

renew



by Kayla Schlechter

Recommending Safety

Of course, safety is the number one priority at POET Biorefineries. But POET Biorefining – Alexandria, Ind. is making sure that it is always top of mind. They've recently implemented a suggestion program asking team members to find new, inventive ways to find preventative measures. So far, 230 preventative suggestions have been placed.

Shane Oxley, Fabricator at the Alexandria plant, leads the team in suggestions with 52. He's also done the bulk of the work in implementing these suggestions. When asked about his suggestions, he says he follows a few guidelines.

*"Will it simplify, be effective and practical?" he asks.
"We can't compromise quality and safety."*

All the suggestions are made with one goal in mind – at the end of the day, everybody goes home safely.



Supporting Ethanol

Dave Gloer, General Manager at POET Biorefining – Caro, Mich., led one of his state's top ethanol supporters through the production process of ethanol. Senator Debbie Stabenow, Chair of the Senate Agriculture Panel, expressed her support for domestic grown ethanol versus imported oil.

FOR A CAUSE

In Missouri, when deer hunting comes to mind, most think – recreation, sport, meat or maybe trophy – but Elks Lodge #999 in Macon County is looking at it a whole different way. As a leading deer hunting county in the state, hundreds of deer hides go to waste each year. With the help of POET Biorefining – Macon, the Elks Lodge now accumulates these hides, cures them with salt and ships them to tanneries for processing.

Once processed, the deer leather is used by disabled veterans in the making of gloves or is used as craft leather for Veterans hospital therapy and recreational programs.

David Baase, Purchasing Agent for POET Biorefining – Macon, heard about the program from a fellow Elks Lodge member and immediately knew he wanted to help. He brought this program to the attention of the plant knowing time spent on the program was nothing in comparison to the time service men and women spend in our nation's defense.

"As a veteran myself, my life will be spent with every chance I get to help my fellow brothers and sisters in arms," Baase says. "It helps maintain the bond that was formed over my 22 years of service."



Give Thanks

Every year, it's tradition to gather with family and friends to give thanks for the gifts of happiness in life. Mounds of food are consumed, laughter and joy is infectious and some even take the time to give back. POET Biorefining – Corning, Iowa, does just that every year.

Each year, the team in Corning hosts a Thanksgiving dinner for the residents in the small community of Brooks. They know the extra traffic from the plant can sometimes inconvenience these residents and they want to thank them for graciously welcoming them into their community.



Food for the Needy

With meals so easily accessible to most, it's easy to forget that some people go days, maybe weeks, without a full, nutritious meal. POET Biorefining – Hanlontown, Iowa, sympathizes with this crowd and took the initiative to do something about it.



Three years ago, they began a food drive in their local community where donations are delivered to a local food bank. Each year a different food bank receives the generous donations. The goal for

donations has risen steadily every year. And every year it is met.

In 2010 the goal was 1,500 items, drop off locations included POET Biorefining – Hanlontown, the local library, a gas station and a local restaurant – the only restaurant located within 10 miles of the plant. While collecting food at the plant, they came up with the idea to host “Food Friday.” Hot dogs and hamburgers were served to drivers, producers, team members and vendors with only one catch – they had to bring a food donation. It was a hit!

“The generosity of those who have unselfishly supported this food drive is very heartwarming, especially in these challenging times,” says Kelly Hansen, General Manager for POET Biorefining – Hanlontown.

Donations were combined and delivered to the Lake Mills, Iowa food bank.