

## **Bridgewater Farmers Against Proposed Ethanol Plant**

We, the undersigned farmers of Bridgewater Township, oppose Advanced BioEnergy's plan to build an ethanol plant in Little Prairie for one or more of the following reasons:

- Corn ethanol is a stopgap technology that will be replaced in the near future by cellulosic ethanol.
- Compared to the energy used to produce it, corn ethanol delivers only 25% more energy and, at best, could meet only 2-3% of our fuel needs. Cellulosic ethanol delivers at least 80% more energy with far greater environmental rewards and is capable of using marginal land.
- To meet the needs of corn-ethanol production, set-aside acres may be brought back into production, increasing soil erosion, water pollution, and greenhouse gases and decreasing habitat.
- Diverting more and more corn to ethanol will adversely affect the livestock industry, exports, and consumers.
- The proposed 300 acre facility will have many negative impacts on our community, including odor, heavy truck and rail traffic, pollution (air, noise, light, and water), high water usage, and lower property values.
- Benefits, if any, will likely go to outside investors and not local farmers.

Higher corn prices, lower oil prices, and a flood of new ethanol plants are causing ethanol profits to plummet and economists to predict that some plants will soon begin to falter. Our township should not assume the risk and support a venture likely to fail. As farmers, we may benefit in the short term from higher crop prices; however, we do not feel the damage done to our community, environment, and economy is justified.

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