

The US feedstock industry will gain momentum with the launch of a cornfeedstock production unit and a transparent supply chain

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Qore, a joint venture of Minnesota-based Cargill and Germany-based HELM, is officially starting production of QIRA®, the world's first large-scale 1,4-butanediol (BDO) made from locally grown dent corn. QIRA is derived from annually renewable crops and serves as an impactful alternative to a fossil-derived equivalent used in the manufacture of consumer goods.

A grand opening event, scheduled for July 22, 2025, will celebrate the completion of the \$300-million facility and the official start of QIRA production. The event will include elected officials, Iowa farmers, interactive exhibits, and a panel discussion with company employees, executives, and QIRA customers.

The new facility is set to produce 66,000 metric tons of QIRA, using corn grown primarily within 100 miles of the site
As the world's largest facility of its kind, it marks a major step forward in meeting global demand for more sustainable materials in everyday consumer products.

“Qore is able to leverage the deep agricultural network and world-class fermentation technology expertise from Cargill and HELM’s global market reach to bring QIRA to life,” said Jon Veldhouse, CEO of Qore. “By providing a reliable, renewable, and transparent feedstock, QIRA helps global manufacturers and brands implement identical materials that reduce reliance on overseas supply chains, bringing more transparency to their product portfolios.”

At the heart of the environmental benefits are Iowa farmers who apply regenerative agriculture practices for growing dent corn. These practices are a holistic and inclusive approach to land management, meant to restore soil and ecosystem health. The proximity of the feedstock enables greater traceability and transparency throughout the supply chain.

Versatile Applications for a Range of Industries

QIRA® is an identical replacement for fossil-derived BDO, is revolutionizing multiple industries by seamlessly integrating into manufacturing processes. In fashion-based plastics derived from petroleum and coal, offering a more eco-friendly solution. This versatile innovation is paving the way for a more sustainable future across diverse sectors.

"By offering a bio-based alternative to fossil-based feedstock, we are empowering brands to reduce their environmental impact and respond to consumer demands for transparency, more sustainable, high-performing products," said Steve Kuiper, a fourth-generation Iowa farmer. "Our community is proud to play a vital role in making everyday products more sustainable."