

# renew



## And the winner is...

Alexandria-Monroe Intermediate students put on their protective glasses and fired up their Bunsen burners at a recent science fair. Dan McMahan, POET Biorefining – Alexandria’s Plant Manager was there to add to the fun by explaining how science is used at an ethanol plant as well as in our everyday lives.

“I talked about research and development, design and construction, how the plant operates on a day-to-day basis” said McMahan, “and how we use science everyday at the plant.”

The science fair spanned grades 3-6, with participants having about a month and a half to complete their projects. When completed, judging took place by teams of former educators and community volunteers.

Awards were given out for 1st and 2nd place in third and fourth grade and 1st, 2nd and 3rd place to fifth and sixth grade students. The winners received a medal, certificate, and microscope.



*Dan McMahan stands with the winners at the Science Fair.*



*Rusty Petty presents the Ladd 'N Lassie winners with their new bicycles and helmets.*

POET Biorefining – Alexandria, Ind. put the wheels in motion for a successful Ladd ‘N Lassie contest held last month. The Alexandria team donated new bicycles and helmets to this year’s winners. Rusty Petty, Shift Supervisor, presented the prizes to the winners of the competition.

Each contestant decorated a tin and placed it somewhere in the community. If a resident wanted to vote for that child, they put money in the tin.

Liberty Vekos and Trey Hieatt earned first place at this year’s Ladd ‘N Lassie competition. Runners up were Zoey Reyes and Drake Johnson. Best Can winners were Kiah Davidson and Trey Hieatt. The contest participants were made up of children from local schools.

The winners of the competition are decided on with a penny vote. Ladd ‘N Lassie Contest raised more than \$2,000 for local charities.



# HIGHWAY HELP

At POET, team members are frequently reminded to not only be leaders in the industry but in their communities as well. Two POET plants have found a way to give back to their communities by participating in “Adopt a Highway.”



POET Biorefining – Hudson, S.D. adopted a 3-mile stretch of State Highway 143, which is located north and south of the Hudson plant. During POET Biorefining – Hudson’s highway cleanup, 11 team members participated, bagging over 15 large garbage bags. The team members shown in the photo are: Paul Twedt, Nick Titze, Joel Jarman, Colin May, Carmen Kast, Jeremy Halgerson, Bret Highum, Darin Sigler, Amanda Homandberg, Terry Waterman and James Duckett.

POET Biorefining – Hanlontown, Iowa recently did a 2-mile cleanup on Highway 9, which is located in front of the plant. The Hanlontown team signed up to clean the highway 2 times a year for 2 years, and have already completed their first year. Kelly Hansen, POET Biorefining – Hanlontown’s General Manager, said the cleanup is a great team builder for those who participated and has helped both team members and truck drivers be more aware of the litter. Hansen went on to say that the roadsides are cleaner and they have heard many supportive comments from drivers and neighbors.



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## Blending choice

Kearney, Mo. residents now have their choice of fuel blend when filling up at a local station. The Kansas City suburb's has newly installed flex pumps as the result of the dedication and assistance of POET Biorefining – Macon's Board President, John Eggleston.

The process started when Platte-Clay Electric Cooperative, headed up by Mike Torres, CEO, applied for a grant from the USDA Rural Development program titled Rural Energy for America Program (REAP). REAP grants provide energy audits and renewable energy development assistance.

Only three short months later, the grant was awarded to the Platte-Clay Electric Cooperative, who wasted no time in finding a place to install it. Platte-Clay Fuels, a store located near Kansas City that is owned and operated by the electric cooperative, was an ideal location. The area didn't have any flex pumps and many had spoken up about the lack of fuel choice. Platte-Clay Fuels recognized the need and agreed to the installation.



*From left to right is Barry Hart, Judy Canales, Mike Torres, and Janie Dunning at the flex pump ceremony.*

Manager Matt Gerhold, who brought along and displayed his 125 hp Honda motorcycle that he fuels with E15. Eggleston spoke at the event. Also, attending were seven board members of NEMO Grain Processors, LLC, representing the farmer investors in POET Biorefining – Macon.

Others in attendance were Barry Hart, Executive Vice President of the Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives; Judy Canales, Administrator of the USDA Rural Development Program; Janie Dunning Missouri USDA Administrator; Carrie Emert, Growth Energy American Ethanol Sponsorship Manager; Mike Torres, CEO of Platte-Clay Electric Cooperative and Bill Dane, Mayor of Kearney.

“This shows you the strong force people have,” said Eggleston. “The flex pump ceremony recognized and reinforced the biofuels commitment.”

The grant received for the flex pumps was one of 28 that will allow for more blender pumps to be installed throughout Missouri and moves the USDA closer to meeting their goal of 10,000 flex pumps in five years across the nation. Missouri leads the nation in the most grants received in the first round of grants for flex-pump installation.



*Judy Canales filling up a flex fuel vehicle with the flex pumps at the flex pump ceremony.*

The flex pumps provide customers a choice of E15, E30, E40, or E85.

The unveiling of the flex pumps took place Aug. 17, with many in attendance to show their support for the recent addition. POET Biorefining – Macon team was represented by General Manager Steve Burnett and Commodities