



Perdue AgriBusiness and Wellons Energy Celebrate Opening of North Carolina Biomass Boiler Project

Switch to renewable fuel at Cofield, N.C. soy operation will control costs and reduce environmental impact

Cofield, NC (September 29, 2011) Perdue AgriBusiness and Wellons Energy Solutions today celebrated the opening of a two 600-horsepower biomass boiler facility at Perdue's Cofield, N.C. complex. The innovative partnership has resulted in a renewable energy supply to help power a soy crushing facility and feed mill while minimizing the risks from volatile energy markets for the business.

The boilers are owned and operated by Wellons Energy Solutions, a subsidiary of Wellons Inc., which is based Vancouver, Wash., with Perdue contracting to purchase steam heat 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.

Perdue AgriBusiness currently uses fossil fuel to generate steam, which provides heat during various steps of soybean processing and poultry feed manufacturing. Volatility in energy markets lead Perdue AgriBusiness to look into alternative energy sources; the environmental value is an additional benefit.

"The business decision was about helping control costs," Perdue AgriBusiness President Dick Willey said. "But we are also going to do some things that are better for the environment and save some money as well."

"Perdue AgriBusiness is finding unique ways to partner with companies like Wellons who are experts in areas that we are not," said Willey. "Our entrepreneurial approach is letting us develop mutually beneficial partnerships."

Mr. Cottrell, President and General Manager of Wellons Energy, emphasized that an entrepreneurial approach is a cornerstone of Wellons Energy's business plan as well. "Wellons Energy appreciates the opportunity to partner with Perdue to showcase that a biomass based cogeneration facility can reliably provide steam and electricity to our industrial partners."

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

Air emissions are controlled through the use of multi-cyclone cyclonic separators, which utilize centrifugal, gravitational, and inertial forces to remove fine particles suspended in air or gas similar to a Dyson vacuum cleaner.

The plant has a capacity of 41,400 pounds of steam per hour and the design allows for the installation of a third boiler in the future, if needed. Perdue estimates 18,000 tons of carbon credits per year will be generated compared to using fossil fuel.

The steam that is produced by the plant first goes through a turbine, producing 375 KW of electricity that Wellons sells back to the grid. Perdue AgriBusiness will purchase a minimum amount of steam per year from Wellons at a set price for use in its operations, controlling costs while decreasing the company's dependency on fossil fuels.

"It's a cliché but it's also true that this is a win-win, and a truly sustainable business decision," Willey said.

About Perdue AgriBusiness

Perdue AgriBusiness ranks among the top U.S. grain companies and is a direct exporter of U.S. agricultural commodities through the company's deepwater port in the Mid-Atlantic. Perdue AgriBusiness merchandises grain and oilseeds, processes soybeans, operates protein conversion plants and refines edible oils. With an entrepreneurial spirit, Perdue AgriBusiness ventures touch such diverse opportunities as bio-energy, organic fertilizers and specialty livestock feeds.

About Wellons Energy

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.

###