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SORGHUM E-Notes

April 29, 2010

NATIONAL SORGHUM PRODUCERS:
the voice of the sorghum industry

Chromatin, Inc. Acquires Sorghum Partners, Inc. and Milo Genetics, LP

Chromatin, Inc. announced Wednesday the company has acquired the assets of Sorghum Partners, Inc. (SPI) and Milo Genetics, LP, both NSP Industry Partners. The acquisition provides Chromatin with access to SPI's established multi-national network of sorghum growers and distributors, as well as existing sorghum seed production facilities, representing more than 7 percent of the sorghum hybrid market in the US. The deal also provides Chromatin with commercially viable germplasm from Milo Genetics.

Chromatin is using its technology platform to optimize sorghum from an agronomic perspective and as an energy crop by designing its compositional attributes to match the unique needs and process specifications of bioprocessors.

"Sorghum is ideally suited as the energy crop for the future," said Larry McDowell, SPI president and Chromatin director of seed operations. "By joining forces with Chromatin, we will speed the development and distribution of advanced sorghum bioenergy feedstocks worldwide, while continuing to support our existing customers. This is truly a step forward for sorghum."

House Ag Committee Announces Farm Bill Hearing Dates

House Agriculture Committee Chairman Collin Peterson will begin a series of field hearings to hear from people about U.S. farm policy in advance of the 2012 Farm Bill.

Starting Friday, April 30, the House Agriculture Committee will hold hearings in Des Moines, Iowa, Nampa, Idaho, Fresno, Calif., and Cheyenne, Wyo. The Committee will hold a second series of field hearings May 14-18 in Morrow, Ga., Troy, Ala., Lubbock, Texas, and Sioux Falls, S.D. A complete listing of hearing dates and locations can be found at [://agriculture.house.gov/press/index](http://agriculture.house.gov/press/index).

For those who cannot attend the hearings, the House Agriculture Committee plans to provide live video coverage of each hearing on the Committee's website: [://agriculture.house.gov/hearings/audio.html](http://agriculture.house.gov/hearings/audio.html).

The Committee will also collect public comments about the Farm Bill on its website: [://agriculture.house.gov/inside/feedbackform.html](http://agriculture.house.gov/inside/feedbackform.html). All comments received online by June 14, 2010 will be included in the Committee's Farm Bill field hearing record.

NSP will be represented at the hearing in Lubbock on May , and encourages all producers to attend.

RMA Opts to Move Slowly on Crop Insurance Issue

The Regional RMA Office in Topeka, Kan., said Tuesday they are going to take things slowly when handling the insurability of consecutive non-irrigated spring-planted crops in Western Kansas, Western Nebraska and Colorado, and nothing will change for the 2011 crop year.

Based on insurance experience, water use data and relevant crop rotation data, the Topeka RMA Regional Office originally recommended the use of a rotation statement to limit continuously planted spring crops. The early feedback did not support the proposed idea. RMA complimented NSP for their willingness to work through the issue to keep a strong insurance program.

RMA is now determining if any changes should be made through analysis of the 2009 crop year experience and as many previous years as possible to take another look at the non-irrigated crop insurance experience. NSP has offered to assist RMA by providing data of yield information.

Farmers Speak Out in Support of Atrazine

Farm groups traveled to Washington, D.C., on Tuesday to voice support for atrazine before the third in a series of hearings being held by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to re-review the critically-effective herbicide. Jere White, chairman of the Triazine Network and director of the Kansas Grain Sorghum Producers Association, was among those who testified at the hearing.

White noted in his testimony that atrazine has been more extensively studied than any other crop protection product and has continually been awarded a clean bill of health. In 2006, the EPA concluded after an extensive 12-year review that the triazine herbicides, including atrazine, pose no harm to the general population.

White questioned the need for the EPA's "politically driven second guessing." He ended by expressing the hope that the high standards of scientific objectivity that enabled the EPA to register atrazine as safe in the past would continue to prevail at the agency.

Seed Treatment Fungicide Registered for Sorghum

Syngenta Seedcare announced Dynasty seed treatment fungicide has been approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for use on sorghum. Dynasty joins other seed treatments, including Cruiser seed treatment insecticide, Apron XL and Maxim 4FS seed treatment fungicides and Concep III seed safener to offer sorghum growers even more protection against damaging disease pathogens.

Adding Dynasty, with the active ingredient azoxystrobin, to the current Syngenta seed treatment package will broaden the range of disease protection and enhance the level of activity on seed-borne and soil seedling diseases such as Fusarium, Rhizoctonia and Pythium.

Dynasty seed treatment fungicide protects against all four classes of fungal pathogens and will be available for the 2010 planting season.

About Sorghum Notes

Sorghum Notes is a publication of the National Sorghum Producers.

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Quote of the Week:

“Courage is grace under pressure.”
-- *Ernest Hemingway*

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