

# renew



by Kayla Schlechter

## >> Grasping a New Culture

When South Dakota student Brian Gottlob joined FFA he never dreamed he would have the opportunity to observe the Chinese agriculture industry firsthand. But with some financial support from POET Biorefining – Chancellor, he was able to witness Chinese agriculture firsthand along with fifty-five other State FFA Officers.

During his trip, Gottlob toured feedlots and was exposed to different farming practices. In touring, he also learned about the Chinese ethanol industry. He noted that, throughout China, only five large-scale ethanol plants exist - three utilizing corn, one using a combination of wheat and corn and the other plant operating off of cassava (a tuber similar to the potato). The product of these

facilities is strictly intended for human consumption in drinks as well products related to health and cleaning.

Gottlob also learned of the potential for American ethanol and dried distillers grain with solubles (DDGS) within Chinese markets. Because of the Chinese infrastructure, officials at the U.S. Embassy noted that it would be cheaper to import DDGS from the Midwest states than transporting their grain from northern to southern China - the distance from Illinois to the Gulf of Mexico.

Students at the Northwest Agriculture and Forestry University in Xian (pronounced “Shi-an”) were impressed with the development of ethanol in the United States.

“Each student was well aware of

the American industry and eagerly talked about its potential not only within China but also around the world,” Gottlob said. “I spoke with a Pakistani foreign exchange student who hoped to see increased consumption in his homeland for environmental reasons.”

After returning home, Gottlob’s firsthand experience with Chinese agriculture solidified the notion of existing in a globalized society.

“I hope in the coming years the ethanol industry and the National FFA Organization team together to take our agricultural industry to the next level,” Gottlob says. “Considering the energy, vision and dedication of current FFA members, I guarantee the future of American agriculture is in great hands.”

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## We’ve Moved!

On April 18, POET Ethanol Products made the much anticipated move into their new building. With three times the capacity of their old facility, the new office will provide the space needed to market over one billion gallons of ethanol annually.

Phone and fax numbers remained the same, but the move changed both the physical and mailing address for POET Ethanol Products. They can now be found at 3939 North Webb Road, Wichita, Kansas 67226.

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## Plant a Tree

In celebration of Arbor Day, POET Biorefining – Fostoria invited 160 first graders to the facility to help plant a tree on Friday, April 24.

Each of the students received a tree that they planted in a small cup to bring home. They also took part in helping plant two trees on the POET Biorefining grounds that will serve as a reminder of the day.

While at the plant, they learned about POET and how ethanol can improve the environment while enjoying festive green

punch and green frosted cupcakes.

“This is what community involvement is all about,” says Mark Borer, General Manager of POET Biorefining – Fostoria. “We’re working in support of the community and getting involved to help improve it.”

The celebration was attended by the Mayor of Fostoria who presented POET with the city earth day flag. The flag is given out to one recipient every year. This year POET was recognized for their earth day efforts in conjunction with the students.

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## Helping One of Their Own

On January 27, Julie Ringle, Administrative Assistant at POET Biorefining – Caro, received devastating news that her house was on fire. After arriving at the site, Ringle, her husband, son and three grandchildren watched helplessly as their house burned. Though everyone escaped unharmed, the house was a complete loss, and they no longer had a place to call home.

After a call from Dave Gloer, General Manager at the Caro plant, Ringle’s insurance agency came immediately to their aid providing money and shelter. At the

plant, team members called the Red Cross for assistance and a mass email for help circulated throughout the facility. Donations of clothing, toiletries, food, toys and monetary gifts were given that afternoon. Team members, spouses, friends of friends and strangers all over the community started giving and a financial donation was received from POET in Sioux Falls, S.D.

The Ringle family was overwhelmed and thankful for the kindness of family, friends and the POET team. They are expected back on their property and into their new home this summer.