

Ethanol plant on schedule



The Kansas Ethanol LLC plant one half mile east of Kansas Highway 14 on Avenue Q is on schedule and should start producing ethanol by late March of 2008. *(Photo by Jon Linville)*

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Those who travel Kansas Highway 14 and Avenue Q (Saxman Road) might have notice the progress being made on the ethanol plant under construction south of Avenue Q one half mile east of Highway 14.

Although a rainy spring and summer caused some delay early on, Kansas Ethanol LLC General Manager Mike Chisam says construction is on schedule. "Production should begin in late March of 2008."

When production begins, a workforce of 33 to 35 employees will operate the plant which will convert approximately 19.6 million bushels of corn and milo into 55 million gallons of ethanol per year. The plant converts each bushel of grain into approximately 2.8 gallons of ethanol.

"One of the three grain silos has been completed and a second is about half way finished," says Chisam. "Each one will hold slightly more than 333,000 bushels." Local sources will be used for grain as well as

sources from throughout central Kansas.

Other structures beginning to take shape include eight evaporators, distillation columns, process tanks and fermentation tanks.

The pond beside Avenue Q is simply a collection pond for natural water run-off and is not a part of the ethanol production.

Presently, ICM Incorporated, the general contractor for the project, employs an average of 130 workers.