

While many new ethanol plants are sprouting up, ESE Alcohol, Inc., based in Leoti, KS, has been in business since 1981, long before recent increased demand for ethanol for fuel made ethanol seem like a new industry. When ESE began operations, there were 39 ethanol plants in the USA. Their longevity in the industry means they have seen many trends and products introduced over the years, and have learned to judge what is valuable.

The plant fills a niche because it uses past date seed corn from major seed companies, including Monsanto, Pioneer and Syngenta. When these seed companies have overstocks of corn old enough that it can no longer provide reliably high germination rates, ESE uses it to make ethanol. To avoid concerns about using treated seed for animal feeds, the distiller's grain is used as a soil supplement. Producing around 1.5 million gallons

per year, ESE provides ethanol to customers in Kansas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming and Missouri.

Rob Carson, Director of Operations for ESE, has been there since the company was founded. He has 26 years experience in distilling. When he heard about BetaTec and the IsoStab™ product, he was interested. He's been using the product since May of 2006, and is impressed with the results.

IsoStab™ is designed to prevent bacterial infections in the distilling process and the decrease in ethanol yields that these infections can cause. Traditionally, antibiotics have been used to control bacteria in ethanol production. However, antibiotics can decrease yeast vitality and performance, which can mean lower than optimal alcohol production. Carson states that IsoStab™ works well with all facets of the plant and can be added, as needed, at various points in the distilling process.

**Rob Carson**



**"After 9 months of use, the change from antibiotics to IsoStab™ can be seen throughout the plant. We now know exactly how to get the right balance with IsoStab™" Carson said. "I think more people will use it as they compare the cost versus the resulting output of alcohol."**

The amounts used can be adjusted to fit specific needs. Very important to Carson, the IsoStab™ works to prevent new bacteria before it forms – always more efficient than trying to slow or kill existing bacteria. Additionally, bacteria doesn't become resistant to the IsoStab™, as is possible with antibiotics.

ESE sends samples of their product to labs to check for bacteria. Generally, the samples are frozen and shipped overnight to a lab where they are thawed and tested. Once, due to a shipping error, the sample was left in a warm warehouse for 3 days before arriving at the lab. "I told them to go ahead and test," said Carson. "What was amazing is, even in these conditions, there was no bacteria in the IsoStab™ treated sample." ■

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"When a company as experienced in distilling as ESE chose our product, we knew they would examine it thoroughly. We also knew we were up for the challenge," said Bill Popa of BetaTec.

