

Ethanol Trade Team from Mexico visits Nebraska to Understand U.S. Ethanol Industry



COURTESY PHOTO

The trade delegation in Nebraska this week represented different facets of the Mexican ethanol industry.

A delegation of 19 industry leaders from Mexico were in Nebraska last week to gain a better understanding of the U.S. ethanol sector. From Oct. 16-18, the delegation toured all facets of Nebraska's ethanol industry, from cornfield to fuel retailer.

On the first day of their trip, the group was provided with an overview of Nebraska's agricultural and ethanol industries before they traveled to Giltner and visited Hunnicutt Farms. At the farm, the team learned about corn, seed corn, popcorn and soybean production. Through the discussions, the delegation was introduced to cutting-edge technologies in American agriculture and were able to better understand how some farmers utilize irrigation equipment.

"By bringing this group onto our farm, we're able to really lay the foundation and show how renewable ethanol is and how easy it is to incorporate into a nation's fuel supply," said Brandon Hunnicutt, vice-chairman

of the Nebraska Corn Board and co-owner of Hunnicutt Farms. "Also, by bringing trade teams to farms and to ethanol plants, we're able to build relationships with our customers that hopefully develop into long-term partnerships. I like to think the U.S. is the best in the world when it comes to corn and ethanol production. We're open for business and want to share our products with the world."

During the remainder of the group's visit to Nebraska, they toured Chief Ethanol, an ethanol processing plant in Hastings, Magellan Midstream Partners, a fuel pipeline, storage and transportation company in Doniphan, and Bosselman's Travel Center, a fuel retailer in Grand Island. They departed the state after meeting with Gov. Pete Ricketts, Steve Wellman, director of the Nebraska Department of Agriculture and Kelly Brunkhorst, executive director of the Nebraska Corn Board.

"In times when there's

so much uncertainty in regards to trade, it's great to have our top customers visit to remind them how much we value their business," said David Bruntz, chairman of the Nebraska Corn Board and farmer from Friend. "Mexico is our No. 1 customer when it comes to corn and distillers grains, and there is so much potential for increased ethanol exports. We are glad to have had time with this delegation to show appreciation for their past business, answer questions about our corn and ethanol industries and to let them know we're working hard to ensure the passage of USMCA."

The visit from the Mexican delegation was an offshoot of an even larger event held earlier in the week. The first-ever Global Ethanol Summit occurred Oct. 13-15 in Washington, D.C. Government officials and industry leaders from 60 countries attended this event to learn about the benefits of expanding global ethanol use. The

event was organized and hosted by the U.S. Grains Council, Growth Energy and the Renewable Fuels Association.

The Nebraska Corn Board is funded through a producer checkoff investment of 1/2-cent-per-bushel checkoff on all corn marketed in the state and is managed by nine farmer directors. The mission of the Nebraska Corn Board is to promote the value of corn by creating opportunities.

Flag Retirement Ceremony To Be Held November 10



The American Legion Auxiliary Post #230 will hold a flag retirement ceremony and lunch on Sunday, November 10, 2019 at 12:30 p.m. at the Legion Building in Thedford.

The American Legion Post #230 is providing a free will donation lunch to celebrate 100 years of the American Legion and American Legion Auxil-

iary. Following the lunch, the Legion will perform a flag retirement ceremony.

If you have a tattered and/or old flag, please bring it and join them for the proper disposal in this solemn ceremony.

There will also be raffle tickets available for a hog raffle. The tickets are \$20.00 and the drawing will be held January 12, 2020.



SCAD
Senior Citizen Action Day
will be held Wednesday, October 30, 2019.
Students will be contacting senior citizens to schedule the workday!

New Owners Celebrate Transition



New owners of Hershey State Bank are pictured, l-r: North Platte Branch President Tom Murphy; Hershey Branch President Kaye Monie; Kelly Ehlers and Bank President Vern Ehlers. A small group, consisting primarily of employees, friends, and family joined together to purchase the bank from its original owners, with the year-long transaction process being fully completed on August 1, 2019. Vern and Kelly Ehlers also purchased all the stock in Hershey Agency.

"We are committed to maintaining the hometown banking tradition that was established 51 years ago," said President Vern Ehlers.

Hershey State Bank was chartered on March 15, 1968, to serve the needs of businessmen in the Hershey area who wanted to have their own full service bank. There are currently 22 employees, and the bank has grown to over \$70 million in total assets. The Hershey location also houses the affiliated Hershey Agency, which is a full service insurance agency.

Owner and president, Vern Ehlers began his banking career almost 40 years ago as a cashier. He moved to the insurance side of the business, and has managed the Hershey Agency for many years. When former owners Ken and Connie Niedan announced they wanted to retire and sell their stock in the bank, Vern and wife Kelly Ehlers spearheaded the purchasing process which took about a year to accomplish. In addition to Vern and Kelly's many years of experience, owners Tom Murphy and Kaye Monie each have about 25 years experience in banking.

Hershey State Bank will host an open house October 30 from 10:00 a.m. until noon at the North Platte location, 301 N. Philip.

3D Consumer Alert: Fake Check or Overpayment Scam

A Fake Check or Overpayment Scam involves someone you don't know asking you to deposit a check sometimes for thousands of dollars more than you're owed—and then send a portion of the money back to them by a wire or prepaid card.

To protect yourself from this scam, consider the following before you de-

posit a check:

Independently confirm your buyer's name, street address, and phone number.

Never accept a check for more than your selling price and never agree to wire back funds to your buyer.

Resist pressure to "act now."

3D Consumer Alert is a

series provided by the Consumer Protection Division of the Nebraska Attorney General's Office. The purpose is to prevent the victimization of Nebraskans by arming them with the education and tools to Deter, Detect, and Defend (the 3Ds) against the frauds, scams, and pressing consumer issues prevalent across our state.

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