

# 14th Annual Biofuels Science and Sustainability Tour

## 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Biofuels Science and Sustainability Tour Agenda August 14 – 17, 2023

### Monday, August 14

- 11:53 am Arrive Des Moines airport via American Airlines Flight #4481  
Met by bus.
- 12:30 pm Depart for hotel  
1 Prairie Meadows Dr, Altoona, IA 50009
- 1:00 pm Arrive Prairie Meadows hotel
- 1:30-3:00pm **Lunch and Learn- Tour Introduction** (Paid for by tour sponsors)  
**Grandquist Conference Room**  
*Topic: IRFA Executive Director Monte Shaw will present about the Iowa biofuels industry and will give tour participants a brief overview of what to expect on the tour.*
- 3:00 pm Depart hotel for Magellan Midstream Partners  
2503 SE 43rd St, Pleasant Hill, IA 50327
- 3:30-5:00 pm **Tour Magellan Midstream Partners fuel terminal**  
*Topic: Participants will learn how fuel is distributed through the country via pipelines and then blended with biofuels prior to distribution to local fuel retail stations.*
- 5:00 pm Depart Magellan for Iowa State Fair  
2941 Dean Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50317
- 5:30-6:15 pm **Dinner and Discussion - Iowa State Fair** (paid for by Tour sponsors)  
Cattlemen's Beef Headquarters  
*Topics: Iowa FFA (high school and college students – formerly known as Future Farmers of America) leaders will discuss their hopes for the future of agriculture and the role that biofuels can play.*
- 6:15-8:30 pm **Tour Iowa State Fair Agriculture and Renewable Fuels Exhibits**  
*Topics: Attendees will tour state fair exhibits on agriculture and renewable energy to obtain information about new technologies in these industries and to better understand regulatory issues facing the industries.*
- 8:30 pm Depart fair for hotel

Overnight      Prairie Meadows Hotel  
1 Prairie Meadows Drive  
Altoona, IA 50009

**Tuesday, Aug. 15**

7:00 am          Coffee and breakfast in the lobby (Paid for by Tour sponsors)

8:00 am          Depart for ISU BioCentury Research Farm  
1327 U Ave, Boone, Iowa 50036

8:45-10:00am    **Tour of ISU BioCentury Research Farm**  
*Topics: Led by Andy Suby, attendees will tour the state-of-the-art research facility to witness the latest pre-commercial research on enzymatic and thermo-chemical biofuels production as well as pre-treatment of various feedstocks.*

10:00 am        Depart for ISU COBS Research Farm  
Corner of 300th St and Violet Ave in Boone County

10:20-11:20 pm **Tour of ISU COBS Research Farm**  
*Topics: Led by Matt Helmers, attendees will tour the Comparison of Biofuel Cropping Systems (COBS) fields to learn about environmental and water quality impacts of various cropping systems and farming techniques.*

11:20 am        Depart for Hickory Park Restaurant  
1404 S Duff Ave, Ames, IA 50010

11:45am-12:45pm **Lunch and Learn** (Paid for by Tour sponsors)  
*Topics: Monte Shaw, joined by Tour sponsors (Dennis Hupe, Dawn Caldwell, Kevin Studer, Helena Jette and Bob Welch) will lead a discussion on the importance of new uses for biofuels, focusing on higher blends in the near term and new markets (like sustainable aviation fuels, marine applications, home heating, etc.) in the longer term. They will also answer questions from Tour participants.*

12:45 pm        Depart lunch for VERBIO  
59219 Lincoln Hwy, Nevada, IA 50201

1:00-2:00 pm    **Tour of VERBIO** (renewable natural gas plant)  
*Topics: Plant manager Greg Faith will provide a brief overview the plant and how the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) and carbon policy impact Renewable Natural Gas (RNG).*

2:00 pm        Depart for Couser Cattle Company  
19568 620th Ave, Nevada, IA

- 2:15-3:15 pm **Tour Couser Cattle Company**  
*Topics: Bill Couser will discuss advancements in modern livestock production that allow for more humane, sustainable, and efficient small and local beef operations. He will also discuss how biofuels feed coproducts make livestock production more cost effective.*
- 3:15 pm Depart Couser Cattle for Hemmes Family Farm  
 879 Mallard Ave. Hampton, IA
- 4:30-6:30 pm **Tour Hemmes Family Farm**  
*Topics: Led by April Hemmes, participants will learn about the latest seed technology and agronomic practices for corn and soybeans, witness advances in precision farming equipment and discuss how biofuels, environmental and trade policy impact family farm operations.*
- 6:30-8:00 pm **Dinner and Discussion with Area Farmers** (Paid for by tour sponsors)  
 (same location, no break)  
*Topics: Tour participants will be joined by a group of multi-generational area farmers to discuss topics ranging from trade to energy and environmental policy, to advances in farming practices.*
- 8:00 pm Depart farm for Holiday Inn Express hotel
- 9:00 pm Arrive hotel
- Overnight Holiday Inn Express  
 3041 4<sup>th</sup> St. SW  
 Mason City, IA 50401

**Wednesday, Aug. 16**

- 7:30 am Coffee and breakfast in lobby (provided by hotel as part of room cost)
- 8:30 am Depart hotel for Chevron REG  
 4172 19th St SW, Mason City, IA 50401
- 9:00-10:30 am **Tour Chevron REG – Mason City** (biodiesel plant)  
*Topics: Tours led by Ezra Finkin. Participants will see first-hand the improvements in the biodiesel production process, advancements in efficiency, the ability to utilize multiple feedstocks and tour of plant.*
- 10:30-11:00 am **Biodiesel Policy Update**  
 (same location, no break)  
*Topics: Paul Winters, Clean Fuels Alliance America Director of Public Affairs and Federal Communications, will discuss the environmental and carbon benefits that biodiesel and renewable diesel are delivering today as well as the significant health care benefits and cost savings for communities that switch to biodiesel.*

- 11:00 am Depart Chevron REG for “112 on Broadway”  
112 S Broadway Ave, Albert Lea, MN 56007
- Noon-1:00 pm **Lunch and Learn** (paid for by tour sponsors)  
*Topics: Minnesota Biofuels Association executive director Brian Werner will welcome the Tour to Minnesota and provide a history and overview of the biofuels industry in the state. He will also answer questions from Tour participants.*
- 1:00 pm Depart lunch for Guardian Energy  
4745 380th Ave, Janesville, MN 56048
- 2:00-3:30 pm **Tour Guardian Energy** (ethanol plant)  
*Topic: Plant manager Ben Stover will review the ethanol production process, advancements in efficiencies, and lead a tour of the plant.*
- 3:30-4:00 pm **Ethanol Policy Update**  
(same location, no break)  
*Topic: Robert White, Renewable Fuels Association Vice President of Industry Relations, will discuss the Renewable Fuel Standard, exports, octane, low carbon markets, and everything ethanol.*
- 4:00 pm Depart Guardian for Hennen’s Minnoco  
807 1st Ave E, Shakopee, MN 55379
- 5:15-6:15 pm **Tour Hennen’s Minnoco** – fuel retailer  
*Topics: Joel Hennen will discuss why they offer various biofuel blends (E15, E85, and biodiesel), the necessary equipment, and customer acceptance. Participants will see blender pumps and other fuel dispensing equipment.*
- 6:15 pm Depart Hennen’s for Psycho Suzi’s Motor Lounge  
1900 Marshall Street Northeast, Minneapolis, MN 55418
- 7:00-9:00 pm **Dinner and Discussion** – Congressional Roundtable (paid for by Tour sponsors)  
*Topics: IRFA’s Monte Shaw moderates a Congressional Staff Roundtable where the latest policy updates on the RFS, energy, tax and trade policy will be discussed.*
- 9:00 pm Depart for hotel
- Overnight Hyatt Regency  
3200 East 81<sup>st</sup> Street  
Bloomington, MN 55425

**Thursday, Aug. 17**

- 7:45 am Depart hotel for Minneapolis airport

- 8:00 am Arrive airport. Go through security
- 9:00-11:00 am **Eggs and Issues** (paid for by tour sponsors)  
*Topic 1: Jeff Davidman with Delta Airlines and Kent Hartwig with Gevo will provide a 30,000 foot overview of the emerging Sustainable Aviation Fuel market*  
*Topic 2: Minnesota Farmers Union will provide an overview of current programs that reward farmers for climate smart agronomic practices.*
- 10:37 am (Senate Staff) Depart Minneapolis for DCA via Delta Airlines flight #2436
- 11:00 am-noon **Tour of Minneapolis airport operations**  
*Topic: Delta Airlines will take participants on a behind-the-scenes look at a day-in-the-life of a major airport from baggage handling to air traffic control.*
- 12:51 pm Depart Minneapolis for DCA via American Airlines flight #3979

*Note: Bus returns to Des Moines with IRFA staff.*

