



KANSAS ETHANOL IS LOCATED on the rail spur in the manufacturing district south of Lyons just west of state highway 14.

Kansas Ethanol has good year, outlook remains strong

Demand remains steady for locally manufactured products

Demand for Kansas Ethanol’s distillers grain cubes and tubs have remained strong through the past year according to CEO Mike Chisam. Chisam said they had a good year with the tubs, and although not as strong due to the good moisture levels last year, the cube business remained solid with a moderate increase in sales.

The major innovation for 2015 is the addition of a steam powered turbine generator. This installation utilizes the energy from high pressure steam to generate electricity for the facility. Chisam said that they brought the unit, which produces 1 megawatt of electricity, online in 2015. Although the plant still utilizes the same

amount of power as before, this generator allows them to reduce the amount they have to purchase from the grid, which reduces their costs and increases the overall efficiency of the plant. Chisam explained that it solves an inefficiency they were aware of from the opening of the plant, and that product improvement and cost reductions

allowed them to move forward with this improvement last year.

For 2016 the plant will begin selling a new product they have had in development for some time. Fiber and high protein distillers grain sales will begin on February 15. In the past, fiber would ride through the Ethanol production process as an inert ingredient before being incorporated into the distillers grain. However, with a new fiber separation system, the fiber will be separated from the other fermentable portions of the grain and sent directly to

the distillers grain production process. The new system, according to Chisam, will increase ethanol production and yields, and decrease natural gas and electrical consumption per gallon.

Ethanol production has continued to remain level at 60 million gallons annually. With the ethanol production, and the products mentioned above, the company also produces distillers grain and grain oil.

To meet the demand of all the plant production, the number of employees at Kansas Ethanol is now at 50, up from 46 last year.

Chisam said the facility is meeting demands of their customers by operating 24/7.

Chisam said that 2015 was a good year, and that although fuel prices are soft, demand for ethanol remains strong, similar to last year. He said the lower gas prices have kept individuals driving more, creating more gasoline demand than usual. Chisam predicts that the demand for ethanol will continue to remain strong as more areas around the nation now sell E15 gasoline and commitments from other areas to sell the product continue to grow.



MKC improvements made recently include a new anhydrous facility. The facility includes two anhydrous tanks which hold a combined total of 56,000 gallons of anhydrous along with four filling stations.

MKC with new Rice County facilities is up to the task

By RYAN CARLSON
Last year MKC completed construction on several new improvements to its Rice County facility.

One of the major improvements includes an anhydrous facility, finished last year prior to the spring season. Improvements to MKC’s arsenal include two anhydrous holding tanks that hold a combined total of 56,000 gallons as well as four filling stations to increase turn around on speed.

MKC Facility Manager, Steve Olson, said MKC offers direct-to-the-farm delivery for anhydrous using tanks that hold 1,500 gallons. Olson noted MKC also picks up the empty tanks and returns the tanks

filled to the farmer. “Our goal is to provide efficiencies for our customers, keeping the farmers moving in the field as they prepare for spring,” said Olson.

Another of MKC’s many additions to the facility includes a grain storage bunker that holds just under one million bushels of grain. The storage bunkers include an air system to keep the grain dry and aerated.

Olson said there are a number of other services available to farmers in the area, including crop nutrients and crop protection products. In addition, the facility will stock some farm necessities such as animal feed, dog food, cat food, oil and antifreeze for their

customers. “We will keep a small supply of farm necessities and adjust these supplies based on customer need,” said Olson.

Olson said efficiency and timeliness both play a big role in how MKC does business. Olson said in the fall of 2014, the facility completed an automation system. This system monitors the temperature and aeration of the grain storage facilities and allows MKC employees to unload trucks right from the office. “This system will help us maintain our speed and efficiency, returning the producer to the field in a timely manner as well as monitor our grain quality,” said Olson.



The new MKC grain bunker includes a large motorized grain conveyor belt. The conveyor belt can be moved as needed.

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