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Press Release

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Perdue AgriBusiness and Wellons Energy working together in innovative partnership

Wellons Energy Solutions, LLC and Perdue AgriBusiness have announced plans to install a biomass cogeneration facility at the Cofield, NC facility that includes a soy crushing facility and feed mill. The installation implements a transition from fossil to renewable fuels while minimizing the risks associated with the volatile natural gas markets. The facility will be owned and operated by Wellons Energy Solutions, a renewable energy project developer based in High Point, NC.

The installation will allow Perdue to closely project the cost of steam to be used at the complex for the next six years. Wellons is recognized as a leader in biomass-fueled boilers and has installed more than 400 boiler installations around the U.S. and Canada. This installation continues a 45 year history of providing value added renewable energy solutions for the industrial and forest product markets.

Perdue AgriBusiness currently uses fossil fuel to generate the heat to make steam, which is used to provide heat during various steps of soybean processing and poultry feed manufacturing. Volatility in energy markets lead Perdue AgriBusiness to look into alternative energy sources as part of the Perdue's corporate strategy focusing on risk management.

"This decision was about managing risk," Senior Vice President for Business Development for Perdue AgriBusiness Randy Day said. "But we are also going to do some things that are better for the environment and save some money as well."

The decision lead to the agreement with Wellons, which will break ground for the boiler plant in the summer of 2010 with an expected April 2011 start-up.

"Just as with our relationships with ethanol and biodiesel producers, Perdue AgriBusiness is finding unique ways to partner with companies who are experts in new technologies," said Randy said. "Our entrepreneurial approach is letting us develop mutually beneficial partnerships."

The cogeneration facility will burn wood waste products, including whole tree chips, peanut hulls and other wood products from the region. AgriBusiness will also sell the sticks and pods that are removed during soybean processing to Wellons for use in the boilers, saving landfill space and tipping fees.

Per Garald Cottrell, Wellons Energy Solutions' President and General Manager, "This culminates three years of work which we began in 2007. Our approach to the market focuses on providing 'green/green' solutions; projects that result in substantial operating savings for our customers while simultaneously implementing renewable projects that are beneficial to the environment."

The plant will have a capacity of over 40,000 pounds of steam per hour and the design allows for the installation of a third boiler in the future. Perdue estimates 18,000 tons of carbon credits per year will be generated compared to using fossil fuel.

Wellons Energy Solutions, LLC is a subsidiary of Wellons Inc., a leader in the manufacturing and installation of biomass energy systems. Wellons Inc., based in Vancouver, WA, is a vertically integrated manufacturer that has been providing renewable energy solutions to the forest products sector since 1965. With more than 400 installations in the US, Canada and Europe, the firm is a recognized leader in the renewable energy sector. Wellons Energy Solutions was formed in 2009 to leverage Wellons' manufacturing and engineering expertise by providing a portfolio of design, build, own and operation options for industrial manufacturers in the US that are currently utilizing fossil fuels for steam generation.

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