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SORGHUM E-Notes

NATIONAL SORGHUM PRODUCERS Ensuring Sorghum's Profitability

July 17, 2008

Can Sorghum Save Us?

ABC News highlighted sorghum on the Evening News this week bringing attention to sweet sorghum used for ethanol. ABC interviewed Bill Rooney of Texas A&M University and referenced the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics. To view the video go to <http://abcnews.go.com/search?searchtext=sorghum&type=> and click on the video "Can Sorghum Save Us?"

Clifford D. May: OPEC Lies

Clifford D. May wrote an insightful editorial in National Review this week about the real cause of rising oil prices. He argues that removing ethanol from fuel and replacing it with more oil would actually increase fuel prices, not lower them. Mr. May made an interesting statement about Chakib Kheilil, president of Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries who seems to put part of the blame on farmers. "Perhaps Kheilil believes that he can get away with blaming the global energy crisis on farmers because so much of the media embraced the earlier slander that ethanol production is causing hunger. In fact, of course, it's the other way around: Rising oil prices have contributed to higher food prices because oil is used to cultivate crops, to fertilize crops, to transport crops, and to process agricultural products." Read the article at: <http://article.nationalreview.com/?q=N2NjNDQ4MmQwYWRmZDEyZmRhODBmODE3NDViZDg2MzA=&w=MA==>

Industry Leaders Write President Bush Urging Him to Keep Ethanol Tariff

Due to the rising cost of food Congress is looking to repeal the 54 cent tariff placed on imported ethanol. U.S. farmer, commodity and ethanol leaders wrote to President Bush, calling his attention to the importance of a growing ethanol industry to the nation's energy, economic, and environmental security.

National Sorghum Producers, The American Coalition for Ethanol, Ethanol Producers and Consumers, National Association of Wheat Growers, National Corn Growers Association, National Farmers Union, National Sorghum Producers, and the Renewable Fuels Association pointed to factors such as oil prices, rising demand, drought, and declining value of the dollar as having more effect on the price of food than biofuels.

Ethanol is revitalizing rural communities, reducing our dependence on foreign oil and lowering the price at the pump. America's farmers have the ability to provide a safe and abundant food supply while, at the same time, playing a vital role in becoming an energy independent nation.

New Addition to the NSP Staff

This week, the National Sorghum Producers added Marie Hefley to their staff as a part-time intern. She will be helping with communications, specifically the publication of Sorghum Notes and Sorghum Grower magazine and updating the new website. She is a third-year Animal Science major at Texas Tech University and has also studied agriculture communications. She grew up on a ranch in the Northern Texas Panhandle.

Hutchison Secures Sorghum Research Funding

U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-TX secured \$149,000 in the Fiscal Year 2009 Ag Appropriations bill for next-generation advanced biofuel production research at Baylor University. The bill is now ready for consideration by the full Senate. Baylor University and Texas A&M University researchers will study how to maximize the use of sorghum for the production of advanced cellulosic biofuel. "Funding for alternative and renewable energy sources will keep Texas at the forefront of our nation's energy independence efforts and ensure the long term strength of our economy," Hutchison said.

Verenium Receives Financial Award for Cellulose Ethanol Development

Verenium has received an unspecified award for small-scale cellulosic ethanol development from the U.S. DOE. Verenium will utilize the funds to support ongoing activities at its 1.4 million-gpy demonstration-scale facility in Jennings, Louisiana. While the exact amount of the award is subject to negotiations, the U.S. DOE indicates that total funding under this round is capped at \$40 million US. Only one other firm, Flambeau Biofuels, has been identified as a recipient under this final round. This award to Verenium follows earlier U.S. DOE funding under a \$33 million US program to support the development of biofuels enzyme development at the company's Louisiana facility.

From: epOverviews Daily Report, Bioenergy and Biofuels, Thursday, July 17, 2008

50 Percent of Crop Rated Good to Excellent

The nation's sorghum acreage was 28 percent headed, 13 percent behind last year and three percent behind the five-year average. One-fifth of the acreage was coloring by week's end, eight percent behind last year but the same as normal. Sorghum was heading in most states. Rapid development occurred in Arkansas where 20 percent of the crop reached the heading stage during the week. Half of the crop was coloring in Texas, 21 percent behind last year's rapid pace, but the same as the five-year average. Fifty percent of the sorghum crop was rated in good to excellent condition, one percent less than the previous week.

From: <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/current/WWNatSumm/WWNatSumm-07-15-2008>

About Sorghum Notes

SORGHUM Notes is a publication of the National Sorghum Producers. NSP represents U.S. sorghum producers and works to ensure the profitability of sorghum production through market development, research, education and legislative representation. Visit our website at www.sorghumgrowers.com. Write to us at National Sorghum Producers, 4201 N Interstate 27, Lubbock, TX 79403. To unsubscribe to Sorghum Notes, please reply to hannah@sorghumgrowers.com. Copy and paste "Unsubscribe to Sorghum Notes" into the subject line.

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Quote of the Week:

"It is good to have money and the things that money can buy, but it's good, too, to check up once in a while and make sure you haven't lost the things that money can't buy."

- **George Horace Lorimer**

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