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SORGHUM E-Notes

November 26, 2008

NATIONAL SORGHUM PRODUCERS:
the voice of the sorghum industry

Special Pre-Thanksgiving Edition

EPA Regulates Carbon Dioxide

In a landmark action, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has ruled that all new and proposed coal-fired power plants will be subject to carbon dioxide emission regulations. The ruling could also include other energy production. This action is the result of an investigation launched by the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform when the EPA first ruled that a new coal-powered plant would not be subject to carbon emission regulations. Their original decision defied the Clean Air Act's stipulation that all such permits must include a "best-available control technology" emissions limit for each pollutant.

This decision could have dual effects. While increased regulation of CO₂ emissions will likely have adverse effects on the industries that currently emit CO₂, it may also bolster carbon trading markets for U.S. farmers. Sorghum fits very well into a carbon trading scenario because it is a low-input crop that thrives under reduced tillage management programs.

The Fall issue of Sorghum Grower magazine included an article on carbon credit marketing for farmers. The article entitled "2 Commodities in 1, Taking Advantage of Your Farm's Carbon Footprint" ran on pages 12 and 13 and can be accessed online [here](#).

EPA Raises Renewable Fuels Standard

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has raised the renewable fuels standard for 2009 to 10.21% from 7.76% in 2008. This means that 10.21% of the nation's fuel supply must come from renewables like ethanol in 2009. That translates to 11.1 billion gallons per year of required renewable fuel use in 2009. Last year, the requirement was around 9 billion gallons. Under federal law, EPA must calculate by November 30 of each year the percentage of renewable fuel necessary to reach mandated RFS standards. Each refiner, importer and non-oxygenate blender of gasoline then calculates how much biofuel must be blended to reach its obligation. The announcement is a huge victory for the ethanol industry.

Happy Thanksgiving!

The NSP office will be closed on Thursday and Friday in observance of Thanksgiving. As we take some time to be with family and friends, we want to thank our members for your support of this organization. Our membership allows us to represent the industry nationwide. Our thanks go especially to our producer members who grew the food that will fill our tables tomorrow. Have a wonderful holiday!

Commodity Classic General Session Speakers Announced

The 2009 Commodity Classic General Session will feature a lively lineup highlighted by entertainers Mark Mayfield and Sam Glenn. Commodity Classic, the premier convention and trade show of the U.S. corn, soybean, wheat and sorghum industries will be held Feb. 26-28 at the Gaylord Texan in Grapevine, Texas.

Emcee Mark Mayfield, better known as “The Corporate Comedian,” will captivate and entertain with his hilarious presentation style. Mayfield has shared the stage with celebrities such as Paul Newman, Peter Frampton, Colin Powell and Bob Newhart. He is the author of the popular book, “Mom’s Rules,” a comedic, yet poignant look at the things mom said during childhood.

Additionally, Sam Glenn, one of the nation’s top motivational speakers and author of “A Kick in the Attitude,” will inspire attendees through art and humor and explain how to change attitudes and live big. Glenn gives approximately 100 speeches every year and has authored 16 books, all of which have a strong emphasis on attitude.

The General Session will also bring together National Sorghum Producers Chairman of the Board Toby Bostwick, National Corn Growers Association President Bob Dickey, American Soybean Association President Johnny Dodson and National Association of Wheat Growers President David Cleavinger. They will discuss the latest in agriculture and priorities for each association.

Global Seeds Solutions to Focus on Crop Improvement

Illinois Crop Improvement Association (IL Crop) and ZEA Global Seeds, LLC have announced the formation of a new U.S.-based entity, Global Seed Solutions Inc., focused on providing trait introgression services for technology and germplasm developers of sorghum, corn, soybeans and sunflower seed.

GSS, Inc. complements the variety of field and laboratory services already offered by the parent companies, adding new infrastructure and human resources in different parts of the world, offering seed companies exponential flexibility in counter season services. GSS, Inc. represents an increase in the pool of services, and most importantly will result in better outcomes for all the companies in the seed industry.

Short and Sweet Final Harvest Report

Producers harvested 88 percent of the sorghum crop by November 23, 10 percent behind last year and three percent behind the five-year average. Harvest was complete in the Delta and nearly complete in New Mexico. Meanwhile, producers in Nebraska and Oklahoma were harvesting 21 and 14 percent behind the average pace, respectively.

From: <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/current/WWNatSumm/WWNatSumm-11-25-2008.pdf>

About Sorghum Notes

SORGHUM Notes is a publication of the National Sorghum Producers. NSP represents U.S. sorghum producers. The organization serves as the voice of the sorghum industry from coast to coast through education and legislative and regulatory representation. To learn more about NSP 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.*

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Quote of the Week:

I awoke this morning with devout thanksgiving for my friends, the old and the new.

-- *Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803 - 1882)*

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