

SORGHUM E-Notes

February 19, 2009

NATIONAL SORGHUM PRODUCERS:
the voice of the sorghum industry

NSP Expresses Support for Farm Safety Net

The National Sorghum Producers signed a letter to Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack with eight other commodity organizations this week expressing support for the farm safety net as outlined in the 2008 Farm Bill. Based on discussions that the new administration supports a transition from direct payments to conservation and carbon-based farm supports, the letter made USDA aware of the vital importance of the safety net to producers.

Citing the recent fall in commodity prices, the letter demonstrated the importance of the safety net to “provide[s] both stability and a small degree of certainty to farmers in an industry where risk is enormous and can be impossible for a producer to control.”

The full text of the letter is available on our website at <http://www.sorghumgrowers.com/2008%20Farm%20Bill.html>.

Stimulus Package Includes Ag Support

Experts say there is no way to know how much benefit the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (stimulus bill) will provide to rural economies and it may take some time before the 1,000-plus page bill is really understood. That said, the bill does include some support for agriculture and rural America. Following are *some* of the agriculturally pertinent authorizations in the bill:

- \$20 billion in Food Stamp programs, which will provide new support for poor, rural areas and also increase demand for food;
- \$50 billion on renewable energy and modernizing the national electricity grid;
- \$7.2 billion for expansion of broadband access to “un-served and underserved” areas;
- \$20.4 million for FSA farm operating direct loans;
- \$794 million for ag disaster assistance transition;
- \$800 million in biomass energy program grants;
- \$1.52 billion in grants for industrial carbon capture and energy efficiency improvement projects.

Again, the allotments above reflect only a small portion of the bill, but represent some allocations that can benefit agriculture and related industry. We will have more details as they become available in coming weeks.

Sorghum Partners, Inc. Announces Patent Application for Herbicide Resistant Sorghum

Sorghum Partners, Inc. has announced a patent application for herbicide resistant sorghum. The patent application covers dinitroaniline resistant sorghum and Sorghum Partners, Inc. has made a seed deposit supporting the patent application. Larry McDowell, President of Sorghum Partners, Inc. says “This breakthrough in herbicide resistance in sorghum is the result of several years of concentrated effort to develop sorghum that can be rotated with (or double cropped behind) cotton and/or soybeans without fear of herbicide damage.” For more information, contact Sorghum Partners, Inc. at 1-800-645-7478.

Commodity Classic Approaching Next Week

Commodity Classic, the convention and trade show of the U.S. sorghum, corn, wheat and soybean industries, will convene in Grapevine, Texas next week. The Classic will help growers "Discover Bright Horizons" by offering educational sessions on topics such as managing risk, what end-users look for from crops, U.S. energy independence, farm financial strategies and nitrogen strategies for a new millennium. Approximately 25 educational sessions covering issues impacting the agriculture industry will be available to attendees.

Prior to the beginning of Classic programming, NSP and the Sorghum Improvement Conference of North America will hold their bi-annual joint research meeting on Wednesday, February 25 and Thursday, February 26. This meeting is both an educational opportunity and a chance for growers, researchers and industry stakeholders to compare notes and learn about new and exciting opportunities in the sorghum industry.

A sold-out trade show will add even more value to Commodity Classic. This year's trade show is the largest in Commodity Classic history, with more than 230 companies in more than 940 booths, displaying the latest in cutting-edge products and services. Attendees will learn new strategies to increase their bottom line, including everything from getting the most out of every acre to managing risk.

Nebraska Grain Sorghum Board to Meet

The Nebraska Grain Sorghum Board has scheduled a public meeting to be held on Wednesday, March 4, 2009 at the UNL East Campus Union, Lincoln, NE. The meeting will begin at 9:00 AM. The meeting room will be posted. In addition to regular business items, the agenda will include presentation of research proposals and progress reports.

A copy of the agenda will be available by contacting the office of the Grain Sorghum Board at 402/471-4276 email: sorghum.board@nebraska.gov.

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.* 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:

Sorghum Partners, Inc.
P.O. Box 189, New Deal, TX 79350
Phone: (800) 645-7478 Fax: (806) 746-5305
Website: www.sorghum-partners.com
E-mail: information@sorghum-partners.com

Quote of the Week:

"The trouble with our times is that the future is not what it used to be."

- Paul Valery

Interested in Sponsorship Opportunities?

Call NSP at (800) 658-9808 to learn more.