

Hancock County lands a new ethanol plant

By PEGGY SENZARINO, Of The Globe Gazette

GARNER — An Addison, Texas, company will build a 100-million-gallon ethanol plant on a 180-acre parcel of land in Concord Township east of Garner.

Harvest Biofuels LLC Chief Executive Officer Bob Payne said the Garner plant will create 45 to 50 new jobs.

This will be the second of three plants being built in Iowa by Harvest Biofuels over the next several years. The company's first ethanol plant will be built in Galbraith near LuVerne in Kossuth County. Construction on it is to start in April. The company also plans to build a plant in Gilmore City in Pocahontas County.

Construction of the Garner plant is to start in July or August and be completed in 12-14 months.

Payne said the Garner location was selected because of its proximity to the other two locations, convenient rail service and because the size of the site will allow the company to build a rail loop to take 100 rail cars to market.

The company was considering a site near Kanawha but when that prospect fell through it looked at Garner, said Cindy Schack, director of the Hancock County Economic Development Corporation.

Schack said without the Garner site to fall back on, "who knows where they would have gone?"

She approached company officials during one of their visits to Kossuth County with the Garner alternative.

"I think it satisfied a lot of our residents given that a good number of them are farmers," said Hancock County Supervisor Sis Greiman.

The company has asked the county for a 20-year tax abatement. The matter is under consideration, Greiman said. She expects the issue to be discussed again at Monday's Board of Supervisors meeting.

Payne said ethanol is going to be a key component of America's energy future.

Payne said he is an advocate of plants being based where the corn is rather than transporting the corn to other parts of the country.

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