

LYNN HICKS, Executive Business Editor,  
515-284-8290/e-mail: lhicks@dmreg.com

## ISU to vie for bioenergy institute

By ANNE FITZGERALD  
REGISTER AGRIBUSINESS WRITER

### Iowa State's partnership makes the BP project's short list

Iowa State University has made the short list of universities invited to vie for a \$500 million bioenergy institute to be created by oil company BP, university officials said Thursday. ISU is partnering with the University of California-San Diego and the J. Craig Venter Institute of Rockville, Md., in its pursuit of the Energy

Biosciences Institute, which BP plans to build next to a university. Although the institute would be located in San Diego, the lead institution, ISU officials hailed the news. "It's a very big deal because it plays into our strengths here at Iowa State," said John Brighton, ISU vice president for research

and economic development. He called it "just a huge opportunity to add to our reputation as a university and as a state, to build the economy." BP, one of the world's largest oil companies, announced in June that it planned to dedicate \$50 million per year for 10 years to

the project. Jim Breson, an ISU graduate who is general manager of BP's project, said the facility would be a "bricks and mortar" facility next to a university. Breson delivered a keynote address at ISU's annual bioeconomy conference in August, during his second visit to the Ames

campus to learn more about the university's capabilities. BP had said it would invite several universities this fall to submit proposals to the company for the project, and the company officially notified institutions this week, ISU officials said. Those invited include three

U.S. universities and their partners, as well as two in the United Kingdom, where BP is based. In addition to the San Diego and Iowa State partnership, these schools were invited to submit proposals for the project: Massachusetts Institute of Technology, partnering with Purdue University.

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## Johanns: Lower trade barriers to whip poverty

### SCENES FROM THE WORLD FOOD PRIZE

By JERRY PERKINS  
REGISTER FARM EDITOR

Lowering world trade barriers can help whip world hunger and poverty, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Mike Johanns said Thursday.

Speaking at the 20th anniversary international symposium of the World Food Prize at the Downtown Marriott Hotel, Johanns said that currently stalled global trade talks should be restarted.

Lowering trade barriers would inject billions of dollars of economic activity into poor and developing countries and lift millions of people out of poverty, he said.

"I believe we have a once in a lifetime opportunity to lift people out of poverty," said Johanns, who grew up on a dairy farm near Osage. "Trade is an engine of economic growth. Half of the benefits from lowering trade barriers in the world would be realized by poor countries, he said, and the economic gains will boost the incomes of millions of poor people.

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RODNEY WHITE/REGISTER PHOTOS

**PRE-OPENING CHAT:** Dr. Norman E. Borlaug, left, and John Ruan III, chairman and chief executive officer of Ruan Transportation Management Systems, speak before the opening of the World Food Prize International Symposium Thursday morning at the Downtown Marriott Hotel in Des Moines.

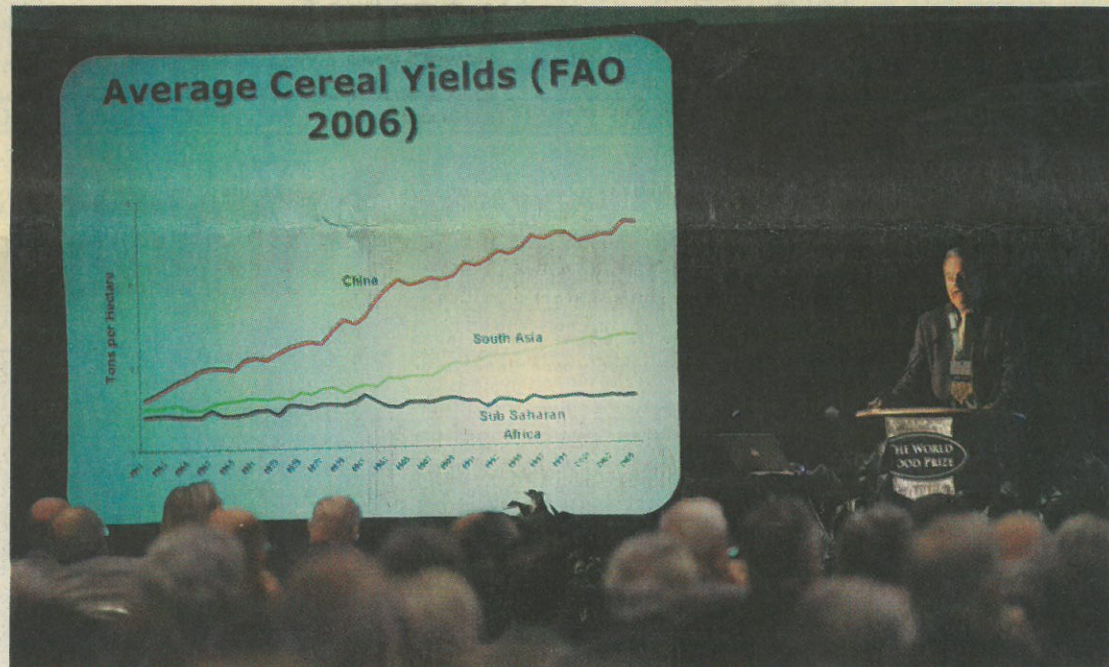


**THE LAUREATES:** World Food Prize laureates, from left, Edson Lobato, H.E. Alysson Paolinelli and Dr. A. Colin McClung, were in attendance at the 20th anniversary international symposium Thursday. The World Trade Organization's most recent effort to cut trade-distorting practices in international commerce, called the Doha Round, was stalled last summer, and U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Mike Johanns wants it restarted.



**TO BEGIN:** Kenneth Quinn, president of the World Food Prize, opens the symposium Thursday. Hunger and poverty can be substantially cut, noted speaker Josette Sheeran, undersecretary of state for economic, business and agricultural affairs.

**OPENING SPEAKER:** At right, Sir Gordon Conway, United Kingdom Chief Scientific Adviser, is the symposium's first speaker. U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Mike Johanns, who grew up on a dairy farm near Osage, also spoke at the event and said lowering trade barriers could boost economies in poor and developing countries: "I believe we have a once in lifetime opportunity to lift people out of poverty."



**JOSETTE SHEERAN:** "There must be something in the water in Iowa. Iowa should be very proud that it is ground zero in the fight against hunger."

## Four selected for Business Hall of Fame



Also, Michael Helak will take over as chairman of Greater D.M. Committee.

By PATT JOHNSON  
REGISTER BUSINESS WRITER

Roland and Mary Nelson, founders of Kemin Industries; Russell Gerdin, founder of trucking company Heartland Express; and Des Moines attorney Steven Zumbach will be inducted into the Iowa Business Hall of Fame on Dec. 7. The Greater Des Moines Committee created the Busi-

ness Hall of Fame in 1975 to honor Iowans who have made outstanding contributions to the state's business climate. This year's four inductees will be honored at the annual Black Tie Dinner in December.

Also at the dinner, which is by invitation only, Michael Helak of US Bank will take over as chairman of the Greater Des Moines Committee from C. Arthur Wittmack of Neumann Brothers. The Nelsons created Kemin Industries in 1961 in Des Moines. Kemin is a worldwide

maker of animal and human nutritional products. The couple serve on several local and national organizations and were key in establishing the Center for Global Citizenship at Drake University.

Hall of Fame inductee Gerdin started his trucking company in Coralville 28 years ago with four employees and 16 trucks. In 1986, the company was listed on the Nasdaq market and now posts annual revenues of more than \$450 million.

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## September unemployment rate drops to 3.4%, lowest since May

By WILLIAM RYBERG  
REGISTER BUSINESS WRITER

Iowa's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 3.4 percent in September, the lowest since May, as Iowa manufacturing continued its comeback. Manufacturing employment is the highest since October 2001, Iowa Workforce Development reported Thursday. Construction employment reached a record of 77,200 jobs in September. "Iowa's economy is expected

to continue at a moderate pace," said David Neil, the agency's interim director. The number of working Iowans reached a record of 1,644,100 in September. Workforce Development said the total is up 21,000 from August and up 54,600 from September 2005. Elaine Ditsler of the Iowa Policy Project, a Mount Vernon research group, said September job growth was "amazing." See JOBLESS, Page 2D