



Renewable energy industry showcased at 2007 Western Canada Farm Progress Show

For immediate release

(Regina, Saskatchewan) - The renewable energy industry will be front and centre at this year's Western Canada Farm Progress Show, June 20th to 22nd at IPSCO Place in Regina. Recognizing the importance of this dynamic and growing sector, the *Energy Centre* will profile the next generation of viable energy sources at "Canada's National Farm Show". This year, the show celebrates 30 years of leading the way in innovation, technology and education for local, provincial, national and international agricultural producers, buyers and sellers.

Through trade displays and educational seminars, the *Energy Centre* will highlight the positive impact that ethanol, bio-diesel, solar, geothermal and wind energy will have on agriculture practices. The application and use of carbon credits will also be covered. Not only is it important for producers to learn about the different forms of renewable energy, but it's also important for them to recognize and understand how their operations will be influenced by the opportunities that this growing industry creates.

"Renewable energy has become an issue that will affect the future of agriculture in Canada," says Rob O'Connor, Show Manager for Western Canada Farm Progress Show. "Besides being a source for solar and wind power, agricultural land will be used to grow and harvest the crops, which are essential for ethanol and bio-diesel energy production."

In western Canada, ethanol is produced by using wheat as the raw material; bio-diesel uses canola as the raw product; and wind is harnessed through turbines located on farmland. Some producers already use solar energy to run equipment such as electric fences or to heat their homes or shops.

Reg Gross, a local area producer with an extensive background in renewable energy sources, is the Volunteer Chair of the *Energy Centre* at this year's Western Canada Farm Progress Show. With more than 30 years experience in the agriculture sector, Mr. Gross played a key role in the Terra Grains Project, an ethanol plant in development for Belle Plaine, Saskatchewan. He was also instrumental in setting up the carbon credits trading system for producers.

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"This is an exciting time for agriculture. The renewable energy sector could be one of the fundamental things that help turn the industry around," says Mr. Gross. "It will enhance our products, making them more valuable and market-driven than ever before. When it comes to the renewable energy sector, there are many opportunities out there just waiting for producers."

Over 40,000 people from nearly 30 countries attend the Western Canada Farm Progress Show annually. It is widely recognized as "Canada's National Farm Show". Established in 1978, Western Canada Farm Progress Show is the largest dryland farm technology and equipment show in Canada featuring over 1.4 million square feet of exhibits from 700 major agriculture equipment manufacturers, shortline manufacturers and agricultural service sectors.

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