



P R E S S R E L E A S E

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 15, 2004

Press Contact: Monte Shaw
202-289-3835

Golden Grain Energy, LLC Begins Production At Iowa Ethanol Plant

Iowa Has 15 Ethanol Plants in Operation and 6 Under Construction

Washington, DC – The Renewable Fuels Association (RFA) today congratulated Golden Grain Energy, LLC for beginning production at its ethanol plant near Mason City, Iowa. The plant will process over 15 million bushels of corn into 40 million gallons of ethanol and 120,000 tons of distillers grains annually.

“The RFA congratulates the farmer owners of Golden Grain Energy on the start-up of their ethanol plant,” said Bob Dinneen, RFA president. “In fairy tales, people spin straw into gold. But in reality, Golden Grain Energy will be converting two dollars of corn into seven or eight dollars of value-added products. Rural economic development driven by ethanol production is no fairy tale. More and more communities are witnessing its promise first hand.”

Fagen, Inc., the Granite Falls, Minnesota design-build contractor, is the general contractor and will incorporate a process design provided by ICM, Inc. of Colwich, Kansas.

“It took us three years to turn this idea into reality,” said Golden Grain Energy President Walter Wendland. “Now our investors can participate in value-added agriculture; our community will benefit from increased economic activity, and our area farmers can benefit from increased demand for corn. This is a real win-win situation all the way around. With high gasoline prices this is a great time to be in the ethanol business.”

Currently, 83 ethanol plants nationwide have the capacity to produce nearly 3.6 billion gallons annually. There are 16 ethanol plants under construction with a combined annual capacity of over 700 million gallons.

###

For more information, visit the Renewable Fuels Association website at: www.ethanolRFA.org.