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SORGHUM E-Notes

NATIONAL SORGHUM PRODUCERS Ensuring Sorghum's Profitability

March 13, 2008

Senate and House Pass Another Farm Bill Extension

As sorghum grows steadily in the southern U.S., farm bill negotiators in Washington, D.C. passed yet another extension to the 2002 Farm Bill on Wednesday, preventing U.S. farmers from reverting to operation under antiquated "permanent law" which dates back to the 1930's and 40's. The previous extension would have expired on Saturday, March 15th. The new extension will take over and last until April 18th.

Rumors abound in farm policy circles. House Ways & Means Committee Chairman Charles Rangel has been ill, preventing the Ways & Means Committee from making important budget decisions. Meanwhile, concerns have surfaced that conferees are not being consulted in negotiations and that budget decisions may include significant cuts in crop insurance funding and perhaps large cuts to Commodity Title spending.

Senate Agriculture Committee Chair Tom Harkin was optimistic about completing a bill by the new deadline. "Although a new bill is within reach, Congress needs more time to reach agreement and obtain the necessary cooperation from the White House," he said. "There is still a considerable amount of work ahead before we can pass a bill: obtaining the needed funding for the bill and fitting all of the demands within the funding we expect to be available."

Though the new extension appears to give Congress a month to complete the farm bill, only 11 of those days are "working days" when Congress will take votes. On three of those days votes do not begin until 6:30 in the evening.

Some parties have suggested passing a package agreed upon by the House and Senate then voting to override a presidential veto, should the President veto the bill.

Advanta India Limited Acquires GARRISON & TOWNSEND, LP

Advanta India Limited has announced the acquisition of GARRISON & TOWNSEND, LP of Hereford, Texas. Advanta is an India-based global seed company that combines the benefits of agricultural biotechnology with proprietary crop genetics and excellent breeding capabilities to offer world class, high quality seed products and solutions to farmers worldwide. GARRISON & TOWNSEND is a hybrid grain and forage sorghum company combining research, production, conditioning, and sales operations. The company markets its products through various private label brands.

Advanta and GARRISON & TOWNSEND have cooperated closely on sorghum research for many years. The acquisition bolsters Advanta's already significant presence in worldwide sorghum by granting it access to U.S. and Mexican markets and providing a U.S. production base. GARRISON & TOWNSEND's strengths in sorghum will be enhanced with the addition of Advanta's diverse sorghum portfolio in global markets.

Dow AgroSciences Acquires Triumph Seed

Dow AgroSciences has acquired Triumph Seed of Ralls, Texas. Dow AgroSciences is a wholly owned subsidiary of The Dow Chemical Company. Triumph Seed began its seed business in 1965. Today, Triumph markets sorghum, sunflowers and corn across the U.S. and in approximately 25 countries.

The agreement includes all commercial, production, research and development assets of the business. Noble Koepp, president and owner of Triumph Seed, will continue to work with the business in a number of leadership and strategic planning activities. Dow AgroSciences will continue to market Triumph seed under the Triumph brand to complement the company's current Mycogen Seeds business. Along with the acquisition, Dow AgroSciences has named John Monko as general manager of Triumph Seed. Monko most recently served as District Sales Manager based in North Carolina, and has worked for Dow AgroSciences for more than 28 years. Monko assumes the leadership role of Triumph effective immediately and will be relocating to Texas.

"The people of Triumph welcome John in this new leadership transition," said Koepp. "Our desire is that this will be a functional, seamless process allowing us to focus on the future of brand development, relationship building and product performance. This will continue to remain as our goal."

\$1,500,483 US for Sorghum Ethanol project in Florida

Renergie Inc. is receiving a \$1,500,483 US grant to design and build Florida's first sweet sorghum juice mechanical harvesting system and ethanol plant capable of producing fuel-grade ethanol solely from sweet sorghum juice. Renergie was originally formed for the purpose of raising capital to develop, construct, own and operate 5 mgpy ethanol plants in the parishes of Louisiana which were devastated by hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Upon completion of the initial network of ten ethanol plants, Renergie will have an annual production capacity of 50 million gallons. (Source: ep Overviews; Press Release, Mar. 6, '08)

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:

Don't worry about people stealing an idea. If it's original, you will have to ram it down their throats. --Howard Aiken

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