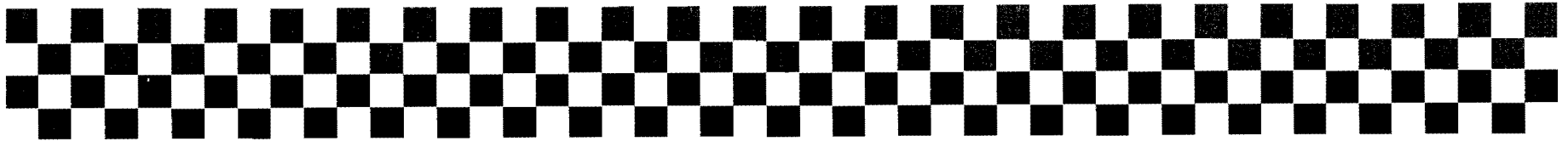


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Inhofe visits ethanol plant

By Christi Habrock
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United States Senator Jim Inhofe (R-OK) stopped in at Fuel Alternative Solutions Technology (FASTech) in Antlers, to visit with co-founder, David McDowell. FASTech is an environmental friendly business that integrates the distillation process of molasses into ethanol. The process of making ethanol with corn takes up to 21 days. McDowell FASTech's technique of distillation takes 3-

5 days, and is 199.97% proof. Inhofe is a strong believer, "You can't say you've been there, and seen it, if you truly haven't".

Both men are against human feed-use to produce ethanol. Using primary feed stock increases the occurrence of hunger. Just to fill up a SUV with ethanol, made from corn, equals enough food to feed one person for a year. Currently FASTech uses molasses to make ethanol. Blending, instead of sepa-

rating, water from the gas equals a greater quality and 'pipeline' time. Emissions from the automobile are 98% free using ethanol, gas is about 80%.

Emerging like an old picture back in time, the distillery looks like old moonshine equipment. As Inhofe strolls the production room, he speaks regarding the recent 'Bailout Plan'.

He opposed the plan stating, "The plan lacks details and I am not confident it

will do anything." "I am not convinced that the solution to our problems is to place the burden on taxpayers by imposing massive debt on them." By year 2012, 10% of American fuel must be ethanol based. In order to meet this demand, production must triple.

Innovative as it seems, The City of Antlers will be the first city in the United States to have their own ethanol vehicles and will sell the substance to distrib-

utors. This could enhance our roads and other needs.

FASTech and Inhofe are two peas in a pod. The Senator is very pro energy. FASTech makes energy quicker and 'greener'. Food vs. Fuel is the concern of both gentlemen; the great amount of corn needed to create feed-use ethanol is staggering. In the future, McDowell plans to produce a bio-fuel as a substitute for Diesel. The cost? A gallon of ethanol is about \$1.60 a gallon!

