

November 25, 2013



Pacific Ethanol Continues to Diversify Feedstock by Purchasing Additional Sugar

SACRAMENTO, Calif., Nov. 25, 2013 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) --**Pacific Ethanol, Inc.** (Nasdaq:PEIX), the leading marketer and producer of low-carbon renewable fuels in the Western United States, secured 103 million pounds of additional beet sugar in a second agreement with the Commodity Credit Corporation, a division of the USDA.

Combined with the company's October purchase, the total 270 million pounds of sugar represents feedstock to produce approximately 20 million gallons of ethanol. Both purchases have been priced at a substantial discount to current and expected costs of a comparable amount of delivered corn.

Neil Koehler, the company's president and CEO, stated, "We are pleased to have finalized a second agreement with the USDA to purchase sugar for biofuel production. This transaction is consistent with our goals of diversifying our feedstock, lowering production costs and producing low-carbon ethanol. This week we began blending sugar with corn at our Magic Valley facility and plan to expand this program to both our Columbia and Stockton facilities over the next two months."

About Pacific Ethanol, Inc.

Pacific Ethanol, Inc. (Nasdaq:PEIX) is the leading marketer and producer of low-carbon renewable fuels in the Western United States. Pacific Ethanol also sells co-products, including wet distillers grain ("WDG"), a nutritious animal feed. Serving integrated oil companies and gasoline marketers who blend ethanol into gasoline, Pacific Ethanol provides transportation, storage and delivery of ethanol through third-party service providers in the Western United States, primarily in California, Arizona, Nevada, Utah, Oregon, Colorado, Idaho and Washington. Pacific Ethanol has an 85% ownership interest in New PE Holdco LLC, the owner of four ethanol production facilities. Pacific Ethanol operates and manages the four ethanol production facilities, which have a combined annual production capacity of 200 million gallons. The facilities in operation are located in Boardman, Oregon, Burley, Idaho and Stockton, California, and one idled facility is located in Madera, California. The facilities are near their respective fuel and feed customers, offering significant timing, transportation cost and logistical advantages. Pacific Ethanol's subsidiary, Kinergy Marketing LLC, markets ethanol from Pacific Ethanol's managed plants and from other third-party production facilities, and another subsidiary, Pacific Ag. Products, LLC, markets WDG. For more information please visit www.pacificethanol.net.

Safe Harbor Statement under the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995

With the exception of historical information, the matters discussed in this press release including, without limitation, the ability of Pacific Ethanol to continue as the leading marketer

and producer of low-carbon renewable fuels in the Western United States; Pacific Ethanol's anticipated ethanol yields from the purchased sugar; the effects of the purchased sugar on feedstock and production costs; and the timing of blending sugar with corn at Pacific Ethanol's production facilities are forward-looking statements and considerations that involve a number of risks and uncertainties. The actual future results of Pacific Ethanol could differ from those statements. Factors that could cause or contribute to such differences include, but are not limited to, adverse economic and market conditions; changes in governmental regulations and policies; and other events, factors and risks previously and from time to time disclosed in Pacific Ethanol's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission including, specifically, those factors set forth in the "Risk Factors" section contained in Pacific Ethanol's Form 10-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on April 1, 2013.

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