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Iowa Stars in “King Corn” Sequel

Iowa gets top billing in a new documentary film that will soon make its public state debut in Des Moines. The film, "Big River," tracks the trail of fertilizers and chemicals used to produce a single acre of corn. It examines how farm run-off travels through waterways to eventually reach the Gulf of Mexico, where that pollution causes an aquatic dead zone.

Filmmaker Curt Ellis says they're not pointing fingers at farmers, just trying to highlight how important it is to scrutinize the safety of farm chemicals and help agricultural producers find ways to minimize ecological impacts.

"Farmers are in a tough spot. They're asked by the government, and by the economy, and by consumers to produce as much food as possible, and that means that much of agriculture has become a chemical operation," said Woolf.

The federal government recently announced that more than \$300 million will be available to help reduce fertilizer run-off in the Mississippi River Basin. Mike Delaney, president of the *Raccoon River Watershed Association*, says that means millions of dollars will be coming to Iowa to be used in the Boone, Cedar, Maquoketa and Raccoon River watersheds.

"Money will go out to purposes such as buffer strips, wetlands construction, grassy waterways, planting trees, and no-till plowing," said Delaney.

"Big River" is a sequel to the documentary "King Corn," which won several awards. There's a screening at Fleur Cinema in Des Moines at 6 p.m. on January 7.

The filmmakers will be at the screening, which is open to the public. Tickets and more information are available at www.iaenvironment.org or by calling 515-244-1194, ext 202.

"Big River" Screening at Fleur Cinema in Des Moines
Thursday, January 7, 2010
Reception and food at 6 p.m., film at 7 p.m.
After the film: discussion with filmmaker Aaron Woolf

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