

PRESS RELEASE

October 19, 2005
Hennepin, Illinois

MARQUIS - AVENTINE SIGN LETTER OF INTENT

Marquis Inc. President, Mark Marquis, and Aventine Renewable Energy, Inc. President, Ron Miller, have announced the signing of a joint “Letter of Intent” to cooperate on the development of a plan for a fuel ethanol plant to be located near Hennepin, Illinois.

The plant would have annual production capacity of 100 million gallons of fuel grade ethanol and 320,000 tons of dried distillers grain (DDGS). The plant would use locally grown corn as a feedstock and consume 36 million bushels annually.

The increased local corn demand would add approximately five to seven cents per bushel to the average price of corn paid to local growers. The plant would employ over fifty local residents.

The site of the proposed plant is on 120 acres in Putnam county approximately 1½ miles north of the village of Hennepin. Property rights, barge, rail and utility access are in place. Additionally, a building permit, enterprise zone and appropriate zoning have been acquired.

Ron Miller noted the Hennepin site, with an eastbound railroad and barge shipping capabilities, will be able to cost effectively serve Aventine’s emerging East Coast and U.S. Gulf ethanol demand.

Marquis Inc. is a local business developer with experience in grain elevators, barge terminals and dry cargo and liquid shipping by rail and barge.

Aventine Renewable Energy, Inc. is the second largest producer and marketer of ethanol in the United States.