Plant To Make Alcohol From Three Area Crops

Another new industry moves into Lafayette physically next week when construction starts on a $125,000 plant for the manufacture of ethyl alcohol from three of Southwest Louisiana's leading products: sweet potatoes, sugar and rice.

The firm, Acme Alcohol Products company of Louisiana, will do an estimated $12,000 weekly business, and will have a $524 weekly payroll on its plant operations in Lafayette alone. The firm's incorporators are highly optimistic over their venture, and they have the supporting opinion of Dr. Julian C. Miller, head of horticultural research at Louisiana State University. Stating that "I know of no other location in the South better than Lafayette" for the venture, Dr. Miller listed his reasons for recommending the Hub City for such a plant: three major sources of carbohydrates (sweet potatoes, cracked rice and black strap molasses), natural gas, cheap transportation and free Vermilion river water.

Moreover, said the horticulturist, the purchase of culls and off-grade sweet potatoes can supply the plant with that material the year round, and yams will be the principal food of the plant's machinery. The company will use approximately 20,000 tons of sweet potatoes annually to produce 730,000 tons of ethyl alcohol. Running on a 24-hour day, seven days a week, the plant will use 434 tons of sweet potatoes a day in the production of the much-sought-after alcohol, now used in many phases of industry. The government is the largest single consumer of the alcohol, and is presently purchasing it in great quantity as fuel for jet planes.

The firm was incorporated in Lafayette for the amount of $275,000. Hilman J. Boudreaux of Opelousas is president, P. R. Langlines of Lafayette, vice-president, and Ralph W. Landry of Lafayette, secretary-treasurer. The other incorporators are May Lacour of Lake Arthur, G. L. Larrievier of Rayne and Angus M. Comeaux of Maurice.

The four-acre plant should be in operation in five or six months, the

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