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From the April 2006 Issue

Harrison Ethanol holds ground dedication

"Today's groundbreaking confirms Ohio's strength as an agricultural state and reaffirms our commitment to renewable energy sources," said Ohio Gov. Bob Taft at the groundbreaking for Harrison Ethanol LLC in Cadiz, Ohio, on Jan. 30. The 276-acre site used to be a Consolidate Coal mine.

The plant will produce 20 MMgy of ethanol from 9 million bushels of corn, which will arrive on a rail line upgraded for the facility. About half of the distillers wet grains will be used to feed up to 12,000 beef and dairy cattle on-site; the remaining grains will be sold to local farmers or dried for sale. The animal waste will be processed in Ohio's first and largest anaerobic digester, and the products will include methane gas, carbon dioxide and fertilizer. The methane gas will generate electricity to power the plant and will be sold on the statewide power grid.

The company, comprised of Ohio farmers and business owners, started out of a desire to get a better price for corn. It acquired \$28 million in private investment, in addition to state loans and grants to finance the \$73 million integrated facility.

"We're an ideal location for ethanol development," said Randall Hunt, state director of USDA Rural Development. "Ohio ranks in the top five for state consumption. There's already a market here in Ohio and great opportunities for marketing on the East Coast."

Five other ethanol plants are proposed in Ohio at this time.

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