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## **SORGHUM E-Notes**

### **NATIONAL SORGHUM PRODUCERS Ensuring Sorghum's Profitability**

June 19, 2008

### **Mendel Biotechnology and MMR Genetics Announce Sorghum Biofuels Collaboration**

MMR Genetics, Richardson Seeds, and Mendel announced a collaborative agreement to jointly research, develop and breed new cultivars for the emerging second-generation biofuels market. MMR Genetics and Mendel will jointly establish a bioenergy nursery, which will be used to breed new, high-performing sorghum cultivars with unique biofuels characteristics. Richardson Seeds will produce commercial quantities of selected cultivars. See more information at <http://www.mendelbio.com/news/#aa>.

### **ICM, Inc. Guarantees Food AND Fuel Production in 2010**

ICM, Inc. this week announced that ethanol biorefineries investing in the company's new, proprietary and innovative technology before the end of this year, will be capable of commercially producing both food and fuel in 2010. The announcement was made during ICM's customer meeting at the annual Fuel Ethanol Workshop (FEW) in Nashville, Tenn.

"We are talking about the 'ethanol biorefinery of the future'...and very near future at that," said Dave Vander Griend, founder, president and CEO. "Fifty years ago, the U.S. fed the world. We will be able to do that again with a food supply brought about by the evolution of ethanol production."

Since the company's founding, ICM's mission has been to sustain agriculture through innovation. Recently, the company's mission expanded to researching ways to deliver much-needed protein to the world, by way of ethanol processing. ICM recognized this changing outlook and is delivering on its mission by developing technology to create "new renewables" that can be built upon the existing ethanol biorefinery – the key facilitator of the new technology is a process called dry fractionation.

### **NSP Works to Ensure Objective Grading**

Based upon concerns from the U.S. sorghum trade, NSP staff; Kansas Grain and Feed; and the grain trade met with the Federal Grain Inspection Service to discuss sorghum inspections at the Gulf. NSP will continue to work on behalf of the industry to ensure objective grading and a reliable trade in our export markets.

### **Insurance Questions Regarding Late-Planted Sorghum**

We have received some questions regarding the planting of late-planted sorghum and how it will impact insurance coverage. The first concern has been the very dry conditions and if drought can be used as a claim for prevented planting. Drought is a valid cause of loss but the following quote is from the Basic Crop Provisions that govern RMA policies: "(Failure to plant when other producers in the area were planting will result in the denial of the prevented planting claim)." As you can see, the actions of others will determine the treatment of prevented planting claims. Also, prevented planting payments are 60% of your final guarantee. For example, if you have a policy with an APH of 40 bu/ac and have 60% coverage, your final guarantee is 24 bu/ac (40 bu/ac x 60%). Your prevented planting payment would then be based on 14 bu/ac [24 bu/ac x 60% (rounded down)].

If sorghum is planted in dry dirt and it receives no rain for germination, then adjusters would be able to look at the crop 8 days after the end of the late planting period. The late planting period for sorghum is 25 days after the applicable final plant date for the county. So if the sorghum does not emerge 33 days after the final plant date for the county, then an adjuster can look at the sorghum. Please be aware, however, that adjusters can no longer use the "frost free days" rule to adjust sorghum. If the sorghum is green and growing, but very late and it is the middle of September, the adjuster cannot release the crop using the argument that the sorghum will not reach maturity before the normal first frost date for the location.

Prevented planting claims for extremely wet conditions are an easier adjustment since the area can more easily be defined and planting is probably not happening in the whole area. Again, the actions of your neighbors can also affect this if you are up against the late planting deadline for your county and some neighbors are planting. In this case, if you can plant, you should be planting.

If you have more questions, please contact the sorghum office and ask to speak with Chris or visit with your insurance agent.

## **NSP welcomes Scoular and Levelland/Hockley County Ethanol, LLC**

Sorghum growers who sell their grain to the Scoular facility in Coolidge, Kansas or to Levelland/Hockley County Ethanol, LLC in Levelland, Texas are now bonafide members of NSP and are now eligible to enter NSP's yield and management contest and receive NSP's Sorghum Grower and Sorghum Notes publications. The two organizations join the more than 150 locations across the Sorghum Belt which participate in the e-member program to fund NSP's legislative and regulatory work. The .0028 cents/bushel or .005/cwt will be set apart from the national checkoff that begins July 1. Checkoff funds will be used strictly for research, education and promotion so that growers that can make production gains in the field and at market. E-member dues fund a different priority: ensuring that sorghum growers are represented in the Halls of Congress and with federal agencies. Both the checkoff and e-membership programs are important as sorghum producers invest in taking sorghum to the next level. NSP appreciates Scoular location manager Will Bramblett and Levelland/Hockley County Ethanol, LLC General Manager Sam Sacco and Assistant Manager Nick Williams who represent the first ethanol plant to participate in the program. In addition, Levelland/Hockley County Ethanol, LLC also joined NSP as industry partners. To learn more about the e-member and industry partner programs, contact Christi Stulp at (719) 699-4521 or e-mail her at [christi@sorghumgrowers.com](mailto:christi@sorghumgrowers.com). We appreciate the partnering support of both of these organizations and look forward to working closely with them to ensure sorghum's profitability.

## **Still Time to Plant Sorghum**

As the floodwaters recede, there is still plenty of time and plenty of seed available to plant sorghum. In the central plains as wheat is harvested, there is plenty of time and plenty of seed available to double crop sorghum. In the western areas where wind and hail have destroyed other crops, there is still plenty of time and plenty of seed available to plant sorghum.

## **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](http://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](mailto:hannah@sorghumgrowers.com). Copy and paste "Unsubscribe to Sorghum Notes" into the subject line.

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**Quote of the week:**

Excellence is not a skill. It is an attitude.

-- *Ralph Marston*

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