

THEY PROMOTE FOOD AND FUEL

They skip Washington's social whirl. When they talk food, it means business

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L to R: Bonnie McClellan, Linda Nielsen, Shirley Ball, Wanda Zuroff, Donna Pratt, Louise Spagrud, Gladys Edwards.

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Food and fuel is a perfect combination for the "power lunch" prepared by Ethanol Producers and Consumers (EPAC) in Washington, D.C.

Last spring when members of EPAC were invited to the USDA by Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy, they promoted ethanol as a fuel, and served a culinary feast of sideshishes made from distillers grain. *Successful Farming* helped sponsor the event.

Shirley Ball, Nashua, Montana, is executive director of EPAC, a non-profit group. She says it's vital to educate the new administration about the potential for ethanol and its co-product, distillers grain.

"There are so many benefits to tell about ethanol, and it's important to make contacts with Washington decision-makers," she points out.

Food is attention-getter

Members of EPAC hosted a reception. "Food and fuel presentations are the most effective," Ball says. "People easily accept the idea of sampling attractively displayed food while listening to a short speech."

Ball's presentation includes the eco-

nomie and environmental advantages of ethanol, as well as the nutritional value of distillers grains. EPAC distributes packets of information about ethanol and distillers grain.

Ball and others have developed recipes using distillers grains. The foods include regular and quick breads, crackers, summer sausage and salami, candy, cookies, granola, muffins, spinach dip and carrot cake.

Food and fuel is the perfect combination for the EPAC 'power lunch'

The distillers grain product can be made from wheat, corn or milo.

Most of the foods were prepared at home and shipped to Washington, where food was stored in coolers and hotel refrigerators. Other foods were prepared in the hotel room.

"It takes quite a bit of preparation for each presentation," Ball explains.

Several members of EPAC accompanied Ball to help with the reception,

including Linda Nielsen of Nashua, Wanda Zuroff of Richey, Gladys Edwards of Opheim, Donna Pratt and Louise Spagrud of Scobey and Bonnie McClellan of Paul, Idaho.

Ball also has led members of WIFE (Women Involved in Farm Economics) in similar presentations.

Espy invited top USDA officials, farm leaders and ethanol-industry representatives to the event. Roger Conway, director of the USDA energy office, and Sally Katt, office of public liaison, helped arrange the reception, attended by about 75 individuals.

In his memorandum, Espy described himself as "a strong supporter of ethanol and other alternative uses for farm products."

A food plate was prepared for Secretary Espy, and Ball and Linda Nielsen, EPAC secretary, delivered it to him, visiting briefly with him.

A plate of foods also was delivered to the House and Senate agriculture committees.

TV, radio and newspaper media representing eight different organizations attended the event.

Uses starch and protein

The food and fuel process begins with grain that is milled, cooked and fermented. Distillation lifts off the

ethanol, and when it's properly blended with gasoline, it reduces carbon monoxide auto emissions.

Only the starch from the grain is used to make ethanol—the remaining fiber and protein can be made into high quality food products.

When critics say that food shouldn't be used as fuel, Ball explains, "The production of ethanol doesn't interrupt the food chain, but enhances it by removing the starch that many people do not want or need."

She adds, "Increased ethanol production, using grains produced on America's farms, can provide additional revenue for financially stressed farmers. Using the distillers dried grains as a human food would increase the value of production of goods at an ethanol plant."

A 60-lb. bushel of wheat will produce about 2.5 gallons of ethanol and about 20 lbs. of high-protein, high-fiber distiller grains.

"Many ethanol plants utilize feed grains such as corn and barley, and the distillers grains co-product is usually marketed by them as a feed for livestock," Ball says.

"But grain intended for use in the human food chain will produce distillers grain suitable for food and is available at few ethanol plants."

Distillers grain will substitute for flour, crackers, wheat germ and soybean extender. The protein content can be as high as 40-42%. The fiber content is 9-10%.

EPAC offers a variety of distillers grain recipes in its brochures and materials. Here are just two:

Honey Date Bread

½ cup chopped dates
1¼ cups buttermilk
¾ cup RENEWED GRAIN grapenuts
1¼ cup flour
½ cup RENEWED GRAIN flour
1¼ teaspoon baking powder
1 teaspoon salt
½ teaspoon baking soda
¾ cup firmly packed brown sugar
1 egg, well-beaten
3 tablespoons shortening, melted
½ cup honey

Mix buttermilk with cereal. Mix together flours, baking powder, salt, soda and sugar. Add egg, shortening and honey to cereal mixture. Mix well. Add flour mixture and stir just to moisten flour. Stir in dates. Pour into greased 8 x 4 loaf pan. Bake at 350 for

about 50 minutes. Cool in pan for 10 minutes. Remove from pan and finish cooling on rack. Wrap and store overnight before slicing.

Peanut Butter Cups

Melt 1 cup of margarine. Stir in 1 cup of peanut butter. Mix them well, and add ¾ cups powdered sugar and ¼ cup wheat germ. Press in a 9x13-inch pan. Melt 6 ounces of chocolate chips, and frost.

For more information, write: EPAC, So. Rt. Box 206; Nashua, MT 59248, or call 406/785-3722. **SF**



The food and fuel reception prepared by EPAC was a feast for the eye to behold, too. At right, Linda Nielson looks on while Wanda Zuroff assists Shirley Ball with last minute decisions on adorning the table.

EPA decision to include ethanol is delayed again

The EPA ruling concerning the use of ethanol blends in the nation's nine most polluted cities has been delayed again until December 15.

"EPA was expected to issue a final ruling on ethanol's role in Phase 2 of the Clean Air Act on September 15, but it requested a delay from a district court judge," says Lucy Norton, Iowa Corn Growers, Des Moines.

During this time, the EPA is considering the results of a new study conducted for the Council of Great Lakes Governors. The study confirms what ethanol supporters have always said—when it comes to cleaning up the nation's air, ethanol is as good as the oil industry's methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE).

The study showed that ethanol controls ozone pollution at the same rate as MTBE; there is no difference between a fuel blend containing 10% ethanol and a fuel blend containing 11% MTBE.

EPA estimates that demand for oxygenates will increase to more than 7.5 billion gallons annually by the year 2000.

"The optimism we have for the future is tempered with a recognition that the industry faces several significant marketplace, regulatory and legislative challenges," Bob Dinneen, Renewable Fuels Association, Washington, D.C., told participants at an Iowa ethanol industry conference. "The ethanol industry must be poised to respond to these challenges with an economic, environmental and energy agenda which can stimulate growth and expansion." ■