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SORGHUM E-Notes

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NATIONAL SORGHUM PRODUCERS:
the voice of the sorghum industry

DOE Announces \$100M in Grants for Sorghum

The Department of Energy (DOE) announced last week that three projects will receive a total of \$100 million in stimulus funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to turn sorghum into fuels, chemicals and power. The funding comes as a result of the new governmental goal of producing 36 billion gallons of biofuel by 2022 and the aggressive federal mandate of creating 100 million gallons of cellulosic ethanol by next year. Among the recipients for the grant is BioEnergy International with \$50 million, ICM with \$25 million and Amyris Biotechnologies with \$25 million.

Energy Secretary Steven Chu said producing biofuels is vital for the United States. "Advanced biofuels are critical to building a cleaner, more sustainable transportation system in the U.S.," he said in a statement.

ICM will use the funds to build a cellulosic ethanol conversion pilot plant using energy sorghum and switchgrass. Amyris Biotechnologies will use its genetically altered yeast to convert sweet sorghum sugar into hydrocarbons, lubricants, polymers and petrochemicals with the grant. BioEnergy International will utilize the stimulus funding to biologically produce succinic acid from sorghum in Lake Providence, Louisiana. This funding could aid the nation with becoming fuel and energy independent in the near future, leading to greater sorghum demand in the U.S.

EPA Establishes Greenhouse Gasses as a Threat

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released an "endangerment finding" regarding carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions earlier this week. EPA said GHGs "threaten the public health and welfare of the American people" and should be regulated. This "threat," according to EPA, includes both current and new motor vehicles and engines, which would be regulated under the Clean Air Act based on this finding.

This announcement came just in time for climate change meetings at the United Nations Climate Change Conference 2009 in Copenhagen, Denmark. This was intended to send a message to the world that the U.S. considers global warming a major issue and is prepared to lead the way to combat it. In response to the EPA announcement, a free-market group, The Competitive Enterprise Institute (CEI), promptly announced its plans to sue. CEI General Counsel, Sam Kazman, said "EPA is clinging for dear life to the notion that the global climate models are holding up," he said. "In reality, those models are about to sink

under the growing weight of evidence that they are fabrications," he added, citing the hacked emails between global warming scientists that leaked last week.

LSU Creates New Biofuels Institute

The Louisiana State University (LSU) AgCenter will establish the Louisiana Institute for Biofuels and Bioprocessing. One of the primary research objectives of the AgCenter has been the development of new crop varieties high in biomass like sweet sorghum that can be converted into biofuel.

LSU AgCenter vice chancellor for research, David Boethel, said bioenergy research has been very important to the university for several years. "The LSU AgCenter made a major commitment about five years ago to funnel resources into bioenergy research because of the critical need," he said. "Louisiana is uniquely positioned for production of biofuels because of our diverse agricultural and forestry production sectors."

The research done at the new Biofuels and Bioprocessing center could provide sorghum producers with additional resources and higher profitability potential.

NSP Represent Sorghum Industry in Geneva

The World Trade Organization (WTO) continued Doha trade discussions in Geneva recently. Among those in attendance were Dale Murden, member of the NSP Board of Directors, and Dale Artho representing the U.S. Grains Council.

Despite public protests that erupted in Geneva as a result of the discussions, Artho said the experience was a positive one. "We were able to have meetings with several ambassadors and the discussions we had were beneficial," he said. "I think our primary role is to serve as a springboard for the ambassadors to bounce ideas off of, and that is the best way they can utilize us." Artho also said he was glad he and Murden could represent the sorghum industry in the discussions.

Murden and Artho met with several ambassadors, including David Walker from New Zealand, Doaa Abdel-Motaal, council of the Office of the Director General for WTO, Clemens S.J. Boonekamp, director of the Agriculture and Commodities Division for WTO, and former Dallas mayor, United States Trade Representative Ron Kirk.

USCP Board of Directors to Meet in Denver

The United Sorghum Checkoff Program (USCP) Board of Directors will meet in Denver, Colo. next week to evaluate the progress of the past year and set strategic goals for 2010. Several speakers from various groups including Dupont and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation will give presentations to the Board about subjects ranging from over-the-top herbicides to the role of sorghum worldwide.

While in Colorado, the USCP Board will also attend a pilot run of the sorghum to cellulosic ethanol conversion pilot facility at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) in Golden, Colo. The pilot run will take place on Monday, Dec. 14. and will include NSP Board members and other guests including

Colorado Department of Agriculture Commissioner John Stulp whose support of this sorghum research has been instrumental to its success.

94 Percent of Nation's Sorghum Harvested

Harvest advanced seven percent during the week to 94 percent complete by Dec. 6. With the exceptions of Arkansas, Louisiana and New Mexico where harvest was complete, harvest was active across the major sorghum-producing regions.

From: <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/current/WWNatSumm/WWNatSumm-12-08-2009.pdf>

Upcoming Meetings and Events

We are updating our online listing of field days, fairs, farm shows, meetings and events. [Please visit for the latest information.](#)

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 alexis@sorghumgrowers.com. If you have questions about the sorghum industry or the National Sorghum Producers, please do not hesitate to call NSP at (800) 658-9808.

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Quote of the Week:

"An intellectual is a man who takes more words than necessary to tell more than he knows."
--Dwight D. Eisenhower

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