

HOLIDAY MORNING HIIT WORKOUT

Here’s a quick HIIT (high-intensity interval training) workout that everyone can do.

Duration: 15 minutes

Equipment: Timer

Workout Setting: 50 seconds of work, 10 seconds of rest between exercises

1. PUSHUPS

You can either do regular or modified (on your knees) pushups. Keep your elbows tucked in to your sides. If you have to rest briefly during your 50 seconds of work, that’s OK, but try to minimize rest as much as possible. Complete as many pushups as you can each round.

2. BODYWEIGHT SQUATS

Keep your feet just past shoulder-width, your head up, your shoulders back, your chest out, your heels on the ground and bend at the knees. Imagine you’re lowering yourself back into a chair. Lower as far as you safely can (thighs parallel to the ground, if you can), and push up through your heels to the starting position. Complete as many squats as you can each round.

3. CHAIR DIPS

Find a sturdy chair, bench, couch or bed. Sit on the ground with your back against the chair and your hands up behind you, palms down the top of the chair. Straighten your legs out in front of you and lift yourself up off the floor until your elbows are straight. Bend your elbows to lower your body towards the floor and straighten them again to push back up to the starting position.

4. STATIONARY LUNGES

Start with one foot out in front of you and the other foot back behind you. Bend your front leg at the knee, keeping your upper body upright. Lower your body until your front thigh is parallel to the ground, and use your front leg to raise back up to the starting position, pushing through your heel. Switch legs halfway through.

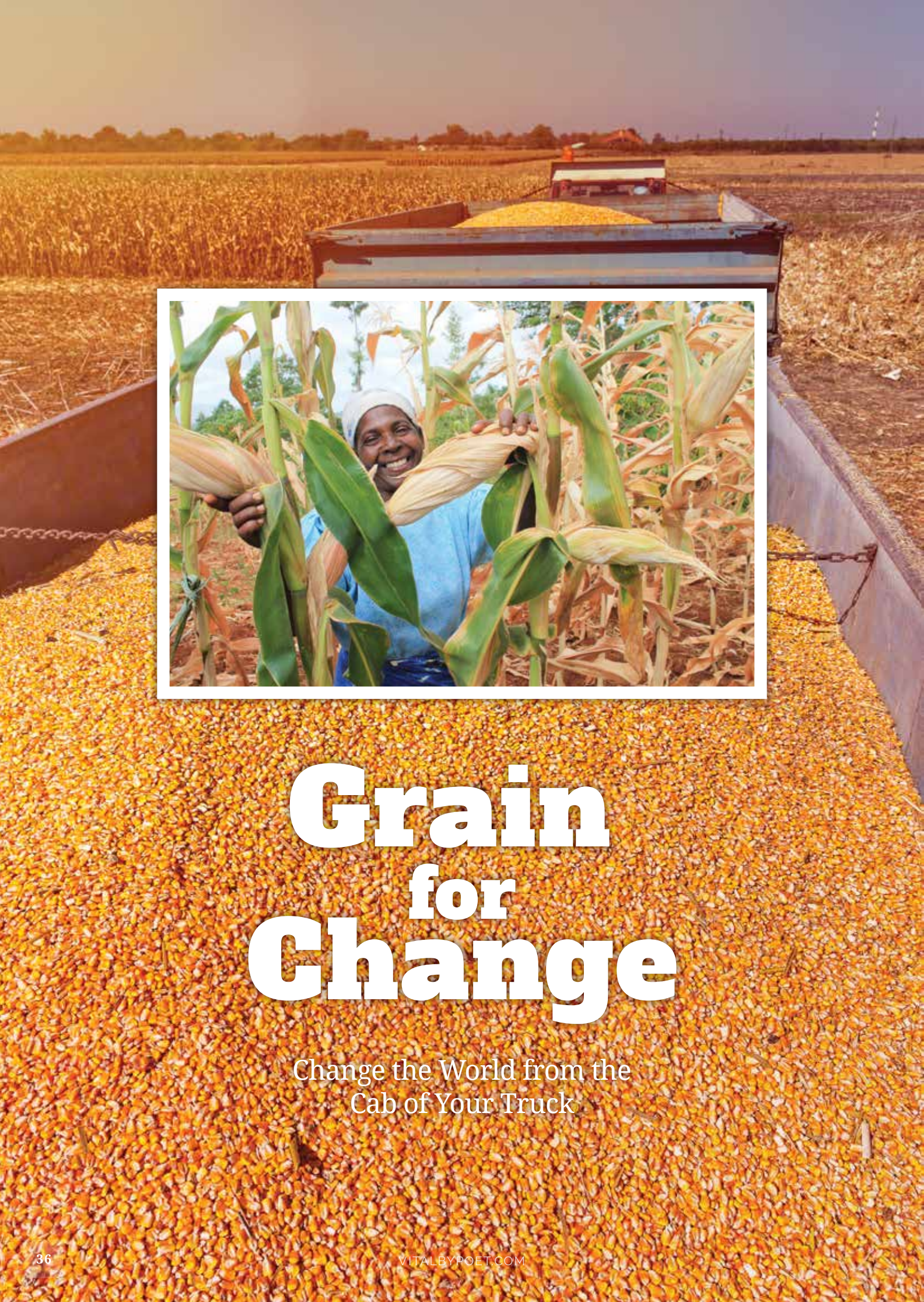
5. REST

Rest 1 minute.

6. REPEAT

Repeat circuit for 2 more rounds.

The intensity is up to you; the harder you go the more you’ll get out of it, but also be smart with your fitness level. Rest more if you need to rest more, build up your strength and stamina, and focus on your form for safety. Who knows, you may feel so good you might not even want that extra piece of pie!

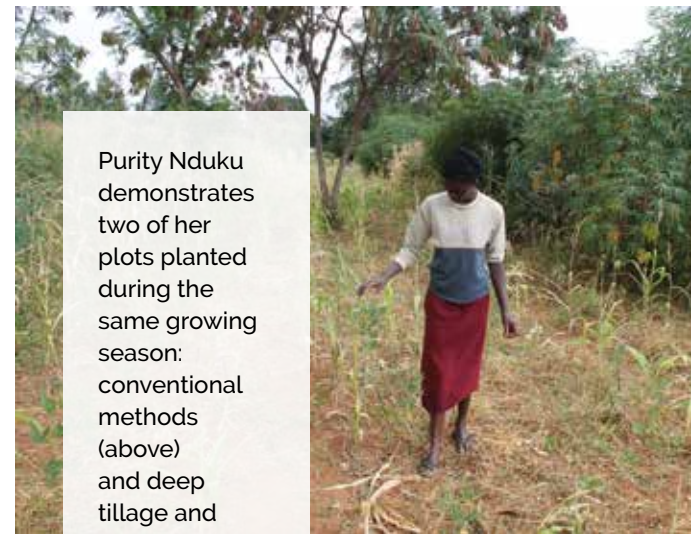


Grain for Change

Change the World from the Cab of Your Truck



Village Based Advisors work to show proper pruning, fungicide application, insecticide and biostimulants to produce greatly improved mango yields!



Purity Nduku demonstrates two of her plots planted during the same growing season: conventional methods (above) and deep tillage and proper seed placement (below).



For producers who deliver corn to POET locations, there is a new opportunity to influence powerful change and empower subsistence farmers across the globe — without even leaving your truck! Grain for Change, a new Seeds of Change initiative, uses money raised from grain donations to help support Mission Grow, one of the projects sponsored by POET's nonprofit organization.

Seeds of Change believes everyone is entitled to quality education, a reliable food supply and a healthy living environment, and it works to bring those things to people around the world through its three missions: Hope, Grow and Breathe. While Mission Hope supports two schools for some of Kenya's most vulnerable students, and Mission Breathe provides clean-burning biofuel cookstoves to Haitians, Mission Grow is likely to resonate most immediately with American farmers. This mission is centered on what you know best: using sustainable agricultural practices to make a profit.

Mission Grow works with a partner in Kenya to train local farmers in practical, effective agricultural techniques that improve crop yields, increase livestock populations and boost other agricultural income sources. Before implementing these methods, many farm families were susceptible to drought and famine. Thanks to Mission Grow, however, those same people are no longer starving or just scraping by each day. They are thriving.

For less than the cost of three bushels of corn, you can provide the resources and education necessary to change the trajectory of someone's life. Over the last five years more than half a million people in rural Kenya have been impacted with this simple yet revolutionary knowledge through Mission Grow. Those individuals can now afford to send their children to school and buy basic household necessities, and their increased purchasing power is boosting local economies.

No matter the size, your donation will make a difference. And the donor is benefitted as well, as the gift may have multiple tax benefits. Whether you give 5 bushels or 500, Grain for Change is a simple way to make a lasting difference by sharing your bountiful harvest.

How Does Grain for Change Work?

- ➔ When delivering grain to a POET location, producers can tell the scale master or merchandiser how many bushels or what percentage of the delivery they would like to donate.
- ➔ That amount will then be allocated to an account for Seeds of Change.
- ➔ The money generated from those bushels will be used to support Mission Grow.

2017 NEVER SATISFIED SCHOLAR CONTINUES TO EXCEL

A Trip Back to Bosnia and Herzegovina Inspires Dusan Mirkovic to Pursue Pharmacy School

by Miranda Broin



Scholars from
the 2017 Never
Satisfied Class visit
POET Biorefining –
Chancellor.



Dusan Mirkovic visits friends and family members in Bosnia and Herzegovina.



high standard for future Never Satisfied Scholars.”

Dusan has continued to devote himself to the vision of the program by exemplifying what it truly means to be never satisfied. When we met him in 2016, Dusan was a sophomore at the University of South Dakota pursuing a degree in Medical Biology, with plans to obtain a medical license. He inspired POET with his dream that one day all

In the first two years of its Never Satisfied scholarship program, POET sought to challenge, encourage and reward some of our nation’s brightest and most ambitious young people. The Never Satisfied alumni’s individual goals have varied greatly — from eradicating diseases to modifying our educational system and even providing the world with clean drinking water — but they’ve all shared a common denominator: a desire to change the world and the refusal to be satisfied until they have done so.

One such alum is Dusan Mirkovic, a pharmacy student at South Dakota State University (SDSU). Originally from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Dusan moved to Mitchell, S.D., when he was just eight years old. He was selected as a Never Satisfied scholar in the program’s inaugural class of 2017 due to his remarkable story, his contagious passion to make a difference and the strides he was taking to reach his goals.

“Dusan was exactly what we were looking for to help kick off year one of the Never Satisfied program,” said Autumn Bates, POET Director of Communications. “We had hundreds of applicants, and Dusan stood out as someone who truly embodied the spirit of Never Satisfied: a passionate young leader who was determined to make a difference in the world. He and the rest of the first class set a very

**YOU DON'T HAVE TO
MAKE BIG STRIDES
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SMALL STEPS YOU
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TRYING TO ACHIEVE
A BETTER VERSION
OF YOURSELF.**

Dusan Mirkovic, pharmacy student at South Dakota State University (SDSU)

children in developing nations — including his homeland — would have access to quality health care.

True to his Never Satisfied title, however, Dusan realized he could dream even bigger. The shift began to take place in the summer of 2017, when he was able to travel back to Bosnia and Herzegovina with his parents and brother.

“I actually hadn’t been back in seven years,” recalled Dusan. “The trip was bittersweet. I really enjoyed catching up with family and friends — seeing them face to face — and visiting the area where my parents grew up. But it was also kind of sad.”

Dusan was reminded of the lack of proper health care for children in the area, but he also noticed that many adults faced the same problem. “I realized that I shouldn’t limit my goal to only include children, but to include all people who need health care, no matter how old they are,” he said.

With that idea in the back of his mind, he returned to South Dakota, where he had the opportunity to shadow a physician. The experience cultivated a new interest in Dusan.

“I noticed the huge role that pharmacists play in the medical field. They ensure that people take their medications safely by explaining what someone is taking, why they’re taking



Dusan Mirkovic visited Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2018, his first visit in the past seven years.

it, and when they should take it," said Dusan. "That education is critical, and I realized that I wanted to be able to serve as an advocate in that aspect."

So he took action, applying for the pharmacy program at SDSU and, upon his acceptance, making the bold decision to move from Vermillion to attend a new school in Brookings. And although Dusan has four years left in his college career, he already has big plans to start changing the world.

"I want to be able to use my experience and my knowledge to help further medical education around the world, maybe even encouraging other pharmacists to go out there and make a difference as well," he said.

Will he ever be satisfied? Not likely. "You have to challenge yourself to be better every day. If you're constantly making progress, you'll eventually reach your goals," said Dusan. "You don't have to make big strides every day, but as long as you take small steps you really are never satisfied, because you're always trying to achieve a better version of yourself. And I'm really thankful to a company as forward-thinking as POET for choosing me as a Never Satisfied scholar. That recognition has been a huge encouragement, and it helped me realize that I really can reach my goals."

ARE YOU NEVER SATISFIED?

Us too. We're looking for more people like Dusan — trailblazers, innovators, dreamers and doers — for our Never Satisfied Class of 2019. To apply or nominate a recipient, visit <https://poet.com/scholarship>

the best ideas



are the ones you haven't thought of yet

At POET, we're not looking for easy fixes for obvious problems. We're looking for the next generation of problem solvers, who can identify challenges we don't even know exist yet. So if you're more interested in unanswerable questions than answers that can't be questioned, you'll probably fit right in.

POET INTERNSHIP HELPS UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN STUDENT GAIN RUNNING START IN GRADUATE RESEARCH

by BryAnn Becker Knecht | photos by coreyroukephotography.com



Part 3 of a series that focuses on POET's partnerships with area universities.

Kirby Krogstad works with his advisor Paul Kononoff, Ph.D., in the lab at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

After a summer internship at POET's animal feed division, Kirby Krogstad has become — if he wasn't already before — a champion for the effectiveness of Dakota Gold, POET's brand of dried distillers grains with solubles (DDGS), a high-quality livestock feed.

And now — in a dream world scenario for the summer 2018 graduate of South Dakota State University (SDSU) — Krogstad is building upon the knowledge gained during that internship as a graduate student in dairy nutrition at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL).

He is stepping into a graduate program with strong connections to POET. Krogstad's advisor at UNL has worked on research projects for POET for the past several years. "We've worked on how much fiber in Dakota Gold is digested, and how do we characterize that for dairy nutritionists in the real world," says Paul Kononoff, Ph.D.,

At school I had a good idea of what was in distillers grains and how it's included in diets, but I now have a better perspective about the whole industry, how POET is different, and how our product is different because of the BPX® process.

Kirby Krogstad, graduate student at University of Nebraska-Lincoln.



Kirby Krogstad is a graduate student in animal sciences at University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Professor of Dairy Nutrition and Dairy Nutrition Specialist at UNL. Overall, Kononoff's research focuses on methane production of cows and the animal's energy utilization. This research is used to determine the effectiveness of animal feed products from an energy standpoint. POET also has sponsored Kononoff in sharing his research with the industry through several talks.

Thanks to his summer internship, Krogstad has gotten a head start in his graduate work that began this fall. Krogstad says the POET internship was invaluable to gain a better perspective of the ag industry and to lay a foundation of knowledge about the academic literature in the field of animal nutrition. He's also gained experience using specialized software that devises inputs for dairy and nutrition models, a skill he'll implement during his graduate work.

"At school I had a good idea of what was in distillers grains and how it's included in diets, but I now have a better perspective about the whole industry, how POET is different, and how our product is different because of the BPX® process," Krogstad says, referencing POET's patented dry-mill production process that distinguishes its products.

In the field of animal nutrition, nutritionists evaluate the nutrients of different feeds or ingredients and then use this information to formulate diets that meet the animal's nutrient requirements. Krogstad spent his internship investigating the nutrient profile of ethanol co-products. Krogstad's approach also included an economic evaluation that would help producers reduce feed costs and improve profitability.

"Academia always evaluates performance, but they rarely tie in the economic standpoint," Krogstad says. "We have a good idea of what distillers grains will do when we feed it to a cow, but what about the optimal economic rate? What's going to help the farmer make the most money? That was our goal," Krogstad said.

Kevin Herrick, Ph.D., Technical Services Director of Nutrition, POET, advised Krogstad's summer internship. He says the work with Krogstad this summer provided relevant information that will help to demonstrate the value of Dakota Gold to potential customers.

Herrick says it's invaluable to have had an intern at POET who is continuing to work in the animal nutrition field. "It's great to have another proponent in the industry. After Kirby graduates, he'll grow in the industry or academia and will be a big proponent for DDGS," Herrick says.

At UNL, Krogstad will be working with Kononoff on further characterizing the components of distillers grains.

Herrick says there's great value for POET in working with

UNL and Kononoff. "There aren't too many researchers looking at DDGS right now," Herrick says. "Paul is well known in the industry; he has a lot of credibility. It's a nice partner to have from that perspective."

Herrick also points to Kononoff's facilities at UNL as an additional benefit. Kononoff's unique laboratory setup includes chambers with the capability to do live animal testing on cows. "There aren't too many labs that do his

My favorite part of the internship was the office culture and how POET Nutrition works. It's a fun atmosphere to work in. ... I knew that I was adding value. I was contributing to the team because they gave me the opportunity to do that. I had the opportunity to meet with a lot of people.

Kirby Krogstad, graduate student at University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

type of research in addition to the DDGS. It makes it a nice addition and a natural fit for us."

Krogstad, reflecting on his internship experience at POET, appreciates the level of contribution he was able to bring to the company. "My favorite part of the internship was the office culture and how POET Nutrition works. It's a fun atmosphere to work in. ... I knew that I was adding value. I was contributing to the team because they gave me the opportunity to do that. I had the opportunity to meet with a lot of people."



Kirby Krogstad works with a DDGS sample.



INDIANA FARMERS HARVEST 60-ACRE 'THANK YOU' TO TRUMP

Many farmers are thankful that the Trump Administration has authorized year-round sales of E15. But a group of Indiana farmers were so thankful that they cut a corn maze to publicly thank the president.

Farmers and biofuels advocates across the Midwest have expressed their verbal thanks to the Trump Administration for authorizing year-round E15 sales.

This group of farmers sent President Trump a thank you in a more unusual fashion: a corn maize.

Bruce Buchanan from Buchanan Family Farms in Fowler, Ind., told Fox & Friends that he and his

fellow farmers wanted to express their gratitude to Trump in an "unusual way." So they created a corn maze that says: "Thanks Mr. Trump For E15."

"We literally mechanically harvested the corn as we proceeded to spell out the letters in the maze," he told Fox & Friends.

The photo has received national media attention — even Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue noticed it and shared it on his Twitter page.

RENEW

Biofuels Day: Cleaner Fuel for a Brighter Future

The PGA Champions Tour was in Sioux Falls for the Sanford International Tournament in September. POET was a major sponsor, so Saturday, Sept. 22 was designated as "Biofuels Day: Cleaner Fuel for a Brighter Future." The day included the second round of the Sanford International as well as the EMC Legends Series, a nine-hole match-play exhibition. Record 18-time Major Champion Jack Nicklaus and two-time U.S. Open winner Andy North were among the participants in this special event.



Growth Energy 'E15 Now' Bus Visits POET Locations

Growth Energy's "E15 Now" bus made a stop at POET Biorefining – Chancellor, POET Biorefining – Hudson and the Sioux Falls headquarters in October as part of a Midwest tour to promote E15. The bus was part of a nationwide campaign to raise awareness for E15 and the need to remove restrictions on year-round consumer access to clean-burning E15. After the stop in Sioux Falls, the tour went on to the Corn Palace Rodeo in Mitchell and a rodeo in Sioux Falls to spread the word about E15. Learn more about the benefits of E15 at e15now.com.



POET Biorefining – Marion Opens 80 Million-Gallon Expansion

POET Biorefining – Marion opened an 80-million gallon expansion in September at a celebration that included area farmers, community members and state officials.

With this expansion in place, POET Biorefining – Marion now has an expected annual capacity of 150 million gallons of clean-burning biofuel and 360,000 tons of high-protein animal feed per year. New production from this facility will add an anticipated 26 million bushels of annual corn demand for area farmers at a time when agriculture faces serious economic challenges. The \$120 million project also added 225 temporary jobs throughout the course of its construction.

POET President and Chief Operating Officer Jeff Lutt said the facility has enjoyed strong community support and successful operation since it first started producing biofuel.

"Marion and the entire state of Ohio have been fantastic partners throughout the growth of POET and the entire biofuel industry," Lutt said. "This expansion will dramatically expand local farmers' markets for grain and provide about 20 new jobs for the area. We're excited to build on our relationship with the hard-working people here in Marion."

General Manager Rick Fox said the team members, farmers and community members should be proud of their success over the last decade.

"This expansion is a testament to what our team members and farmers have accomplished here since the plant opened 10 years ago," he said. "This community has emerged as a leader in producing clean, homegrown fuel for drivers across America and around the world."



RENEW

Jim Geraets Recognized With Outstanding Alumnus Award from South Dakota State University

Jim Geraets, Senior Process Engineer at POET, was recognized with the 2018, Outstanding Alumnus Award from the Department of Agriculture & Biosystems Engineering at South Dakota State University (SDSU) in September. The award recognizes an alumni who embodies the core values of SDSU: people-centered, creativity, integrity, diversity and excellence. Nominees credited Jim as a leader who exemplifies the core values along with a passion for agriculture and biofuels. "Using his family farm experience and education from SDSU, he practices common sense and precise science to solve cutting-edge problems. Jim has been a key driver in the development of POET's cellulosic ethanol technology and its first-in-world operations at Emmetsburg, Iowa. He has been issued multiple patents in his creative service. ... Furthermore, he is a technical mentor. ... Teaching from experience and technical proficiency, others have bettered their engineering skills because of Jim's mentoring," wrote a nominee.



Coon Rapids Helps Riders Along a Leg of RAGBRAI

Team members from POET Biorefining – Coon Rapids helped bikers in the bike race The Register's Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa (RAGBRAI) along one part of their journey across Iowa this summer. Team members passed out waters to bikers as they passed through Coon Rapids. According to the race website, the ride has become so popular that RAGBRAI officials now limit the number of week-long riders to 8,500.



Sioux Falls POET Team Members, Summer Interns Volunteer for Relay for Life

Relay For Life, the signature fundraiser for the American Cancer Society, is staffed and coordinated by volunteers in thousands of communities and 27 countries. Volunteers give of their time and effort because they believe it's time to take action against cancer.

In July POET interns from the Sioux Falls office and PRI (POET Research Institute) Analytical group volunteered at the Relay for Life event in Sioux Falls, S.D. The team set up tables, chairs and décor for the survivor dinner; assisted with decorations; folded T-shirts; and set up tables around the track.

Relay for Life brings communities together to remember loved ones lost, honor survivors of all cancers and raise money to help the American Cancer Society make a global impact on cancer.



In Memory of Jim Simonson, Biofuels Believer

Jim Simonson, one of the biofuels industry's most devoted advocates, passed away on July 17, 2018 at the age of 82. He was an active, lifelong member of the Preston community and a dedicated servant to his hometown, his country and his passions.

Jim served two years in the United States Army before being honorably discharged, at which point he took up farming. Throughout his life he held several jobs in the ag industry, from hauling milk for the Preston Creamery, to selling Kaltenberg seed, to serving on the Southeast Minnesota Corn Growers board. His belief in the potential of agriculture — along with his tenacious spirit — would eventually lead to his role as one of the founding members of POET Biorefining – Preston. He went on to serve on the plant board for many years.

"I remember my first meeting with Jim," said Jeff Broin, Chairman and CEO, POET. "He was one of the most positive people I had ever met, and he told me, 'We're going to build an ethanol plant here.' I'd heard that from a lot of people before, but I was confident that he would make it happen. And that's exactly what he did. Without his efforts, there would not be a plant there today."

"Jim had a big presence, a positive attitude, and a drive for success that were critical to making the Preston facility a reality," said Jeff Lutt, President and Chief Operating Officer, POET. "I thoroughly enjoyed working with him, and he will be greatly missed by many."

FROM SDSU DAIRY PROGRAM TO POET, General Managers Have Shared Background

by BryAnn Becker Knecht



Kelly Kjelden, Daron Wilson and Blaine Gomer all studied dairy sciences as undergraduates at South Dakota State University and worked in the dairy industry before starting as general managers at POET.

During the 1970s, when Daron Wilson was considering his college major and future career options, the dairy manufacturing program at South Dakota State University (SDSU) in Brookings, S.D., had several selling points: It was a well-regarded science-based program and had internship opportunities aplenty. Plus, at the top of the list, the program boasted a 100-percent job placement rate.

That sealed the deal for Wilson, who today is the General Manager at POET Biorefining – Emmetsburg. “It was tough in the 1970s to get a job. It was a much different time — the placement was a big deal,” Wilson says.

Wilson wasn’t the only POET general manager who saw the benefits of SDSU’s dairy manufacturing program at that time.

Wilson, along with Kelly Kjelden (who today is General Manager at POET Biorefining – Groton) and Blaine Gomer (General Manager at POET Biorefining – Big Stone) all studied dairy science as undergraduates at SDSU and graduated in the 1980s. Kjelden and Wilson knew each other before college and went to high school together in Huron, S.D.

At SDSU, Kjelden started out in the wildlife and fisheries department, Wilson started in pharmacy, and Gomer started in engineering before making the switch to dairy technology. Wilson and Gomer were even in the same dairy technology classes together while at SDSU.

In the dairy manufacturing program, they learned about everything from plant sanitation and food safety, to how to make cheese and ice cream while working in the on-campus dairy plant, to the distinguishing characteristics of a superior mozzarella cheese.

“With the plant on campus, you had a good idea about whether you liked

it or not. You weren’t guessing what your job might be like; you knew what it might be like on a larger scale,” Wilson said.

The three general managers ended

There’s a connection between the dairy industry and ethanol: there’s biological activity; there’s fermentation. Manufacturing ethanol is similar to manufacturing milk. It’s a 24/7 operation. We came from a 24/7 to a 24/7.

Daron Wilson, General Manager at POET Biorefining – Emmetsburg

up following similar career paths immediately post-graduation working for dairy marketing cooperative MidAmerica Dairymen (now known as Dairy Farmers of America), and eventually each landed positions as general managers for POET (then-Broin Companies) in the 1990s when the company was starting dozens of bioprocessing plants at breakneck speed across the Midwest.

The skills the three learned on the job in the dairy industry led to positions leading plant operations at dairy plants mostly while still in their 20s. Later, that skillset helped them land jobs as general managers at POET. There are many similar elements in manufacturing dairy and ethanol, Wilson says.

“There’s a connection between the dairy industry and ethanol:

there’s biological activity; there’s fermentation. Manufacturing ethanol is similar to manufacturing milk,” Wilson says. “You’re using a lot of the same principles: temperature, pressure, vacuum, pH. It’s a 24/7 operation. We came from a 24/7 to a 24/7.”

Along with their common educational and work background, the three also have a strong bond that developed not only through hours of microbiology labs at SDSU but also the rigors of being general managers for start-up bioprocessing plants.

Today, the bond that goes back several decades to their days at SDSU means that they talk weekly at work and bounce ideas off each other. They also spend time together socially for family activities and events. Kjelden and Gomer have attended NASCAR races together with their spouses.

Their shared background has cultivated an immediate trust between the three that has great value in a business setting. “There’s knowledge, confidence and trust of situations. You know that if you have a question, you can call one of those guys and bounce it off them,” Kjelden says.

“If something happens at a plant, we talk with each other and ask, ‘What do you think?’ Our experience levels are almost identical. We’ve all gone through a lot in our careers,” Gomer says.

STARTING AT POET

When each of them started as general managers at POET, there was no manual or timeline for how to hire employees or what to do in advance of the plant startup. They just had to hit the ground running. At that time, the bioprocessing plants were coming online around the same time, which proved beneficial because other

general managers had recently gone through the process.

“You depended heavily on previous general managers,” Wilson says.

Gomer worked for Dairy Farmers of America (DFA) for 16 years at five different locations before he started in 2002 at Big Stone, which was plant number seven at the time. The opportunity at POET gave him the opportunity to move back to South

I like the idea of a company that is constantly growing, very aggressive, beating the industry, always looking to be better.

Blaine Gomer, General Manager at POET Biorefining – Big Stone

Dakota after working his way up as a regional manager at DFA.

Kjelden worked for Dairy Farmers of America in Wisconsin and Nebraska and worked in Hartington, Neb., with Gomer for several years before starting at POET in 2003. After Gomer started his role at Broin Companies, Kjelden stayed in touch, learned about the company and started to see the great possibilities there for his career, including the opportunity to be a general manager at the Groton plant. “There were plants being built: Coon Rapids, Chancellor. I thought, ‘Groton! That’s so far north.’ And that was 15 years ago,” he says, reflecting on his tenure at POET so far.

Wilson worked for DFA for almost 13 years and at four different locations before working for six years for a food and feed supplement company. In 2004 he started at POET

after consulting with both Kjelden and Gomer.

“It was nice to have an inside perspective and a good reference,” Wilson says. “The rest is history, I guess. Like Blaine, our office was in the back of a chiropractic building. I came in with a pencil and a notepad and started hiring people. I called the other GMs and frantically took notes. To get the opportunity to start up a plant was an unbelievable experience.”

The three each tell similar stories about working round the clock to get everything started.

“I went up to Big Stone for a few days when I first started to correspond with Blaine,” Wilson says. “I remember you [Gomer] saying, ‘Go buy a calendar. Rip off every page. Put it on the wall. Put an X on the start date and work backwards from when you need to get people trained.’ This was November; the plant was to start early March. I did that. I put an X and started working backwards. I thought, ‘Oh man. I need to get some people hired fast.’”

Gomer recalls sorting resumes while working out of a hotel for two and a half months. “I can remember every night, the hotel was covered with resumes and trying to sort through the piles.”

Wilson chimes in: “I had three piles: ‘do not pursue,’ ‘maybe’ and ‘yes.’ The good thing was that you got a lot of resumes.”

Today, the people and the culture of the company are two of the top reasons why each have stayed general managers at the plants they first helped to start.

While POET today is a much different company than it was when the three started, the company values — teamwork and communication — have stayed the same, they note.

Gomer, Kjelden and Wilson are still drawn to those tenets of the company and also state that the dynamic aspect of the company keeps their work engaging.

“I like the idea of a company that is constantly growing, very aggressive, beating the industry, always looking to be better,” Gomer says. “Day in and

If today we perfected X, tomorrow we'd try to make it X plus 1. If you turn over the rock and look for a success, you turn it over again and look for the next success. It never stops.

Kelly Kjelden, General Manager at POET Biorefining – Groton

day out, you’re focused on that all the time. It makes time go by fast.”

“If today we perfected X, tomorrow we’d try to make it X plus 1,” Kjelden says. “If you turn over the rock and look for a success, you turn it over again and look for the next success. It never stops.”

What stands out for Gomer is the opportunity to work for an industry and what it stands for: clean energy, renewable fuels, American-made, he says. “It’s agriculture. We all grew up in the Midwest and have agricultural roots. And whether we grew up on a farm or didn’t, we supported ag. We’ve been in ag our whole careers.”

“POET is the leader. It’s fun to work for the leader of the industry,” Wilson says.

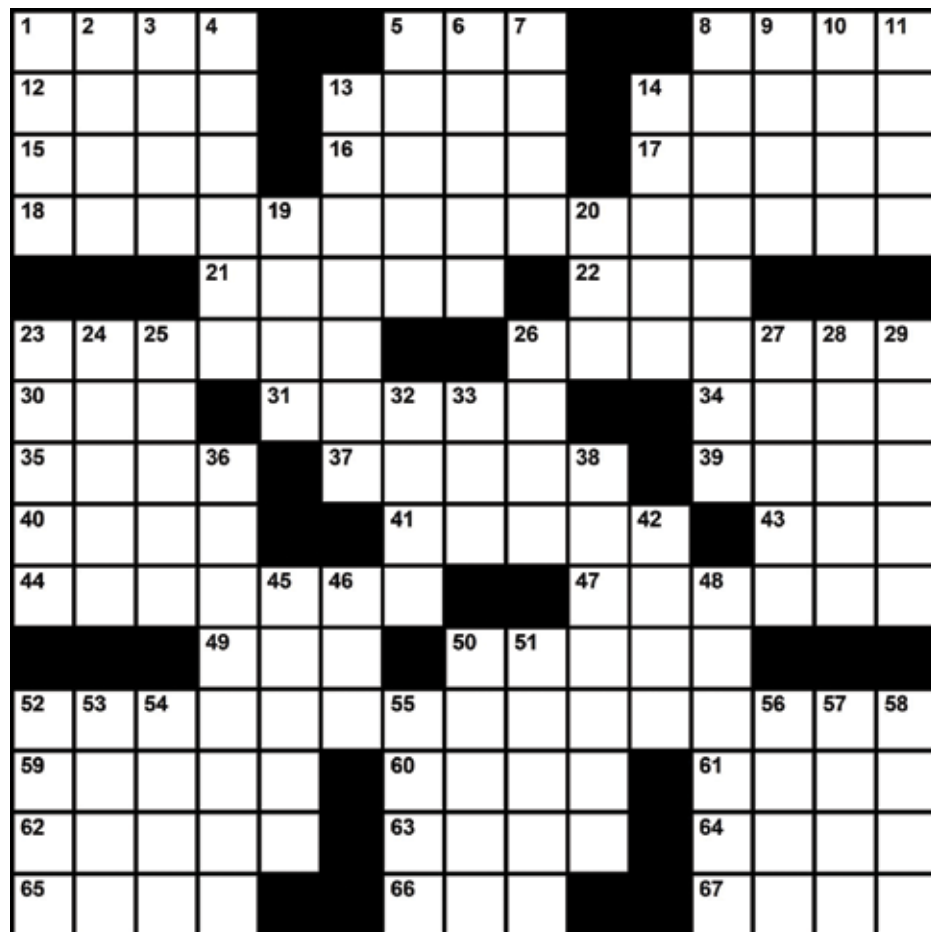


The SDSU Dairy Products judging team included Blaine Gomer (second from left).

THE ORIGINAL DAIRY EXPERTS

After graduating from SDSU’s dairy manufacturing program in the 1970s, Kelly Kjelden, Blaine Gomer and Daron Wilson are still dairy experts. (Needless to say, do not serve this crew anything less than the best ice cream or top-of-the-line cheese. Kjelden says his wife doesn’t let him near the dairy section in the local grocery store, because he takes forever to pick out cheese.)

As undergraduates, Wilson and Gomer participated in collegiate dairy product judging and tasted industry samples of products to detect defects in everything from ice cream to yogurt. In the “taste and spit” competition, participants considered the body and flavor of the dairy product to determine product defects. Wilson was on the judging team in 1984 and Gomer in 1985.



ACROSS

1. Election Day lead-in
5. Work as a thespian
8. River to the Rhine
12. Islamic teacher
13. Rival of U.S.C.
14. Wearer of three stars, abbr.
15. Disease cause
16. Wild guess
17. African antelope
18. POET ethanol has a 20.4% average reduction in these emissions when compared with gasoline
21. Maddie Ziegler and Willow Smith, for example
22. Ludwig's middle name, Morrison's first
23. Roof beam
26. Asphalt component
30. Another name intro
31. Fab Four member
34. Aiding and abetting, say

35. POET product gives asphalt new life
37. Bird shelters
39. Hissyfit
40. Standing on the summit of
41. Natural resource that POET continues to use more and more efficiently
43. Exhaust
44. Kidney bean
47. More creepy
49. High up point
50. Sport
52. Cellulose ethanol is used to produce these in an environmentally friendly way
59. Large bay window
60. Impersonator
61. Cafeteria food
62. They may be checkered
63. Pontifical name
64. In this location
65. Followers
66. Big name in payroll
67. Duck breed

DOWN

1. "The Avengers" co-star
2. US abbr.
3. Kind of package
4. Adoptive brother of Edward in "Twilight"
5. Do something as a result of information
6. Jolly gift-giver
7. They're run up at a bar
8. 2001 Disney film subtitled "The Lost Empire"
9. Turkish V.I.P.'s
10. Russo or Descartes
11. Extremities
13. Mark the beginning of
14. Above board, in a way
19. Poetic contraction
20. Longoria of "Desperate Housewives"
23. Indian prince
24. Japanese dog
25. Kind act
26. Street in New York's Chinatown
27. The blahs
28. Hubbub
29. Choose to compete in
32. Salamander
33. Fed. purchasing group
36. Disparaging words
38. Sowers
42. Snorkeling site
45. Gets the temperature down
46. Ogre in Tolkien books
48. Golf course areas
50. Fast-moving
51. Barely ahead
52. Kachina-doll maker
53. Nest eggs, for short
54. Central idea
55. Spanish appetizer
56. Gr. 1-6, abbr.
57. Knowledge
58. Emit lava

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OUT OF LEFT FIELD

“Biofuels: The Good Fight”

by Scott Johnson, Data Systems Administrator, POET

Every day, we witness the great political divide: Conservative versus Liberal. Democrat versus Republican. Left versus Right. Friendships shattered, families broken, office water cooler discussions made awkward. The battle can be both invigorating and exhausting. For some, the mere mention of politics gives them a queasy feeling, like jumping rope after an all-you-can-eat taco bar. But the fight is unavoidable. It rages on in every facet of our lives.

Church league softball (C division) batting order. My team, the Gospel Goofballs, has a long standing policy of “first come, first served.” I believe it is Ecclesiastes chapter 7 that suggests: “Ye who showeth up first on Thursday nights after work shall bat first, regardless of ability or recent history of batting success.” This is a point of political debate between goofballs. Liberal-leaning Goofballs praise the policy, citing fairness, sharing and equality as the proper strategy. Conservative Goofballs contend that hard work and success should be rewarded. They advocate a batting order determined strictly on merit. (It’s important as you re-read those last sentences that you remember “Goofballs” is the name of our team.) The fight rages on.

Salsa club. It’s like book club, but with salsa and minus the burden of reading. Traditional salsa club values suggest chips and salsa alone have met the needs of its members since the club’s inception. Energetic new members have suggested an addendum to the original constitution, inviting use of other condiments like guacamole and hummus. Some welcome the fresh, progressive ideas while others cite a “slippery-slope” argument. If guac and hummus are allowed, what’s next? Tzatziki sauce? Perhaps chips could be replaced by carrots and pepper slices? Might as well dip treason sticks into a sauce of betrayal. The fight rages on.

Two siblings, one scoop of ice cream, one cookie. Sibling A may ignore his extreme lactose intolerance and consume the ice cream, simply to deprive sibling B of happiness. Sibling B gobbles up the cookie (despite severe gluten allergies) while taunting sibling A. Both siblings could have attained easy wins. However, both LOSE while wasting valuable resources at the same time. Both siblings incorrectly theorize that if my opponent loses, I win. That same erroneous mindset infects much of our nation’s politics, assuming that for all issues, there is always one winner and one loser. We’ve been so conditioned to focus on winning

and losing that we often ignore a *mutually beneficial* idea that actually moves society forward.

And that brings us to biofuels. When biofuels policies are supported, one political side of the isle wins, and one loses, right? Let’s take a closer look:

Biofuels are an American-made product. They reduce our dependence on foreign oil, which strengthens our national security. Dollars that would otherwise be spent supporting regimes that don’t like us very much are instead kept at home, boosting our economy. Growth in the biofuels sector means more American jobs and robust agriculture and manufacturing industries. With proper infrastructure buildout, consumers have their choice of fuel. The free market can truly work its magic. These sounds like conservative values to me!

Biofuels also represent a renewable fuel that is environmentally friendly. It’s a diverse energy source that can be generated from various feedstocks found in every corner of the world. It’s an innovative solution that continues to become even greener and more efficient with each incremental (and breakthrough) technological advancement. A successful biofuels industry doesn’t only benefit a select few; the positive impacts of cleaner air and distributed economic opportunity are shared across the globe. All wins for progressive ideologies!

Biofuels is the rare issue that checks boxes for the left and the right. Therefore, biofuels are both a conservative thing and a liberal thing. A Republican thing and a Democrat thing. A free market thing and an environmental-benefit thing. An economic driver thing. A jobs thing. An American Heartland thing. A family farm thing. A cleaner air thing. A socially conscious thing.

These are not competing concepts; they all apply to the same product. We can achieve all these benefits and both sides can win — but only if we are united.

There’s a reason the saying goes, “Keep fighting the good fight.” Not every fight is “good.” Invite a little compromise into the small stuff. Bickering over softball batting order, chip dip and ice cream may not be the best use of our time and energy. Save your passion for a “good fight.”

Biofuels are worth fighting for. Let’s fight together.

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