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SORGHUM E-Notes

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NATIONAL SORGHUM PRODUCERS:
the voice of the sorghum industry

Sorghum Researcher Accepts World Food Prize

Dr. Gebisa Ejeta, renowned sorghum researcher of Purdue University, will today accept the prestigious World Food Prize Laureate during the Borlaug Dialogue, a week-long symposium aimed at working toward food security worldwide. Dr. Ejeta was awarded the prize for his work on drought tolerant sorghum and Striga, a debilitating sorghum disease that crippled African sorghum yields. Dr. Ejeta's Striga-resistant sorghum helped to provide food for millions across Africa. A story in the Fall issue of Sorghum Grower magazine will further recognize Dr. Ejeta's career achievements.

During the week's presentations, Bill Gates, founder of Microsoft and humanitarian co-founder of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, announced over \$120 million in new research grants, one of which will research higher yielding sorghum.

The World Food Prize was founded by Nobel Peace Prize winner Dr. Norman Borlaug who passed away last month. Dr. Borlaug, called the Father of the Green Revolution, is said to have saved more lives than any other person who ever lived. He founded the World Food Prize to recognize extraordinary advances in agriculture that help to alleviate poverty and hunger.

Secretary of Agriculture Launches National Institute of Food and Agriculture

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack last week launched the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) with a major speech regarding the role of science and research at USDA.

"Right now, I am convinced, is USDA's opportunity to work with the Congress, the other science agencies, and with our partners in industry, academia, and the nonprofit sector, to bring about transformative change," Vilsack said. "To lead NIFA, President Obama has tapped a preeminent plant scientist from the Danforth Plant Science Center in St. Louis - Roger N. Beachy, winner of the Wolf Prize in Agriculture and a member of the National Academy of Sciences."

No Counter-Cyclical Payments for Grain Sorghum

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced yesterday that USDA will not issue final 2008 counter-cyclical payments to farmers enrolled in the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program for grain sorghum,

peanuts, corn, soybeans and oats because average commodity prices remain above levels that trigger these payments. USDA will issue payments for upland cotton beginning this week. The final marketing year prices per bushel are \$3.20 per bushel for grain sorghum, 23.0 cents per pound or \$460.00 per ton for peanuts, \$4.06 for corn and \$9.97 for soybeans. There are no final counter-cyclical payment rates for peanuts, corn, grains sorghum and soybean oats because their effective prices exceeded target prices. Learn more [here](#).

Graham and Kerry Cooperate on Climate Change Legislation

This week Senators Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) and John Kerry (D-Mass.) wrote an [opinion editorial](#) in the New York Times outlining a potential consensus on controversial climate change legislation. The consensus could open the door for more Republicans to get on the climate change bandwagon, as it suggests a market-based system, increased nuclear power, more on- and off-shore drilling and a border tax on items produced in non-climate conscious countries like China. A Senate climate change bill introduced last week by Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.) is still not expected to see significant debate in the Senate until healthcare is settled, but this tentative agreement could open some doors in the future as a few more Republican Senators jump on board with the compromise.

The NSP Board of Directors [opposed cap-and-trade legislation](#) passed out of the House in June because it left too many unanswered questions about costs and impacts to agriculture. The Senate version removed many of the agriculture safeguards House Ag Chairman Collin Peterson championed in the House version of the climate change bill.

Oklahoma Field Day and Meeting

The Oklahoma Sorghum Commission will hold its annual meeting next week in Stillwater, Oklahoma. NSP staff will be on hand to discuss legislative activities and Sorghum Checkoff staff will bring local sorghum growers up to date on the progress of the Sorghum Checkoff. Call NSP at 806-749-3478 for more information.

Sorghum Industry Loses a Friend in Dr. Darrell Rosenow

The sorghum industry has suffered a great loss this week with the passing of Dr. Darrell Rosenow on Saturday, Oct. 10. Dr. Rosenow's commitment to the improvement of sorghum and his research on stay-green technology continue to impact every sorghum producer in the world. In lieu of flowers, the family has requested memorials to the Darrell Rosenow Memorial Scholarship Fund through the National Grain Sorghum Producers Foundation. For more information, contact Dr. Bruce Maunder at 806-749-3478.

Seed Industry Launches Beyond the Seed Web site

The American seed industry has seen a dramatic evolution in the use of science and technology to provide farmers with new and improved seed varieties. This scientific transformation has presented today's seed industry with the challenge of how to inform growers, legislators, regulators, the public, media and others that today's seed is not the seed of our fathers or grandfathers. In order to meet that

challenge, the American Seed Trade Association (ASTA) first unveiled in December 2008 a program that goes "Beyond the Seed." This week, ASTA launches the Beyond the Seed Web site to reach the industry's many stakeholders about the value of seed innovation for today and the great potential for our future. Visit their new Web site at www.beyondtheseed.org.

Plainview Ethanol Plant Re-opens

White Energy's Plainview Bioenergy in Plainview, Texas began grinding grain for ethanol again this week after suspending operations last spring. The plant, which employs 42 people, uses 10 to 30 percent sorghum in its blend with corn. Plant manager Chuck Fryar said they had little to no trouble starting up and that the company is expected to be out of bankruptcy by Jan. 1, 2010.

37 Percent of Sorghum Crop Harvested Nationwide

Coloring advanced to 93 percent complete, one percent ahead of last year but three percent behind the five-year average. Nine percent of the sorghum crop matured during the week, leaving progress, at 64 percent, two percent behind last year and 12 percent behind the average. Despite active crop development in Illinois and Nebraska, overall delays of 20 percent or more remained. Thirty-seven percent of the crop was harvested by October 11, six percent behind last year and 12 percent behind normal. The harvest pace remained slow in Texas as producers waited for the crop in the High Plains to fully mature. Overall, 48 percent of the crop was rated in good to excellent condition, down one percent from ratings last week and seven percent below last year.

From: <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/current/WWNatSumm/WWNatSumm-10-14-2009.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 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:

“Generosity is not giving me that which I need more than you do, but it is giving me that which you need more than I do.”

-- Kahlil Gibran

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