



## **NEWS RELEASE**

**DATE:** 4-21-2008

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **Greater Efficiency Defines Ethanol Industry During Past 5 Years; New Study Shows Ethanol Industry Improving Already Green Footprint**

KEARNEY, NE — April 21, 2008 – A just-released analysis by Argonne National Laboratory provides further evidence of the rapidly evolving nature of the American ethanol industry. According to Argonne, ethanol facilities are dramatically more efficient today than they were just five years ago.

According to KAAPA Ethanol General Manager Chuck Woodside, the Argonne analysis compares ethanol industry data from 2001 to 2006. In 2001, U.S. ethanol production was 1.77 billion gallons. In 2006, U.S. ethanol production grew to 4.9 billion gallons, an increase of 276%. During this period of production growth, the Argonne analysis shows significant improvement for ethanol's already green footprint. In the past five years, according to the analysis:

- Water consumption -- **down 26.6%**
- Grid electricity use -- **down 15.7%**
- Total energy use -- **down 21.8%**

“Argonne’s study underscores how far America’s ethanol industry has come in a few short years,” Woodside said. “With the construction of new, highly efficient biorefineries such as KAAPA Ethanol, we are today producing ethanol using far less energy and water. Combined with the increased productivity on the farm and the advances in

technology to convert wood chips and other cellulosic materials, ethanol production provides an important component in our efforts to reduce global warming emissions.”

The increased use of ethanol is also helping to reduce greenhouse gas emissions resulting from America’s automobile fleet, Woodside said. According to the GREET 1.7 model (the Greenhouse Gases, Regulated Emissions, and Energy Use in Transportation model developed by the Argonne Laboratory to evaluate various vehicle and fuel combinations on a full fuel-cycle basis), the production and use of 6.5 billion gallons of ethanol in 2007 resulted in the reduction of carbon dioxide and greenhouse gas emissions by 10 million tons, the equivalent of removing more than 1.5 million cars from American roads.

Importantly, the Argonne analysis also found two key trends in making ethanol more efficient and environmentally friendly. The analysis noted that:

- Nearly 25% of ethanol producers today are capturing their carbon dioxide emissions for use in dry ice production and carbonated beverage bottling.
- 37% of distillers grains – the high protein livestock feed co-product of ethanol production – are now sold in the wet form, reducing the energy needed to dry and transport the product.

“The improvements being made in ethanol production today signal the greener direction in which this industry is moving,” Woodside said. “The development and implementation of new technologies that improve efficiencies and expand the basket of feedstocks available for ethanol production is occurring rapidly, as the Argonne analysis indicates.”

*Founded in 2002 near Minden, NE, KAAPA Ethanol was one of the first ethanol projects in Nebraska, and is today the largest farmer-owned ethanol plant in the state, shipping more than 55 million gallons of product annually. KAAPA is committed to supporting farmers, growers and the environment through advancing agricultural innovation from a strong financial foundation, productive partnerships and scrupulous management of assets.*