

FREMONT TRIBUNE

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20, 2018 | fremonttribune.com

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NEBRASKA'S national rankings in agricultural production

Nebraska's prowess in agricultural production means we have to continually seek out markets for what we produce. Here's how Nebraska stacks up nationally in some key agricultural products:

- #1 Commercial red meat** production 8.009 billion lbs.
- #1 Cattle on Feed** 2.47 million head
- #2 All Cattle & Calves** 6.450 million head
- #2 Ethanol Production** 2+ billion gallons
- #3 Corn Production** 1.7 billion bushels
- #4 All Dry Edible Beans** Production 2.766 cwt
- #5 Soybean Production** 314.1 million bushels
- #6 All Hogs & Pigs** 3.4 million head

Source: USDA NASS

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New biological treatment for seeds led to the need for company to build a climate-controlled warehouse facility.

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Local corn growers gather for Corn Expo, look at year ahead.

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Lincoln Premium Poultry in final stages of recruiting growers for processing plant.

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Corn growers groups are working with a non-profit to expand markets internationally.

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The corn industry is continuing to work toward higher blends of ethanol as well as developing new products.

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Duo has more than 60 years of experience in the swine business.

Nebraska Irrigated Seeds plans new warehouse

Colin Larson
Fremont Tribune

As the future Lincoln Premium Poultry chicken processing plant and hatchery changes the agribusiness landscape in Fremont, another agribusiness with a long history in Fremont is planning an expansion that could also bring in more jobs to the area.

Nebraska Irrigated Seeds, LLC is proposing a project to build a new climate-controlled warehouse on approximately 7.5 acres of land, owned by the company, located at 4100 N. Broad St.



Monke

According to Nebraska Irrigated Seeds, LLC Director Adam Monke, the company is planning to build the warehouse, which will have 80,000-90,000 square feet of storage space, to extend the life of the company's products as well as products they would



Tribune Graphic

Nebraska Irrigated Seeds plans to build a warehouse at 4100 N. Broad St. (in red) that will have 80,000-90,000 square feet of storage space.

potentially store for their customers.

"The intent will be to put finished seed in the warehouse," he said. "The product needs to remain at 50 degrees and 50 percent humidity for the shelf life to carry over to the seed during those really warm summer months, and that extends the shelf life."

According to Monke, the introduction of a new

biological treatment for seeds, which will be in full-deployment in approximately three years, led to the need for Nebraska Irrigated Seeds to build a climate-controlled warehouse facility.

"That will really take on the market, and it will probably be in full deployment with all seeds being treated with that in about three years," Monke said. "It is minimal levels next year, then the second year will be about 50-75 percent, and then in that third year about 100 percent of all seeds produced in the U.S.

Please see **Seeds**, Page 3

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Corn Expo focuses on future

Local corn growers gather for Corn Expo, look at year ahead

Colin Larson
Fremont Tribune

Earlier this month, the Christensen Field Main Arena was inundated with local corn growers, agribusinesses, and industry experts for the annual Fremont Corn Expo.

Since 2004, local corn growers have gathered every January at the Fremont Corn Expo to get the newest information on management issues before planting begins in the spring.

This year's expo included a variety of presentations that included information on corn stalk lodging, grain markets, grain storage, and effects of La Nina on the 2018 crop production season.

Following a breakfast provided by The Waffle Man compliments of the Fremont Chamber, Nebraska Extension Corn Plant Pathologist Tamra Jackson-Ziems gave a presentation on corn stalk lodging and was followed by DTN Senior Analyst Darin Newsom who gave a look



Colin Larson / Fremont Tribune

Attendees peruse more than 48 local agribusiness booths during the Fremont Corn Expo earlier this month at Christensen Field Main Arena.

ahead at grain markets for 2018.

The morning session also included a panel of local experts and growers on the topic of planting cover crops following seed corn.

The panel included NRCS Conservationist Jeremiah Schutz, UNL Extension Agronomist

Nathan Mueller, Precision Ag Specialist Jason Strand, Greg Beebe of Beebe Seed Farms, grower Scott Wagner, and applicator Seth Feala.

The panel discussed the pros and cons of using cover crops following seed corn harvests and

answered questions about the practice from local growers who attended the expo.

During the panel discussion, Schutz spoke about cover crops and their usefulness in improving overall soil health.

"Four basic principles to

follow to improve soil health those would be keep the ground covered, minimize the disturbance both physically and chemically, increase diversity and maintain a growing root as long as possible throughout the year,"

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SEEDS

From Page 2

will have this particular treatment on it. That demands the 50 degrees and 50 percent humidity."

Near the end of 2017, Nebraska Irrigated Seeds, LLC entered a Voluntary Petition Annexation to the City of Fremont requesting annexation of approximately 7.5 acres, located at 4100 N. Broad St., into the corporate

limits.

On Dec. 18, the Fremont Planning Commission recommended approval of the Annexation Petition by a vote of 8-0.

The annexation petition then moved to the City Council, which voted to introduce and hold the first reading of the ordinance by a vote of 7-0. The council held its second reading of the ordinance at its Jan. 9 meeting, and will hold the final reading during its next scheduled meeting.

According to Director of Planning at the City of Fremont Troy Anderson, annexation of the subject property is consistent with the policies of the comprehensive plan and the priorities for accommodating new development.

In the staff report concerning the annexation at the Fremont Planning Commission meeting on Dec. 18 the 7.5 acres is immediately abutting the corporate limits and is contiguous to the existing infrastructure thereby allowing efficient and ready

extension of streets, utilities, and police and fire protection services.

According to Monke, this along with expanding their business and providing a new facility to protect and lengthen shelf-life of their products, Nebraska Irrigated Seeds, LLC wants to continue to be good patrons of the community. He also stressed that the project is still in early preliminary stages, but the company hopes to open the warehouse near the end of 2018.

"As any company in Fremont continues to spend capital and grow their business, obviously there's going to be demand for new jobs," he said. "There's demand for different types of jobs, and different levels of jobs. We just want to continue to grow the agricultural business, it's an exciting thing for local growers and producers in the area to see that the agriculture-based businesses are doing well and thriving in the community."

CORN

From Page 3

he said. "That being said when you are choosing a cover crop species you want to have one goal in mind and that is plant per square foot."

Mueller spoke about the usefulness of cover crops when it comes to minimizing rainfall runoff, but also pointed out that like any business decision the cost of cover crop seed and other related expenses can be a challenge.

"One of the biggest advantages of cover crops after seed corn is just to help us with infiltration rates so we can utilize that rainfall that we get throughout the year," Mueller said. "I think one of the biggest challenges just like anything right now is the cost associated. There are still some direct costs and sometimes it's hard to pencil out just where exactly you are making that money back."

Following the 45-minute panel discussion, representatives of



Colin Larson / Fremont Tribune

A panel made up of (from left) Scott Wagner, Greg Beebe, Seth Feala, Jason Strand, Jeremiah Schutz, and Nathan Mueller discussed planting cover crops following seed corn at the Fremont Corn Expo earlier this month.

the Nebraska Farm Bureau in Dodge County, Fremont Chamber, Nebraska Corn Growers Association, and the Nebraska Corn Board gave updates on the industry and covered what each organization has been doing to help the industry flourish.

"We truly understand at the chamber how important the Ag industry is to our community, every single business industry is effected one way or another by Ag," Tara Lea, executive director of the Fremont Chamber, said. "We have an Ag council who are there for any issue you might

have, so whether it be a local, state, or national issue we want to help you and we want to make sure your voice is being heard."

Nebraska Corn Board Director of Research Boone McAfee spoke about the board's focus on maintaining and strengthening trade agreements like NAFTA and their effect on Nebraska corn exports.

"First of all, one of the biggest issues that we looked at was around trade," he said. "Exports are a bright spot for Nebraska corn and create enormous values for our producers, so when we talk about pulling out of trade agreements or renegotiating trade agreements that is definitely something we look at very closely especially when it impacts some of our biggest export partners such as Mexico."

According to McAfee, in the spring Nebraska Corn Board worked with the U.S. Grains Council, National Corn Growers Association and a group of Mexican grain buyers who represent 80 percent of all corn imports

into Mexico to communicate the joint value of trades to both of the countries.

McAfee also spoke about the board's focus on ethanol production and export strategies moving forward.

"With ethanol being a major market for our corn our board has also increased our focus on ethanol exports as well," he said. "This includes partnering with the U.S. Grains Council to staff resources in Mexico and we also put together an aggressive export strategy focused on countries such as Japan which just recently opened up their borders to exports from the U.S."

The Fremont Corn Expo was organized and hosted by Nebraska Extension. The Fremont Chamber Ag Business and Natural Council, Nebraska Farm Bureau in Dodge County, Colfax-Dodge Corn Growers Association, Nebraska Corn Board, Frontier Co-op, Butler Ag Equipment, and StrongField Resources were primary sponsors of the event.

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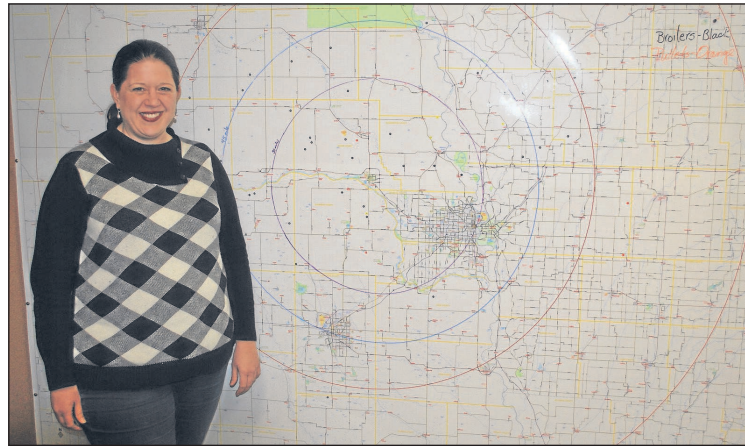
LPP in final stages of recruiting growers

By Sam Pimper
Fremont Tribune

Lincoln Premium Poultry, the company directly involved with providing chickens for the Costco/Lincoln Premium Poultry processing facility, is in the final stages of securing farming families to handle its growing operation.

Having the proper numbers of farmers to sustain the processing facility, scheduled to open in June 2019, is vital. It's the behind the scenes work that ultimately leads to thousands of Costco Wholesale shoppers leaving with one – or several – \$4.99 rotisserie chickens in their shopping carts.

To sustain the growing operation, consisting of roughly 120 four-barn setups, a sizable number of farming families – around 125 – are needed to manage the operations. The investment for a family electing to go with a



Sam Pimper, Fremont Tribune

Jessica Kolterman of Lincoln Premium Poultry poses for a picture next to a map illustrating the radius of growers needed to sustain the chicken production for the Costco/Lincoln Premium Poultry processing facility scheduled to open in June 2019.

four-barn setup is around \$2 million, said Jessica Kolterman, who handles external affairs for Lincoln Premium Poultry.

Currently, Kolterman said that

approximately 80 farming families are going through the process of receiving conditional use permits enabling them to erect barns on their property. To be

eligible for a permit, applicants must score at least 75 out of 100 points on the Nebraska Department of Agriculture's Livestock Siting Assessment Matrix, and meet several other specifications through the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality.

In late September 2017, Hooper resident Colton Schafersman became the first Dodge County resident to receive approval from the Dodge County Board of Supervisors to erect four barns – three rooster and one hen – on his property.

While some may find it a bit surprising that Dodge County only has one farming family fully through the process, Kolterman said that this is simply how the process works. Barns will continually be built by need leading up to the processing facility's grand opening.

Schafersman, she said, will be

dealing largely with pullet houses, where day-old chickens are purchased from Aviagen – the world's leading poultry breeding company – and put into the pullet barns for 22 weeks.

"Those are the babies that become the breeder for the breeder houses that will lay eggs for us," said Willow Holoubek, grower engagement manager for Lincoln Premium Poultry. "Then after 22 weeks we catch them and we take those female and male chickens to the breeder – or hen houses."

While in the hen houses, the chickens roam free due to the need for fertilized eggs, and these houses contain one flock per year.

"They are in that house for 45 to 47 weeks, and their job is to lay the fertilized eggs," Holoubek said. "So we gather fertilized eggs in

Please see **LPP, Page 6**

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Source: Soy Sustainability Performance Database, 2015



LPP

From Page 5

that house and bring them to our on-site hatchery at our complex, hatch those eggs, and we get the crossbreeds that are meant to be good at being a broiler chicken.”

Following hatching, baby chicks are transported to broiler houses where they will develop for approximately 42-44 days. These chickens, weighing approximately 6 1/4 pounds, will then be transported to the processing facility where they will ultimately become rotisserie chickens.

Kolterman said approval for permits comes in waves, not one just directly after the other. Permit application is strategically planned so that certain barns will be ready for operation when needed.

Farmers building pullet barns, for instance, are going through the process of getting approved perhaps a little more quickly because they are the first link in the barn chain. The plan is to have barns fully built within the next two years, Kolterman said.



Sam Pimper, Fremont Tribune

Aviagen, the world's leading poultry breeding company, is providing growers with chicks for the Costco/Lincoln Premium Poultry processing facility scheduled to open in June 2019.

“As we build up and ramp up our production schedule into 2019, the barns will come online as we need them, in the time frame that we need them,” Kolterman said. “... And the goal is to do it in a way that you don’t have a bunch of barns sitting around empty. A farmer gets his everything checked off and then he gets his birds placed, so there’s not this long gap where the farmer is

paying interest on a building that doesn’t have anything in it yet.”

The growing operation spans throughout 13 Nebraska counties encompassing an approximately 60-mile radius. In Dodge County, six to eight farming families are committed to having poultry barns on their land, Kolterman said.

“We are not ready to put them through the process yet because we are not to the point where we want to get their barns built yet,” she said. “With Colton, we were to that point because he is a pullet, I believe, and therefore his barn is going to be one of the first barns built, which is why he went through the process so early.”

The majority of barns built will be broiler barns, she added.

Following the 2018 Corn Expo held Jan. 4 inside of the Christensen Field Main Arena, a growers meeting was held at the L.A. Fireproof Door where several farmers learned more about what a growing operation consists of.

“It went really well,” Holoubek said. “We didn’t have a huge number of people but I was able to garner three new growers from

that meeting. So it was very successful.”

Farmers still interested in learning more about what a growing operation would mean for themselves and their families are still encouraged to contact Lincoln Premium Poultry. Kolterman can be reached at 402-641-8471, and Holoubek can be reached at 402-936-4959.

“At the end of the day, we have growers from all over the country who have expressed interest in coming to grow in Nebraska because the contract is so great,” Kolterman said of the 15-year contract term. “But we are committed to making sure that every single Nebraskan has that opportunity first, so that is why we are talking to anybody with any interest before we look at the list from outside the region.”

The window, however, is closing quickly.

“We truly are trying to set the goal of having all of our growers signed before spring planting,” Holoubek said. “So the opportunity is still alive, but it’s coming to a close, quite frankly, because we are on the tail end of it.”

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Trade, property tax among top ag issues

By Tammy Real-McKeighan
News Editor

As they enter 2018, corn growers are addressing issues of trade agreements and property taxes.

"Exports have been a big market for corn, so right now with talk of possibly pulling out of NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement) and some other trade agreements that we've passed up on — that's definitely a concern of ours, how that might impact exports going forward," said Boone McAfee, director of research for the Nebraska Corn Board.

Approximately 20-25 percent of Nebraska corn is exported out of the state. Nationally, about a third of the corn produced in the United States is exported internationally.

Dan Wesely of Morse Bluff, president of the Growers Association, stressed the importance of the trade agreements.

"We're doing everything we can to keep that trade agreement in place," Wesely said. "We're not opposed to an update of the trade agreement or improvement. We understand there are certain areas that need to be improved in the NAFTA," Wesely said.

"We just don't want to lose it entirely," added Morgan Wrich, director of grower services for the Growers Association.

Corn growers groups are working with the non-profit U.S. Grains Council, which strives to expand markets internationally.

The organizations are working with politicians as well.

"We want to promote trade agreements and make sure others who are working on these agreements know the importance to us," McAfee said.

In February, the Nebraska Corn Growers Association will take a group to meet with elected officials in Washington, D.C.

"Trade is going to be one of the biggest topics we're going to talk to them about," Wrich said.

In the spring of 2017, Nebraska Corn, the National Corn Growers Association and the U.S. Grains Council brought a delegation of grain buyers from Mexico to the area.

"Mexico, at least at the time, was our top corn importer," McAfee said.

The grain buyers met with farmers, members of each of the corn organizations and Gov. Pete Ricketts.

"The governor has been very good at promoting trade," Wesely said.

Property tax issues are another concern.

"The association is working with other ag groups to find a balance that is fair to all property taxpayers and reduce the shift that has been transferred to the ag sector," Wesely said.

Please see **Issues, Page 8**

THE TOP 5 CUSTOMERS FOR U.S. CORN



1. MEXICO

[13.321 million metric tons/\$2.52 billion in value]



2. JAPAN

[10.391 million metric tons/\$1.83 billion in value]



3. COLOMBIA

[4.547 million metric tons/\$776 million in value]



4. SOUTH KOREA

[2.964 million metric tons/\$540 million in value]



5. PERU

[2.383 million metric tons/\$403 million in value]

FYI: The next five are Taiwan, Saudi Arabia, Venezuela, Canada and Guatemala

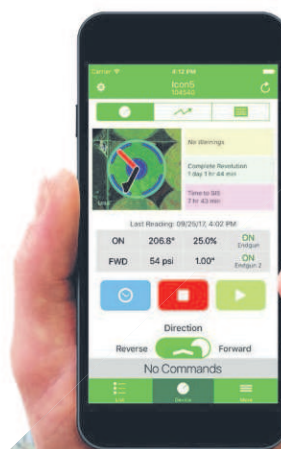
Source: USDA Foreign Agriculture Service's Agriculture Trading System report for marketing year Sept. 1, 2015 to Aug. 31, 2016

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ISSUES

From Page 7

Wesely cited an example of a farmer paying \$1,800 in property taxes on an 80 acres of land with no buildings in about 2004.

In four years, that sum doubled. And it doubled again four years after that on the same ground, he said.

At the same time, the grain grower's income did not double.

"If you (the farmer) are paying a higher cash rent and your incomes have come down and you ask for a reduction in your cash rent, they (the land owner) will say, 'No, my property tax has gone up so much I need that to pay my increase in property tax,'" Wesely said.

Ag leaders have been working with lawmakers on different proposals to balance what's known as the three-legged stool: property,

income and sale taxes.

Ag land property taxes have increased with land valuations. When corn was selling for between \$5 and \$8 a bushel in 2012, people were willing to invest more in buying farmland.

"Now with \$3 corn, their investment has much less value so we're turning around, but you still have to pay the high property tax," he said.

A ballot initiative is being proposed that would propel legislators to take action.

Farmers are a minority because they are fewer in number than urban residents.

But if farmers have lower property taxes, they can purchase cars and homes and otherwise reinvest in their communities, Wesely said.

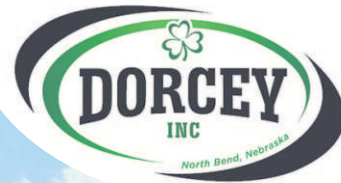
And they can do something city and rural dwellers alike want to do — catch up on paying bills.



Tammy Real-McKeighan, Fremont Tribune

Russ Meyer of Dodge, left, a member of the National Corn Growers Association, talks with Dan Wesely of Morse Bluff, president of the Growers Association; Boone McAfee, director of research for the Nebraska Corn Board; and Morgan Wrich, director of grower services for the Growers Association during the Corn Expo earlier this month at Christensen Field in Fremont.

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Groups work to help find new uses for corn

By Tammy Real-McKeighan
News Editor

Dan Wesely can tell you that when it comes to growing grain, farmers do a good job.

"American farmers have been great at producing corn," said Wesely, president of the Growers Association. "We've had record or near-record production the last few years.

"So we need to find ways to reduce the piles of corn we have."

That means finding new uses.

"We're working on that locally, statewide and with the National Corn Growers Association," said Wesely of Morse Bluff.

Most of the corn grown in the state isn't sweet corn. It's field corn, which isn't

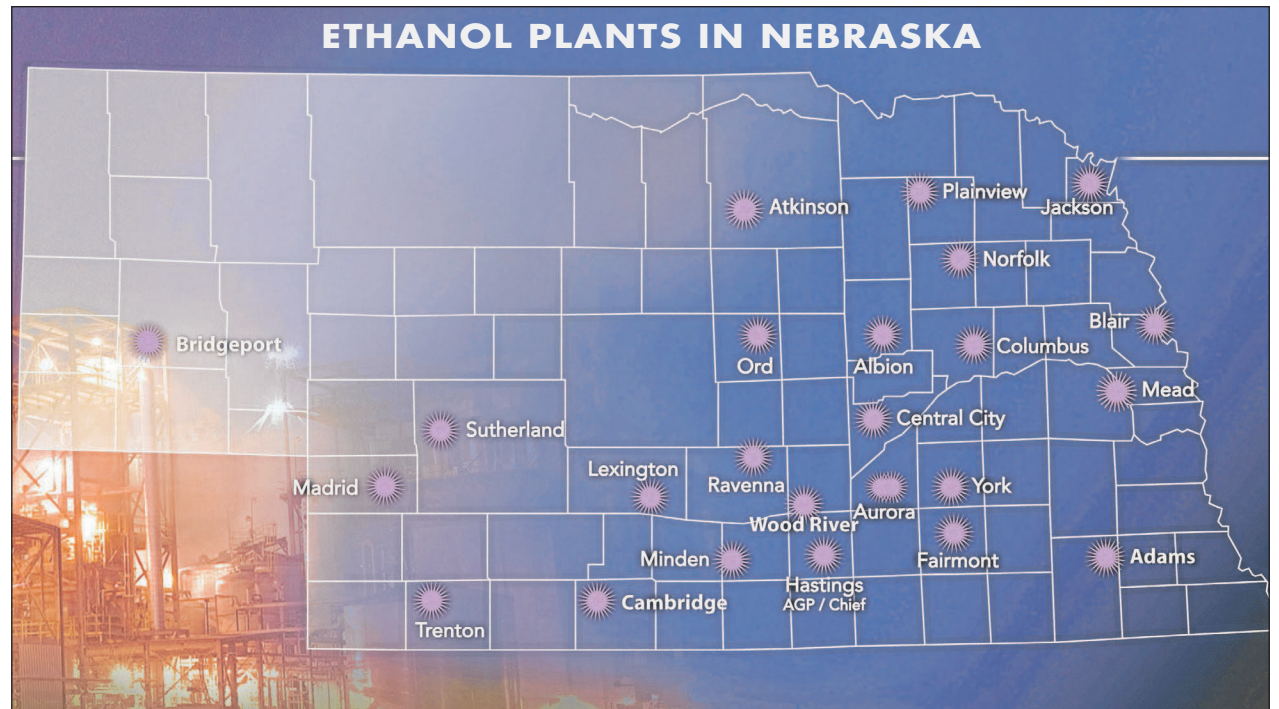
eaten directly by humans. It's either used for ethanol, animal feed or ground for another use, said Morgan Wrich, director of grower services for the Growers Association.

"Ethanol is a huge market for us now, but most gasoline only has 10 percent ethanol and we'd like to see higher blends available so consumers use more ethanol," said Boone McAfee, director of research for the Nebraska Corn Board.

Currently, E15 — a fuel blend of 15 percent ethanol and 85 percent gasoline — would be the next level beyond E10. Any vehicle newer than 2001 can fill up with E15, Wrich said.

"That's compared to E85 which is only used in flex

Please see **Uses, Page 10**



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USES

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fuel vehicles," McAfee said.

Wesely pointed out something else.

"Some people don't understand that when it goes to an ethanol plant, they take what they need out of it and then what's left over is very good feed for the livestock," he said. "So you're not taking away one use for the other use."

Wesely said livestock producers have told him they prefer the byproduct — called distiller's grains — from an ethanol plant for feed.

The corn industry is continuing to promote and work toward higher blends of ethanol.

There are other uses for corn as well.

For instance, there are new products, using corn, which can cure paint without it having to be baked.

"It will be cheaper for the car manufacturers, for example. They can paint their car and not have to bake it — so it saves them

time and money," Wesely said.

Another product can be used for gun oil to help keep rust off military equipment.

"We're also talking to companies that could use a corn product that are currently using sugar cane," he said.

McAfee also said biochemical companies are using corn components to produce high-value, renewable bio-based chemicals.

Wesely cites one of those uses — Malonic acid.

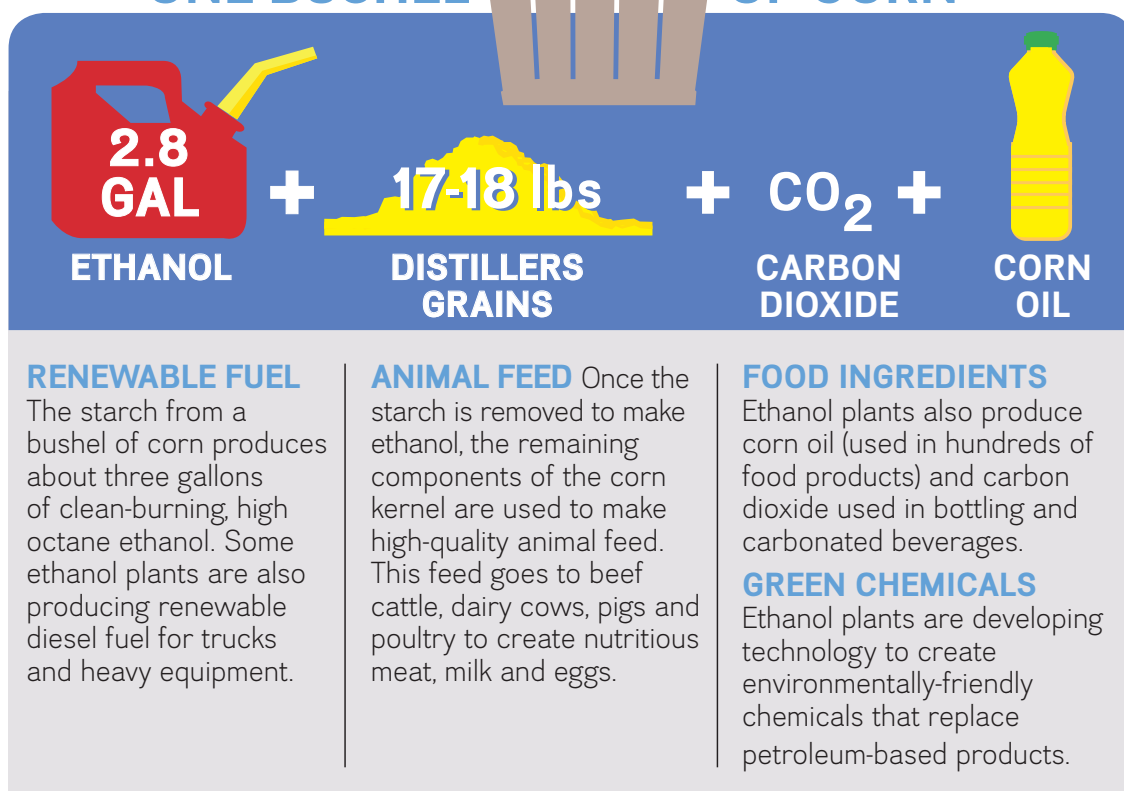

"Some of it's used in medication," he said.

Malonic acid is used in the syntheses of some B vitamins and other valuable compounds.

"It's very costly and to make it is very toxic to the environment," Wesely said. "It's made in China. Chinese companies use cyanide to produce this product. If you make it from a corn product, it wouldn't be harmful to the environment or people."

Biochemical companies at pilot stages with products made from corn need to scale up their investment with larger companies that want to use it, McAfee said.

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Swine Management Services benefiting industry for 15 years

By Sam Pimper
Fremont Tribune

Making a business partnership work is often times a difficult task.

Sometimes there's disagreements and arguments and times of stress. But what defines a good partnership is resilience, and the ability to overcome certain obstacles for the betterment of a business.

This is what Ron Ketchem and Mark Rix, owners of Swine Management Services, LLC, have been able to with their business for more than a decade. In August 2017, the duo celebrated 15 years of running Swine Management in Fremont.

"It's pretty interesting that we have been able to work together for 15 years," Ketchem said.

Added Rix: "Pretty sure there's

a pool going on about which of us will kill the other first," he joked.

Ketchem explained that Rix handles more software development and IT analysis, and that he handles more of the analytical analysis and field analysis of the operation, which has developed into a leading supplier of information solutions to the swine industry.

"Our two expertise's have really blended together to make a company," Ketchem said. "... The two (areas of expertise) work well together. There's been things that I've felt we need to look at analytical-wise, and then Mark was able to program it and develop reports that would get that information for us; and that's really how we work together."

Swine Management Services was officially started by Rix and

a small group of other individuals in 1994, and on Aug. 1, 2002, Rix and Ketchem, who combined have more than 60 years of experience in the swine business, purchased the entire company from an existing feed company.

The company, located at 1044 W. 23rd Street, processes data for more than 50,000 sows weekly. Using its own software and tools, Swine Management also provides data analysis from its database consisting of more than 800 farms with more than 1.5 million total sows.

Analysis is based off of the 1.5 million sow benchmark, Ketchem said.

"The benchmark is just a comparison of different operations and interpretations and ranking

Please see **Swine**, Page 12



Courtesy Swine Management Services

Ron Ketchem, left, and Mark Rix, co-owners of Fremont's Swine Management Services, pose for a photo in August with plaques recognizing the accomplishment of being in business for 15 years.

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SWINE

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them, Ketchem said. "... It tells how well they (producers) are doing in a certain area, it gives them an index, and then we know which area to try to help them fix."

Swine Management Service provides analysis for the state of Nebraska, the Midwest, Canada and China and works directly with producers in terms of analyzing their farms, finding problem areas, developing action plans to solve problems and then monitoring results.

For many businesses, the ability to adapt makes or breaks their productivity, and for Rix and Ketchem, staying ahead of the curve has paid dividends. In fact, tweaks were made after the men bought out the business in 2002.

"We changed the model," Ketchem said. "We were no longer doing (a lot of) that day-to-day management of those sow farms, we changed it to doing data analysis and consulting."

While data analysis and consulting was already an aspect of what Swine Management did, it became the new focal point.

"That was always part of the company, but all the other pieces got eliminated," Rix said. "It allowed us to get out to more producers and get their data, interpret that data and then help them. It helped us manage more farms across the US and Canada."

With an established clientele, the company continues moving forward in a positive manner.

"We are still growing, people keep throwing cash at us and we just keep on

working," Rix said.

With Rix and Ketchem both reaching retirement age, the process has started with finding people to manage the operation heading into the future.

"We are bringing in new people into the company to be able to have that next group that will transition, the next generation of the company," Ketchem said.

Moving forward, Ketchem said that he sees the company developing more analytical tools that can be used to dig deeper into production data. And while this is the case, Rix said that the company's mission statement of providing 'information solutions' to the swine industry will remain constant.

"Our benchmarking is about 18 percent of the US industry," Rix said. "So we have a really great sampling of what is out there."

Why most farmers don't plow their fields

Nebraska Corn Board

Ever wonder why more and more farmers are leaving "trash" in their fields after harvest? Those corn stalks, corn cobs and leaves are called "residue"—and they are helping farmers improve soil quality and manage their crops and fields in the face of extreme weather events.

Plowing the soil has been compared to a tornado ripping through a city. While that may be an extreme analogy, plowing does disrupt the living organisms in the soil and exposes more of the soil to the air, which accelerates evaporation and loss of essential soil moisture and nutrients.

As a result, many farmers have adopted no-till or minimum tillage practices which leave residue in the field—and that leads to a wide range of benefits:

- Residue captures snow during the winter which improves the moisture profile in the field

- Residue provides soil stability to help reduce erosion from wind and rain

- During spring planting, the residue helps retain moisture to help the new seeds germinate and the young plants thrive

- Decaying residue adds nutrients and organic matter to the soil, which improves overall soil health and reduces the need for

additional fertilizer

- Reduced tillage means fewer trips across the field which reduces soil compaction and energy consumption

Some farmers put cattle on their cornfields in the fall and winter to graze on the stalks and residue. The manure from those animals adds nutrients and organic matter to the soil as well.

No-till and minimum tillage practices are also helping farmers cope with the advent of extreme weather events such as torrential rains and extreme drought by preserving the integrity of the soil, reducing erosion and retaining as much moisture in the soil as possible.

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