

## Lake Benton Valley Journal

### Minnesota Renewable Energy "Expedition" . . .

Arctic explorer Will Steger visited the windtower at the Jim Nichols farm on Monday as part of his Minnesota tour, which focused on raising awareness about the need to combat global warming by using energy sources including ethanol, wind power, biodiesel and methane digesters. The



tour also included stops at the ethanol plant in Luverne, the MinWind biodiesel peaking plant, and a methane digester at Northern Plains Dairy near St. Peter. Steger stated that his goal is to raise awareness and educate people about the need for renewable energy and energy conservation. Shown above at the base of the windtower are (l-r) Gary Wertish from Senator Mark Dayton's office, Steger, Rep. Aaron Peterson, Nichols, and Senator Gary Kubly.

Below, Nichols shows some of the technology and computer wizardry that goes into maintaining a windtower.



Nichols spoke about the safety, cost-efficiency, and reliability of wind power, calling it the "best source of electricity, at low or high wind speeds." Nichols also talked with Steger and the Congressmen about the problems associated with the current tax breaks available to windtower owners.

Photos by Tom Holmlund