

Editor's Notebook



Scott Geyer
Editor & Publisher

to draw on farms within a 75-mile radius. Shane Westcott, president of the Phelps County Development Corporation and a farmer's advisory panel leader, is confident there'll be no shortage of stover.

"We see multiple opportunities for the farmers, whether it be catching the chaff off of the combine or raking and baling the stover post-harvest," says Westcott.

While Westcott expects the plant to handle the biomass storage, it's clear the farmers won't deliver bales of corn stalks. According to Chaput, the feedstock must be pelletized and dried down to 10% moisture.

"Our gasifier is pretty inflexible in terms of what type of biomass," says Chaput. "Pellets are also more efficient for transportation."

Chaput suggests farmers set up a co-op to handle pelletizing. "It doesn't make sense to do it at each farm," he says. "It could be a contractor who'd be the aggregator and then sell us pelletized corn stover."

What's unclear is how much of the estimated \$150 per ton would be needed for transport to a pelletizing plant, pelletizing, storage and transport to the DG Fuels plant. Added to that are possible supplementary fertilizer needs as crop residue is removed. Similar questions remain to be worked out for the other plants.

What happens when and if the Louisiana plant is built will likely offer many answers. It'll be the template DG Fuels hopes to follow in Nebraska, Minnesota and elsewhere.

According to Chaput, the company is already working with six or seven other states and may consider licensing the technology.

"The goal was to come up with a template and then use the same technology and approach," says Chaput. "We're focused on the first plant in Louisiana. Nebraska will be number two, and Minnesota will be number three. If everything goes right, the Louisiana plant will deliver SAF in 2030."

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Proposed sustainable aviation fuel plant in Minnesota would require nearly 54 million tons of biomass from nearby farms.

Big Hopes, Big Questions For Proposed SAF Plants

By Jim Ruen, Contributing Editor

DG Fuels has created a lot of excitement with plans to produce sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) from crop residue and woody biomass. Plans have been announced for plants in Louisiana, Nebraska and Minnesota. The Louisiana plant is projected to produce 178 million gal. of SAF, with the other two projected at 193 million gal. each.

The potential for creating thousands of new jobs in the construction and operation of the three plants has local and state officials salivating. DG Fuels estimates the economic impact of the Minnesota plant, situated near the border of Minnesota and North Dakota, to be \$50 billion. Similar benefits are projected for other host states.

Producers are excited about the potential for new markets for crop residue and wood biomass. The Nebraska plant alone projects \$140 million in annual premiums to area farmers.

The only thing standing in the way of all the hope is money. DG Fuels has been working on the plans for the Louisiana plant for four years. They're waiting for the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) loan approval. When interviewed in late March, Chris Chaput, president and CFO of DG Fuels, expected to get word from the DOT by the end of April. The next step will be a major engineering report in late August.

"We could have financial flows by the end of this year," says Chaput. "Our investors are waiting. They and the bankers we're working with agree this isn't difficult technology, so there's little risk. We have tremendous political support in all three states."

As Chaput notes, the technology is well-proven, so much so that neither the political nor financial backers have required a pilot plant. What isn't proven is the company's ability to produce up to 3.6 barrels of fuel per ton of feedstock, compared to industry standards of 1.1 to 1.3 barrels per ton. "We've come up with a superior way of assembling the major components," says Chaput.

Supplying the feedstock may be another challenge. At 3.6 gal. per ton of biomass, the Minnesota and Nebraska plants will require 53.6 million tons of biomass each.

In public statements in Nebraska, DG Fuels indicated that they'd pay an estimated \$150 per dry ton for corn stover. The plant, to be located in Phelps County, Neb., is expected



The USPS has once again proposed price increases for July 2025 and twice per year in both 2026 and 2027.

More Post Office Woes

News about USPS service and pricing is almost becoming a regular feature on this page.

The agency has already announced rate hikes for July 2025 and again for January and July in 2026 and 2027.

The increases just keep coming—layered on top of service that only seems to grow slower and less reliable.

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With prices rising on almost everything these days, we're working to keep things running here at FARM SHOW by reducing the amount of USPS mail we send.

The comment we hear most often from readers is, "Don't change anything." But with the continued increases in postal rates, we have to change what we mail.

Please consider giving our new system a try.



Pocket ledgers from the 1940's to 1960's era.

Collector Seeks Dealer Names

Dave McEachren, Glencoe, Ont., has collected the names of John Deere dealers and their locations over the past 16 years. So far, he's collected 11,000 dealer names and towns, as well as several hundred photos.

McEachren's search started with collecting Deere pocket ledgers, the little notebooks handed out by dealers. The oldest known to exist was printed in 1869 and is in the Deere archives. McEachren has several hundred in his collection, stretching from 1872 up to 2014 when Deere stopped printing them. "A few were super hard to find," he says. "In 1966, the 99th year, they were only printed in Canada."

He aims to publish a reference manual with all the names and information. If you have information on a local dealership, send him a note.

He wants to remind collectors of anything John Deere that Classic Green, the association of Deere collectors, is coming to West Bend, Wis., June 11 to 14. McEachren is a Classic Green board member and an avid collector.

"Our slogan is 'It's about the people,'" he says. "Classic Green brings together collectors and restorers of all things John Deere."

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Liberty Quotes

"It's very important in life to know when to shut up. You should not be afraid of silence." *Alex Trebek*

"The hardest thing in the world to understand is the income tax." *Albert Einstein*

"The concept of military necessity is seductively broad, and has a dangerous plasticity. Because they invariably have the visage of overriding importance, there is always a temptation to invoke security 'necessities' to justify an encroachment upon civil liberties. For that reason, the military-security argument must be approached with a healthy skepticism." *Supreme Court Justice William J. Brennan*

"All men have equal rights to liberty, to their property, and to the protection of the laws." *Voltaire*

"Every collectivist revolution rides in on a trojan horse of 'emergency.' It was the tactic of Lenin, Hitler, and Mussolini. In the collectivist sweep over a dozen minor countries of Europe, it was the cry of men striving to get on horseback. And 'emergency' became the justification of the subsequent steps. This technique of creating emergency is the greatest achievement that demagoguery attains." *Herbert Hoover*

Ole bought Lena a piano for her birthday. A few weeks later, Lars inquired how she was doing with it.

"Oh," said Ole, "I persuaded her tew switch tew a clarinet."

"How come?" asked Lars.

"Vell," Ole answered, "Because vit a clarinet, she can't sing."

Ole was working out in the gym when he spotted a very pretty young woman.

He asked the trainer who was nearby, "Vhat machine in here should I use tew impress dat pretty young voman over dere?"

The trainer looked Ole up and down and said, "I'd try the ATM in the lobby."

There was a fancy new vending machine in the breakroom at the factory where Ole started working. Ole put his money in the machine and a packaged sandwich came out. He was so excited he put more money into the machine and got another sandwich.

After he had a pile of sandwiches, Sven asked Ole, "Don't you think you should stop now?" Ole said, "Vy, I'm just starting to vin big!"