

NCGA Conference Will Highlight Future Uses for Corn Beyond Ethanol

Future uses for corn and ethanol will be examined in an “Ethanol and Beyond” session at this summer’s 2008 Corn Utilization and Technology Conference (CUTC) in Kansas City, Mo. Experts will look at high-value items such as industrial materials from corn and ethanol derivatives.

Discussion topics will include reactive distillation and esters technology, new pharmaceutical chemicals that can be derived from corn, fractionization of dried distillers grains, bioavailability of carotenoids in corn, and corn-based chemistries for the plastics industry.

Panelists will include Dr. Mario Ferruzzi, Purdue University; Dr. Rawle Hollingsworth, Michigan State University; Dr. Mike Jaffe, New Jersey Institute of Technology and Dr. Carl Lira, Michigan State University.

“We have an all-star lineup just waiting to inform us of what we can expect from the refining of corn beyond ethanol,” said session chairman Fred Yoder, Ohio corn grower and past NCGA president. “It will be impossible for attendees to come away from the conference without being impressed when they learn about the immense potential for processing corn in ways never imagined. Like the song says, ‘We’ve only just begun.’ ”

Scheduled for June 2-4 at the Kansas City Marriott Downtown, CUTC will emphasize the importance of identifying the next generation of technologies to sustain corn as nature’s feedstock of the future.