

August 5, 2010

Neal Jakel
Illinois River Energy
1900 Steward Rd.
Rochelle, IL 61068

Dear Neal,

I would like to express my thanks to you for arranging a tour of the ethanol plant for teachers attending our Summer Ag Institute. The teachers were very impressed by the facility and appreciative of the time your staff took to share information with them! From the many positive comments they made (see attached), I know they came away from their experience with a better understanding of ethanol production and the larger ethanol industry.

Our primary purpose in conducting the Institute was twofold: to give the teachers a basic understanding and appreciation of the different facets of local agriculture, and to impress upon them the idea that sharing this understanding with their students is of the utmost importance. I believe our tour of Illinois River Energy helped us to achieve both.

Thank you again for helping to educate our teachers—and therefore our students—about agriculture.

Sincerely,



Rhodora Collins
Ag Literacy Coordinator

P.S. Neal, please share my thanks and the enclosed page of comments with the individuals that were on hand for our visit. They were terrific!

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The Summer Ag Institute teachers were asked to keep a journal in which to record their responses to 2-3 questions distributed at the end of each day of the Institute. We thought you would enjoy some of the comments made in reference to your tour or presentation.

Illinois River Energy

"I feel so lucky to have been able to tour this facility. I didn't know anything about the E12 or E15 that may be processed in the near future. I also did not know that less water is used in the processing of ethanol than in petroleum processing. On our tour I kept wondering how Adam [Kennay] could have learned so much in such a short time. He had only been there for 3 years! He said that each day he learns something new. I can believe it!"

"This was an awesome tour—a stimulation to the senses! The process of creating ethanol from corn seems pretty straightforward. That is until you go through the factory; the sights, sounds, and smells overwhelm. This in addition to the complexity of the intricate piping, control valves, grates, and vast holding tanks. Amazing."

"What an enthusiastic group! I went on the tour with Adam and he was so excited to show us what he does. It's obvious he loves that plant and his job as its manager. ... a lot of what he showed us was 'above my head' but I got the gist of how ethanol is made and I understand some of the economics behind what goes into the sale of it..."

"I was surprised that there was so much corn by-products after the ethanol was made."

"I felt like I learned a lot about ethanol, its uses, and how to manufacture it."

"I liked being told that the stacks release steam not smoke. Learning about DDGs was very informative as well."

"I'm glad they talked to us first, because it was hard to hear in the plant."

"I was totally fascinated by the Illinois River Energy ethanol plant. I have to say that most of what was said was over my head, but that does not take away from how impressed I was with the facility and the people who work there. I enjoyed all the tours today. My favorite was the ethanol plant."