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SORGHUM E-Notes

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NATIONAL SORGHUM PRODUCERS:
the voice of the sorghum industry

NSP Board Members to Hold Meeting this Week

This weekend, the NSP Board of Directors will convene in Albuquerque, NM from Saturday until next Tuesday. The goal of the meeting is to strategically analyze the past year's efforts by the organization in order to explore precise avenues toward continued success.

New programs and projects will also be discussed along with appropriations, the future of sorghum as a bioenergy feedstock, fundraising, discussion about targeted goals for the future and more. Board members will receive updates on the NSP legislative activity in Washington, D.C., including important updates about crop insurance price elections and the Renewable Fuels Standard 2.

This meeting provides important insight into the future of sorghum and how NSP will represent the industry to the nation. The outcome of the meeting will be reported here and on the NSP Web site, so visit www.sorghumgrowers.com for more.

New Merger Could Mean Sweet Results for Ethanol Industry

\$376 million in funding for sweet sorghum to ethanol conversion is now available thanks to EPEC Finance, LLC., a new financial company. This is a result of a partnership between DPG Investments, LLC. (DPG) and EPEC Biofuels Holdings, Inc. (EPEC)

The new financial company will fund EPEC's proprietary Ethanol Production Units on various sweet sorghum farms nationwide. Dan Galvanoni, chairman of DPG, said EPEC Finance, LLC. will serve as a platform for providing company investments with needed funding. "The new finance joint venture will serve as a specialty finance and investment company that will seek to provide financing for various strategic acquisitions, partnerships and investments in the renewable energy and biofuels sectors on a global basis," he said.

NSP Represents Sorghum with Farm Broadcasters

The National Sorghum Producers (NSP) attended the National Association of Farm Broadcasters (NAFB) conference this week in Kansas City, Mo. Farm broadcasters from all over the nation were present at the event to interact with one another and get the latest scoop from industry experts.

NSP Chairman of the Board, Gerald Simonsen, was in attendance to represent the sorghum industry. He said the event was beneficial and that getting the message out about sorghum as a bioenergy feedstock, among other uses, was a success.

Simonsen said even though it was his first time to attend NAFB as chairman, he felt the event went well and is pleased he could represent the industry. "While I would have much rather been on my combine Thursday, NAFB was very worth-while," he said. "It was great to network with other ag businesses as well as inform our producers about what's going on with NSP, and I thank NAFB for giving us the opportunity to attend."

Furadan No Longer Available After this Year

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) stated recently that an insecticide labeled for sorghum, Furadan (carbofuran), has not met safety standards and therefore, will not be available after Dec. 31, 2009. Food tolerances for the insecticide will be revoked after this date, as well.

EPA stated that under Section 408 (b) (2) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, Furadan does not meet all the safety standards that the act describes. EPA will soon work to implement its May 2009 final rule, which will revoke all tolerances for the insecticide. This means that for the upcoming planting season, any sorghum producer using Furadan will have to resort to another labeled herbicide for sorghum.

NSP will continue to provide updates regarding EPA's final decision on Furadan.

\$5 million Grant to Improve Sorghum as a Bioenergy Crop

Sorghum research is getting a boost in the upcoming months thanks to a \$5 million grant. Ceres, Inc. announced Tuesday the expansion of an advanced trait development project partially funded by the grant, which is managed by the Advanced Research Projects- Energy (ARPA-E), an organization under the United States Department of Energy.

The goal of the research is to increase biomass and yields of select energy grasses up to 40 percent while decreasing the use of inputs like nitrogen fertilizers. Ceres, Inc. Chief Scientific Officer, Richard Flavell, said the project is in direct accordance with the kind of technology the environment needs. "Low-input traits developed through modern genetics can provide wide-reaching benefits to the energy and agricultural sectors as well as the environment - just the type of transformational impact energy officials are looking for," he said.

Projections by the company indicate that the Ceres traits alone could displace 1.3 billion barrels of oil and 58 million tons of coal over a ten year period.

More than Half of Sorghum Crop Harvested Nationwide

Crop maturity advanced to 94 percent complete by Nov. 8, one percent behind last year and 3 percent behind the five year average. Significant development towards the mature stage was evident in Texas during the week, where above average temperatures in the Trans-Pecos region allowed the crop to dry out. Harvest advanced to 56 percent complete, 10 percent behind last year and 21 percent behind the average. Overall, 48 percent of the sorghum crop was reported in good to excellent condition as harvest surpassed the halfway mark, up one percent from ratings last week.

From: <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/current/WWNatSumm/WWNatSumm-11-10-2009.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.

SORGHUM Notes is sponsored by:

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Quote of the Week:

"Ancient Rome declined because it had a Senate; now what's going to happen to us with both a House and a Senate?"

-- Will Rogers

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