Hoxie crushing plant produces sunflower oil

By Ron Wilson

Drector of the Huck Boyd National Institute for Rural Development at Kansas State University. It's the State Fair -- time to walk the midway and get a delicious corn dog, fresh out of the fryer. But this particular corn dog is special, because it was cooked in a healthy, all-natural cooking oil that was produced and processed right here in Kansas. It's today's Kansas Profile.

Last week we learned of Wes Bainter and his construction company, Bainter Construction, in Hoxie, Kansas. Wes is an innovator and inventor. One of his innovations has led to a new sunflower oil enterprise. But this enterprise was first targeted at the field, rather than the frying pan.

of diesel was especially challenging for farmers who use it in crop production. Wes said, "We decided that with the high fuel prices, we needed to design, manufacture, and market a fuel system where farmers could ity of developing and selling an make their own fuel."

He figured farmers could use a portion of their fields to produce oilseed crops which would yield is fairly simple, but to take it to a vegetable oil that could replace commercially-produced diesel as a fuel.

a locally grown, renewable source of energy for those farmers. Wes designed an extraction and filtration system that farmers could use to process their vegetable oils.

His processing system was a hot newest business, Bainter Sunflower seller when fuel prices were high,

In early 2007, fuel prices spiked but when the economy turned down up to record levels. The high price and oil prices fell, Wes looked for other ways to utilize his innovative system. He realized the sunflower oil had more value as a food than as a fuel.

> So Wes researched the possibilall-natural sunflower oil for human consumption.

> "That's a big step," he said. "Fuel cooking oil level requires much higher standards."

So he refined and improved his The resulting biofuel would be filtering system. The K-State Food Science Institute tested his product and verified its quality, shelf life, flashpoint, and other factors.

Wes is now producing and marketing this product through his Oil LLC.

Sunflower cooking oil has numerous advantages, he said: "It leaves food crispier, lasts longer, has a higher flash-point, is good-tasting, and is a heart-healthy product."

In fact, olive oil is the only vegetable oil that is better from a health standpoint, Wes added. Sunflower oil is high in Vitamin E and low in trans-fats.

Bainter Sunflower Oil is a 100 percent pure, all-natural product made with Kansas grown sunflowers. It has no additives or preservatives.

Wes contracts with area sunflower growers for something called midoleic seeds. The seeds are processed in a crushing facility west of town.

The bottling is done at the company's headquarters in the rural community of Hoxie, population 1,207 people. Now, that's rural.

directly to consumers through the company's Web site, www.baintersunfloweroil.com, and to grocery stores and supermarkets throughout the region. It is now going to 40 stores in Kansas, Nebraska, and Colorado.

Wes figures the company's business in 2009 was about 20 times that of 2008. Bainter Sunflower Oil was introduced at the Kansas State Fair in 2009 and looks to be a major cooking oil at the fair in 2010.

Wes Bainter has nine patents, but for him the sunflower oil and his other businesses are important because of what they mean to the community. "Hoxie has a great school system and great roads, but we need to be proactive to build our corn dog. communities so people will come," he said. "We've created a grass-

The sunflower oil is marketed roots business with local growers to help the local economy."

His attitude toward challenges is summarized in his frequent saying. "If it's easy, we're not interested." Of his many inventions and global business, Wes said, "It's all a blessing. I'm not very smart, but God is.'

It's time to leave the State Fair, where we've enjoyed an all-natural Kansas product which comes from Hoxie, Kansas.

We salute Wes Bainter and all those involved with Bainter Sunflower Oil and his other enterprises. They are making a difference by creating private sector economic growth in northwest Kansas. In the long run, that's even better than a

Controlling kochia in corn should start early in year

Controlling kochia in corn should always begin by controlling any plants that have emerged early, before the corn is planted. This can either be done with tillage or with a burndown treatment using both glyphosate and dicamba. According to Curt Thompson, K-State Weed Scientist, producers should not plant corn into a seedbed with actively growing kochia.

To control kochia through the season, producers can choose to try a one-pass program or use a twopass program.

One-pass programs in general have lower costs, but higher risks of failure, than two-pass programs. That said, one-pass preemergence programs have a lower risk of failure than one-pass postemergence programs. That's because if a preemergence treatment fails, it can be backed up with a poste-



mergence treatment. If a one-time postemergence application either fails or can't be made on time and weeds continue growing, the result is often a train wreck.

If the kochia is susceptible to triazine herbicides, then any of the acetamide-atrazine herbicide combinations applied preemergence can potentially give good control of kochia for up to a month after application. Examples include Bicep II Magnum, Cinch ATZ, Guardsman Max, Propel ATZ, Bullet, Harness Xtra, Keystone, Volley ATZ, FulTime, and several generic verkochia stop emerging during the summer under irrigation or high rainfall conditions. They all require

moisture for activation, and will not give good control if they are not activated.

If the kochia is resistant to triazine herbicides, kochia will emerge through the previously discussed products thus producers can use Balance Flexx or Corvus either preemergence or up through the 2-leaf stage of corn. These products can do an excellent job of controlling kochia throughout the season if they are tankmixed with at least 1 lb/ acre of atrazine. These products also require moisture for soil activation, but do have foliar activity.

can run out before the and atrazine, will do an excellent job They can be used as a one-pass program if the corn was planted into weed-free ground. They are best applied preemergence; however, they can also be applied postemergence up to 12-inch corn. For adequate grass control, these products must be applied preemergence to the grass. Lexar contains twice as much atrazine as Lumax. In western areas, or on lighter-textured soils, producers will normally want to use Lumax because of its lower atrazine content. In central and eastern Kansas, or on heavy-textured soils, producers may want to use Lexar to get more atrazine applied, and longer residual control.

Where Roundup Ready corn is used, producers can also get Lumax and Lexar, which are pre- excellent one-pass kochia control then Balance Flexx, Corvus, Lu- consult the labels for details.

sions. These products mixes of Callisto, Dual II Magnum, by using an early postemergence max, or Lexar should be used as the application of Halex GT + atrazine. of controlling kochia preemergence. Halex GT is a premix consisting of a high rate of glyphosate, Dual II Magnum, and Callisto. Atrazine should be added to this product to get the best season-long control of kochia.Glyphosate+Status can also be effective on kochia, although this combination will not provide much residual control and often a second herbicide application is required to control later-emerged weeds.

Producers will usually get more consistent full-season control of kochia by planning to use a twopass program. This would start with a clean seedbed by using tillage or a good burndown application followed by a preemergence application of an acetamide-atrazine product (as described above). If triazine-resistant kochia is present,

preemergence herbicide. A low-cost preemergence option in a two-pass system is Prequel, which is a premix of Resolve and Balance, which must be applied preemergence to corn.

For the postemergence application, producers can use Laudis, Callisto, Impact, Capreno, glyphosate (on Roundup Ready hybrids, and only if the kochia is susceptible to glyphosate), or Ignite (on Liberty Link hybrids).

Note: Balance Flexx, Corvus, and Prequel cannot be applied in certain counties. The herbicides can not be used if the water table (i.e., level of saturation) is less than 25 feet below the ground surface, do not use on loamy sand or sand surface soil and subsoils with an average organic matter (in the upper 12 inches) of less than 2% by weight. Always

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