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SORGHUM E-Notes

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NATIONAL SORGHUM PRODUCERS:

the voice of the sorghum industry

Advanta Announces Sorghum Research Partnership

Sorghum is gaining much attention as the leading feedstock for ethanol production and other bioenergy uses, and research projects are in full swing to maximize the crop's potential in various areas. A global research company and supplier of sorghum, Advanta, says that based on the company's extensive sorghum research, the crop is currently the most effective biofuel source. As a result of this research, Advanta now has sorghum hybrids that maximize biofuel and bioenergy uses.

Recently, Advanta reached a commercial development agreement with the Argentinean biotech company, Bioceres S.A. The research goal of the two companies is to create better drought-tolerant sorghum by focusing on drought and salt stresses. The company is also doing research with sorghum cultivars for cold tolerance that will improve the crop's early planting dates and expand growth zones. All of this new technology and the increasing demand for sorghum-based ethanol could lead to higher profitability for today's sorghum producer.

Climate Change Legislation Pushed to 2010

As the battle on climate change legislation moves forward, some senators are fighting back to slow or even stop the legislation's progress. Democratic Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid said Tuesday the U.S. Senate will act on climate change in the early months of 2010. This is good news to those wanting additional time to conduct a more in-depth examination of the bill.

This push to 2010 might interfere with swing-vote senators whose vote could be necessary for the legislation to pass. This is due to an approaching mid-term vote in the 2010 election year. The greenhouse gas emission reduction portion of the U.S. Senate bill, along with the climate change legislation, would create a cap-and-trade regime. This would permit the government to set the total level of domestic emissions allowable, then allocate quotas to companies.

NSP Board of Directors Meet in New Mexico

The NSP Board of Directors met in Albuquerque, NM last weekend and part of this week to discuss targeted goals for the organization. The purpose of the meeting was to pinpoint areas within the sorghum industry that require specific strategic focus in the coming year.

The board created a more detailed structure between itself and the NSP legislative committee to capitalize on opportunities for the sorghum industry. Also, members of the board discussed ways to expand the NSP annual yield and management contest to include other types of sorghum in the future. The meeting was highly productive and provided direct focus on the most important issues facing the industry.

Much of what was discussed in the meeting will begin to take shape in the coming months, so keep checking here and on our [Web site](#) for more information.

UQ Researchers Make Advances with Transgenic Sweet Sorghum

At the University of Queensland (UQ) in Australia recently, researchers have developed a gene transfer system for sweet sorghum. The goal of the research project was to find different ways, on a genetic level, to make sweet sorghum more effective as a bioenergy crop. A researcher involved with the project, Professor Robert Birch of UQ, said the potential for transgenic sweet sorghum is very promising. "The ability to use gene transfer to help produce improved varieties has significant commercial and industrial potential."

Research Fellow in UQ's School of Biological Sciences, Dr. Anshu Raghuwanshi, collaborated with Birch to study sweet sorghum. Commercialization for transgenic varieties of sweet sorghum could mean higher demand for the crop, especially in the ethanol and energy industries.

NREL to Host Sorghum Pilot Test

The National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL) will host representatives from NSP, the United Sorghum Checkoff Program (USCP), several members of the U.S. Senate and Congress and local media to visit its facilities for a pilot test of sorghum. NREL, located in Golden, Colo., has conducted sorghum research for the past three years with the goal of converting the crop to cellulosic ethanol at a reasonable price for consumers.

The viewing of the pilot run coincides with the USCP board meeting in Golden. The research to be presented by NREL during the pilot test could revolutionize the way sorghum is used in the future, so this event is very important to the industry as a whole. For more information about the NREL pilot test, contact Jeff Dahlberg of NSP at 806-749-3478.

Agriculture Committee Reviews Act, Outcome Important to U.S. Farmers

The House Agriculture Committee held a hearing Tuesday to discuss the Stability Improvement Act draft language that proposes oversight of financial firms considered "too big to fail." Out of this language, a systematic financial risk regulator would be created to minimize financial pitfalls in the United States.

The language would create a Financial Services Oversight Council made up of several agencies like the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, which would have the power to identify financial companies and activities that could potentially pose a risk to the nation's economy. Producers and farmers would be affected by the decision of the Committee due to loan retention provisions. These provisions would

impact the Farm Credit Administration because the entity oversees a vast network of lenders that provide credit services to America's farmers.

House Agriculture Committee Chairman Collin C. Peterson (D-Minn.) is uneasy about giving too much economic power to one government entity. "No one regulator should be given so much independent power over our economy, certainly not one whose governance has been influenced more by the wishes of major banks than the American people," he said. NSP will provide the committee's decision as soon as the results are available.

68 Percent of Nation's Sorghum Harvested

Maturity reached 97 percent complete by the end of the week, two percent behind both last year and the five year average. The sorghum crop was mature everywhere except Illinois, Nebraska, Oklahoma and Texas. Harvest advanced 12 percent during the week. With 68 percent of the crop harvested, overall progress was eight percent behind last year and 16 percent behind the average. The most significant delay was evident in Nebraska where harvest was 43 percent, or nearly three weeks, behind normal.

From: <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/current/WWNatSumm/WWNatSumm-11-17-2009.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:

"A small body of determined spirits fired by an unquenchable faith in their mission can alter the course of history."

--Mohandas Gandhi

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