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**Didion Milling Considering Ethanol Plant Near Cambria**  
Wisconsin Ag Connection - 04/28/2006

A company that tried unsuccessfully to build an ethanol plant near Cambria three years ago appears to be giving the effort another try. Didion Milling is proposing to build a 40 million gallon production facility in the Columbia County town of Courtland, which would be constructed adjacent to the company's milling plant south of Cambria.

This is the company's second attempt at the project. In April 2003, area voters rejected a similar proposal during a special referendum after Didion planned on building a plant that would purchase over 14 million bushels of corn per year to produce about 40 million gallons of ethanol--plus 128,000 tons of dried distillers grains to be sold as livestock feed and carbon dioxide.

As *Wisconsin Ag Connection* reported at that time, supporters of the plant say they faced strong opposition from the environmental group STOP, or 'Stop the Ethanol Plant Now,' which was also successful in defeating another project in Algoma. The issue brought on a lot of attention because area farmers staged a protest prior to the vote by driving their tractors and trucks in the village to rally support.

But Didion's Operational Manager Dale Drachenberg told *Wisconsin Ag Connection* that his firm is more optimistic this time around.

"We feel that this new ethanol plant is a good thing for the entire local economy, not just agriculture," Drachenberg said. "Our hope is that the citizens of our area will be more accepting this time, especially with some of the other successful ethanol operations that have been added to our state since then."

Didion is currently in the process of submitting applications for rezoning and a conditional use permit for the site. The company is hoping to begin operations by 2007.

A public information meeting on the proposal has been scheduled for May 23 in Portage.

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