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SORGHUM E-Notes

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NATIONAL SORGHUM PRODUCERS:
the voice of the sorghum industry

NSP is Pleased to Welcome Shelee Padgett, new Member Services Director

Shelee Padgett has joined the National Sorghum Producers as the new Member Services Director following Christi Stulp's departure from NSP to focus her time and talents on her farm in Colorado.

Shelee said she looks forward to getting out and about in the fields, traveling and meeting sorghum producers as she begins her new position. She is also excited about building upon NSP's current Elevator (E) Member Program. Shelee will be overseeing the e-member program, working with magazine advertisers, and connecting with NSP members nationwide.

Prior to joining NSP, Shelee served as the Chief of Staff for the Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA), and oversaw the day-to-day operations of the agency. Before joining ISDA, Shelee worked for Texas Sweet, a commodity organization promoting Texas citrus fruit. Shelee received her bachelor's degree in Agriculture Communications from Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas and master's degree at Texas State University. Shelee and her husband Patrick currently live in Indiana, where he works as a high school agriculture teacher.

Our deepest appreciation goes to Christi Stulp for her tireless efforts to serve NSP's membership and communications needs over the past four years. We certainly wish her the best!

OSU wraps up Sweet Sorghum for Ethanol Trials

Researchers with the Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation and Oklahoma State University (OSU) recently tested a new harvesting and extraction system for sweet sorghum which could play a future role in ethanol production for regional farmers and ranchers. The test comes at the end of the first year of a three year study to determine the yield and quality of sweet sorghum as well as pressing and fermentation methods to improve possible ethanol production.

The Noble Foundation's Jagadeesh Mosali, Ph.D., and Drs. Dani Bellmer and Ray Huhnke with the Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering Department at OSU tested the juice expression efficiency of a sweet sorghum roller press designed to simulate a new mechanical harvest system that cuts and presses sweet sorghum in a single action.

“Sticky Prices”

Food interest groups earlier this year condemned ethanol as the cause of soaring food prices. They reasoned that ethanol was causing a rise in grain prices and therefore a price increase in food. If this is the case, because grain prices have gone down, food prices should have done the same. However, food prices continue to stay at historically high levels.

Read more about these so called “sticky prices” at [GoodFuels](#).

USGC International Distillers Grains Conference

The U.S. Grains Council International Distillers Grains Conference was held October 19th through the 21st, in Indianapolis, Indiana. More than 500 attendees at the event heard that ethanol production increased in 2008 by approximately 3 billion gallons to 9.3 billion gallons compared to last year. A keynote address by Bruce Rastetter, the CEO of Hawkeye Renewables, as well as various sessions, highlighted distillers grains and encouraged producers and manufacturers around the world to take advantage of the sheer volume, price, and quality of this product.

Cellulosic Ethanol Summit

The National Sorghum Producers will again serve as one of the key Supporting Organizations on behalf of Infocast's 3rd Annual Cellulosic Ethanol Summit, November 17-19, 2008 at the Westin Colonnade Hotel in Coral Gables, Florida.

The Summit, which has generated capacity crowds at its previous two editions, will move to Coral Gables, Florida this year to focus on the leadership being generated in the quest for renewable fuels. This year's event boasts over 100 speakers, sponsors, supporting organizations and media partners. It will feature Keynote Addresses by two of the key players in renewable energy: Jeremy L. Susac, the Executive Director of the Florida Energy and Climate Commission and Charles H. Bronson, the Commissioner of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

Several of the hot-topic issues to be covered at the Summit include The Biofuels Debate: Impacts on the Industry, a progress report on Feedstock Supply Lines and the acceleration of Commercialization & Financing of Industry Growth. In addition, a Pre-Summit Briefing on Developing A Sustainable Cellulosic Ethanol Industry will be held on Monday, November 17th.

Members of the National Sorghum Producers will receive substantial discount of over 30% on registration for both the Summit and the Pre-Summit Briefing. In addition, a discounted block of rooms has been reserved for the event at the Westin Colonnade Hotel in the amount of \$189 per night. To receive the special rate, call the hotel directly at 305-441-2600 and mention that you are an Infocast/Cellulosic Ethanol Summit registrant.

For more information visit www.infocastinc.com/cell08

Clemson University to receive Ethanol Research Grant

Clemson University in South Carolina will receive a \$1.2 million research grant from the U.S. Department of Energy to evaluate the potential of sweet sorghum and switchgrass as feedstocks to produce ethanol in the southeast. The grant will also provide funding to develop a small-scale biofuel processing plant at Clemson's Restoration Institute in North Charleston.

Grain Contract Schemes

Recently, there have been alleged grain-sales irregularities taking place in Iowa and Nebraska, involving the sale of soybeans to several farmer-owned cooperatives and independents. In that situation, the sellers (New Fashion Farms and/or Ox Plow Farms) contacted elevators that contracted with them in the spring, indicating that they would be unable to deliver the contracted grain. They asked to close the contracts and receive any difference between the contract price and the current market price, referencing National Grain and Feed Association Grain Trade Rule 28, Failure to Perform. Although there have been no reported irregularities involving sorghum at this time, be aware of potential schemes when dealing with New Fashion Farms and Ox Plow Farms.

Crop Report Shows 46 Percent Harvested

Ninety-seven percent of the sorghum crop reached coloring, three points behind last year and one point behind the five-year average. Coloring was complete or neared completion in all states except New Mexico and Oklahoma, where acreage was delayed 10 and 11 points, respectively, when compared with the average. Seventy-six percent of the crop was mature, 18 points behind last year and nine points behind the five-year average. Development remained ahead in

Colorado, when compared with the normal development pace, but was at or behind the five-year average in all remaining States. Producers had harvested 46 percent of the acreage, 21 and 11 points behind last year and the five-year average, respectively. Harvest was complete in Louisiana and nearly complete in Arkansas, while harvest activity had just begun in Nebraska and New Mexico. Significant harvest delays were evident in the northern and central Great Plains and middle Mississippi Valley. Condition of the sorghum crop, at 56 percent good to excellent, improved one point from last week's rating.

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:

Our greatest glory is not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall. -Confucius

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