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**Dallas Tonsager, USDA Under Secretary for Rural Development, to Keynote
ACE's National Ethanol Conference Set for August 11-13 in Milwaukee**

Sioux Falls, SD (July 20, 2009) – The American Coalition for Ethanol (ACE), the nation's largest ethanol advocacy association, is pleased to announce that Dallas Tonsager, Under Secretary for Rural Development at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, will give a keynote address at the organization's national ethanol conference set for next month in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

ACE's 22nd Annual Ethanol Conference & Trade Show will be held August 11-13 at Milwaukee's Midwest Airlines Center. Registration is now open online at www.ethanol.org.

As Under Secretary for Rural Development at USDA, Tonsager oversees programs that provide financial assistance to America's ethanol producers and will be a key participant in the new Biofuels Interagency Working Group recently announced by President Obama.

"We are grateful and honored that Under Secretary Tonsager will be addressing our conference, providing America's ethanol producers and supporters a chance to hear a timely update from the top official at USDA responsible for ethanol and rural development programs," said Brian Jennings, Executive Vice President of ACE.

Prior to joining USDA, Tonsager was appointed to serve on the board of directors for the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation and the Farm Credit Administration by President Bush. In 1993, then-President Clinton selected Tonsager to serve as USDA South Dakota's state director for Rural Development where he oversaw a diversified portfolio of housing, business, and infrastructure loans in South Dakota totaling more than \$100 million. In 1999, he was recognized as one of two outstanding state directors. Tonsager has also served as executive director of the South Dakota Value-Added Agriculture Development Center, president of the South Dakota Farmers Union, and on the board of National Farmers Union Insurance.

The American Coalition for Ethanol is proud to host an annual conference that highlights the most important and progressive topics within the U.S. ethanol industry, all at a reasonable price for attendees. ACE members can attend the conference for as little as \$179; ethanol producers registering 2 or more people receive a rate of \$79 per person. Register online today at www.ethanol.org.

The ACE Conference agenda includes a full slate of timely topics, including:

- Collecting, handling, and biorefining next-generation feedstocks
- Tracking and trading Renewable Identification Numbers (RINs)
- Theory vs. science, the role of biofuels in low-carbon policies and indirect emissions
- More mileage with ethanol?
- A cellulosic ethanol progress report
- How Brazil has made mid-level blends work

Tonsager will speak on Wednesday afternoon, August 12. View the full agenda [here](#).

"ACE is proud to bring ethanol supporters an affordable and conveniently located conference with a program second to none," Jennings added. "Anyone with an interest in ethanol and what it means for America's economy, environment, and energy security should consider attending."

Media wishing to attend the event should contact Kristin Brekke at kbrekke@ethanol.org to arrange credentials for their complimentary registration.

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The American Coalition for Ethanol (ACE) is the grassroots voice of the U.S. ethanol industry, a national trade association for the ethanol industry with more than 1,500 members nationwide, including farmers, ethanol producers, commodity organizations, businesses supplying goods and services to the ethanol industry, rural electric cooperatives, and individuals supportive of increased production and use of ethanol. For more information about ethanol or ACE, visit www.ethanol.org or call (605) 334-3381.