

Excavation begins at Harrison Ethanol

CADIZ – Construction on the Harrison Ethanol facility south of Cadiz continues as site excavation started this week.

Over the past few months, final site survey and core samples were completed, along with removing vegetation and clearing away existing structures.

“This week we began moving excavation equipment to the site and are in the process of constructing a concrete plant,” said Wendel Dreve, managing member of Harrison Ethanol LLC. “These steps mark the beginning of heavy construction activities at the Dickerson Church Rd. site.”

Construction will continue in phases. Excavation will take place first, followed by the installation of a 30-inch thick clay base underlying the location of structures at the complex. Next, concrete foundations will be poured and allowed to cure. The next phase calls for erecting steel and buildings, probably in late 2006 or early 2007, Dreve said. Although the overall construction will encompass a 14-month period, the livestock facilities will be completed and become operational within a shorter timeframe.

“This begins the long-awaited process of constructing the Harrison Ethanol facility,” said Dennis Watson, chairman of Harrison County commissioners. “This project will provide a significant boost to the local economy through new construction jobs, employment of local residents at the completed facilities, new business opportunities for local farmers, and the establishment of spin-off businesses throughout the county.”

Harrison Ethanol represents a \$73 million investment in Harrison County. When completed, the facility will employ 107 people on site and create an additional 60 truck driving jobs. The operation will use nine million bushels of corn annually to produce 20 million gallons of ethanol.

Other revenue centers on site include dairy and beef operations, production of liquid fertilizer, and generation of electricity from methane created on site.

The possibility of producing food-grade corn oil currently is under evaluation.

“This project has been in the development and planning stages for more than five years, and there is no doubt that Harrison County and its residents will reap significant benefits as a result of our patience and the perseverance of Harrison Ethanol LLC,” said County Commissioner Phil Madzia.

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