

NEWS



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USDA UNDER SECRETARY THOMAS DORR AND CONGRESSMAN JERRY MORAN VISIT HOLCOMB STATION



The United States Department of Agriculture's Under Secretary for Rural Development, Thomas Dorr, and Congressman Jerry Moran, along with several other dignitaries paid a visit to Holcomb Station on August 23 to participate in the announcement of the Sunflower Integrated Bioenergy Center.

Accompanying Dorr and Moran were USDA State Director, Chuck Banks; Clay Blair, Chairman of the Kansas Bioscience Authority; and Kent Glasscock, the President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Institute for Strategic Technology Acquisition and Commercialization (NISTAC) at Kansas State University.

"We are honored to have Under Secretary Dorr and Congressman Jerry Moran here to tour our facilities and participate in the announcement of this new project we are launching this morning," said Earl Watkins, Sunflower's President and CEO. He added, "The Under Secretary's commitment to rural development is certainly reflected in his presence here today."

After listening to the bioenergy center presentation, Under Secretary Dorr said that he believed the project is a real vision and represents the kind of thinking that is required for rural America to be successful. Dorr said, "We must realize that we can't rely on just growing calories; opportunities also exist for producers to make many forms of energy in today's marketplace." He continued, "These opportunities are vitally important and must not be overlooked."



Following the presentation, Dorr and Moran toured Sunflower's Holcomb Station to get a close-up view of the machinery that keeps the lights on in western Kansas. After the Holcomb stop, Dorr and Moran were traveling to several other sites in the First District to see examples of what has been accomplished by the USDA in Kansas.

Commenting on Dorr's visit, Moran said, "The First District is one of the most rural districts in the country. Oftentimes, rural development means keeping a grocery store open in our small towns." He added, "I appreciate Under Secretary Dorr's active role and look forward to showing him around our great state."

About Sunflower—

Sunflower Electric Power Corporation is a regional wholesale power supplier that owns and operates a 595 MW system of gas and coal-based generating plants and a 1,200-mile transmission system for the needs of its six member cooperatives who serve 118,000 people spread throughout a 21,000 square mile area in western Kansas. Sunflower also provides power to regional utilities in western Kansas and in ten states. Visit Sunflower's website at <http://www.sunflower.net>

Sunflower's member cooperatives include Lane-Scott Electric Cooperative, Dighton, Pioneer Electric Cooperative, Ulysses, Prairie Land Electric Cooperative, Norton, Victory Electric Cooperative Association, Dodge City, Western Cooperative Electric Association, WaKeeney, and Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Scott City, Kansas.

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