



Kortney Bredemeier, left, and Taylor Todd, right, talked while their Welsh Corgi dogs Maggie May and Daisy Duke visited during a dog obedience class Tuesday at the 4-H Building.

TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

# Corn price hogs up seminar

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — A soaring demand for corn used to produce ethanol has hog farmers bracing for higher feed prices that threaten to put some producers out of business.

The price of corn is expected to climb to \$4 a bushel, a level not seen in the last decade. The soaring price was the subject of a seminar Thursday at the Iowa Pork Congress, a two-day annual gathering for Midwest hog farmers.

Neil Dierks, chief executive officer of National Pork Producers Council in Des Moines, said the situation is so dire that some producers will opt to quit the business.

“Right now most hog farmers are in the break-even range,” he said.

Jerry Shurson, a professor who studies swine nutrition and management at the University of Minnesota, said the situation could ease as farmers rely more on an ethanol-production byproduct called distillers grains as animal feed.

Most farmers already feed their hogs between 10 percent to 20 percent of distillers grains along with conventional corn, Shurson said.

He said distillers’ energy value is equal to corn, but there may be concerns about them being high in fat and having lower amounts of protein.

Others are concerned that the price of distillers is also rising and

is comparable to the price of corn.

“Some people expect distillers grains to be cheap, because there’s more of them,” Dierks said. “But that’s not the case.”

John Bruellman, a hog farmer from Ottosen in north-central Iowa, said more studies are needed before hog farmers use higher percentages of distillers in their feed.

Bruellman said he had problems pumping out manure from hogs that ate feed containing distillers. He also said distillers were difficult to grind with other grains when making feed.

“I don’t like distillers. I did some trying with it, and had some bad experiences with it,” he said.

Bruellman said he has started relying heavily on corn he grows himself for feed and expects more hog farmers to do the same.

Still, Ryan Sauer, distillers manager for Iowa Falls-based

Hawkeye Renewables, said Iowa stands a good chance of doubling its distillers production this year, making the alternative feed source more available.

Sauer said his company and others are working with the ethanol industry to create quality standards and product consistency for distillers grains.

High feed prices may also lead to an increase at the meat counter, said Bruce Babcock, an economist at the Center for Agriculture and Rural Development at Iowa State University.

If the country is going to meet the ethanol industry’s corn needs, “we’re going to have to cut back on feed, cut back on food,” he said.

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On the Net:  
Iowa Pork Congress: <http://www.iowaporkcongress.org/>  
Iowa State University: <http://www.iastate.edu/>

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## Hospital names officers

By Jan Katz Ackerman  
Colby Free Press

Logan County Hospital board members on Wednesday conducted their annual organizational meeting and elected officers for 2007.

According to Darcy Draper, chief financial officer, board officers will remain the same as last year, with the exception of two changes.

John Moorhous attended his first board meeting, replacing Frank Munk who retired from the board. Warren Park has moved into the position of secretary. The other board members are Dr. Richard Offutt, will serve as chairman; Randy Sangster, vice chairman; Jim Robben Jr., treasurer; and members Johnny Daniels and Donita Sparks.

Draper said until the board hires a new administrator, Doris Reed, manager of New Frontiers Health Services, will serve as interim hospital administrator. Kyle Hahn resigned from that position in December to accept a position as lab director for the hospital in Ness City.

Having left laboratory technology to become administrator of Hoxie’s hospital, Hahn served as Logan County Hospital administrator in Oakley from February 2005 until last month.

Logan County Hospital board meetings are the third Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the conference room. The hospital is located at 211 Cherry St.

A special meeting has been scheduled for 7 p.m. Jan. 24 so the board can talk with Darlene Bainbridge, a consultant hired as part of a grant to assist with compliance issues. Bainbridge is paid \$1,200 monthly by the hospital for her services as part of a one-year contract which will end in September.

## NOTICE CO-AG Patrons:

Reminder of informational meetings regarding intent to merge between CO-AG & Frontier Equity. Meetings are scheduled for Monday, January 29th at 6:00 p.m. at the NWKESC, 703 W. 2nd in Oakley. Or on Wednesday, January 31st at 6:00 p.m. MST, at the Goodland Elks Lodge at 1523 Arcade.

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