

Ph. 309-661-4280  
Fax 309-661-4282



Bioproducts from Corn

1012 Ekstam Drive  
Suite # 3  
Bloomington, IL  
61704

September 23, 2009

## **Prairie Gold, Inc. Builds COPE Pilot Plant**

Prairie Gold, Inc. (PGI), Bloomington, IL, is continuing the development of high valued co-products produced from the corn ethanol process. PGI, a technology development company, will test their innovative "Corn Oil and Protein Extraction (COPE) process in a new 2400 sq. ft. pilot plant located in north central Illinois. The facility, currently under construction, will be located near a 100 million gallon ethanol plant. The ethanol plant will provide PGI utilities and feedstock for their extraction process.

The objective of the pilot plant project is to demonstrate the efficient extraction and purification of a solvent soluble, high valued corn protein (zein) from the corn kernel, prior to fermentation stated Philip Shane, President of PGI. During the demonstration project PGI process engineers, along with the technology and engineering firm KATZEN International, Inc. of Cincinnati, OH, will be able to optimize pre-commercialization processes and provide data for the selection of equipment to be used in the first commercial facility. The pilot trials will also provide zein samples for market development activities with customers.

Zein is a natural polymer that can be used to make hard coatings (like shellac), gums, flexible biodegradable films and fibers. Zein is edible and in its pure form is colorless and odorless. These qualities, combined with its competitive functionality, give zein a unique positioning for use in the food, plastic and specialty chemical industries. The material has been used for many years in the pharmaceutical industry and as a fiber substitute for wool. Interest in its use is growing, but until now zein has been too expensive to enter into high volume applications.

The COPE process has the ability to dramatically reduce the production costs of zein, as currently produced. This unique technology has the potential to significantly increase revenue while at the same time reduce an ethanol plant's drying costs and energy needs. Once the process is fully integrated into an ethanol production facility the two processes will share infrastructure and feedstock costs.

PGI expects to begin the commercialization phase of development of their COPE process based on the results from their trials and customer interest. For more information contact Philip Shane at (309) 661-4280.