

# Western Wisconsin Renewable Energy Co-op

*Our Energy is Cropping up Everywhere!*

2132 State Highway 40 • Colfax, WI 54730 • Phone 715-962-3587

## OCTOBER HIGHLIGHTS

### Board Activities

The Board has been moving ahead in a number of areas. Site selection is high on the list. Currently, they are looking at the Colfax Industrial Park and open land between Wheeler and Boyceville.

They have met with an engineer from the Canadian National railroad. The board is having the water availability and content evaluated. Also, plant discharge handling. Exploratory soil boring will take place shortly. Options have been executed on both sites.

A marketing plan has been approved and will be incorporated in the business plan.

The first draft of the business plan and the financial forecasts have been reviewed, comments made and returned to counsel to be finalized.

Value Add Ventures LLC has been selected to assist with the Securities sale. They have extensive experience in this area. This is scheduled to begin January 2, 2003.

### Environmentally Sound

WWREC'S Mission is to provide economic benefits to Western Wisconsin communities by enhancing the value of agricultural production in an environmentally sound manner. This is our mission.

As you read the newspaper articles relative to ethanol production facilities, you would think they are harmful to the environment, especially air quality. This is contrary to the facts. Ethanol plants have to meet the air quality standard of the Clean Air Act the same as any other factory.

The U.S. EPA announced it has reached agreement with the 12 ethanol plants in Minnesota resolving that issue. Current plant design addresses all previous concerns.

Further, ethanol offers substantial environmental benefits when used as an additive in gasoline. Ethanol, which consists of approximately 35% oxygen, contains twice as much oxygen as other commonly used oxygenates and according to EPA, reduces CO (carbon monoxide) emissions more than any other oxygenates.

\*\*\*Share the brochure with your neighbors\*\*\*

### Board Member Profiles

Andy Bensed grew up in Barron County. Graduated from UW-River Falls in 1979 with a B.S. degree in Agricultural education.

Today Andy and his family are very involved in the agriculture community.

He operates a crop farm raising 2200 acres of corn, soybeans, alfalfa and wheat. Since 1993, he has operated a Pioneer seed Agency. In addition, Andy operates a custom forage harvesting service harvesting over 4000 acres of haylage and corn silage.

After years of following corn marketing options for Western Wisconsin and value added operations in Minnesota, he decided it was time to act. Ethanol looked like a viable option and he has eagerly pursued it with his friends and neighbors as a board member.

### WWREC Receives Two Grants

- Division of Energy, Wisconsin Department of Administration awarded \$15,000.00 to WWREC for our feasibility study.

- Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection awarded WWREC \$35,000.00 through the Agricultural Development and Diversification (ADD) Grant Program. This will be applied to capital fund campaign expenses.

### Energy Balance

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (ISDA) released a new study of the energy efficiency of ethanol production. The report, "the Energy Balance of Corn Ethanol: An Update" concludes that ethanol production yields 34% more energy than is used in growing and harvesting grain and distilling it into ethanol.

In addition to providing a 34% positive energy gain, ethanol production uses mainly domestically available energy, such as coal and natural gas. Therefore, for every 1 BTU of liquid fuel used to produce ethanol, there is a 6.34 BTU output.

"With a positive energy balance, ethanol is clearly the premier environmental liquid transportation fuel-harnessing the power of the sun and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. As a domestic fuel using U.S. grain as a feedstock, ethanol boosts the U.S. economy-especially in rural America". Stated Bob Dineen, President RFA