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SORGHUM E-Notes

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NATIONAL SORGHUM PRODUCERS:
the voice of the sorghum industry

Environmental Protection Agency Releases RFS2 Rule

This week, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released the Renewable Fuels Standard, version two (RFS2). The RFS2, required by the 2007 Energy Bill, sets future standards for the production of renewable fuels. The rule assumed that sorghum delivered the same environmental impact as other ethanol crops like corn. Following the original rule, NSP submitted comments including detailed information about sorghum's greenhouse gas emissions and overall environmental benefit.

As previously noted in *Sorghum Notes*, it was unknown whether sorghum would be included in the Final Rule or a subsequent supplemental rule. Sorghum's environmental analysis was not included in the Final Rule but the preamble and information obtained by NSP staff indicate that a dedicated pathway for sorghum will be included in a supplement to the rule to be released within a few months.

NSP staff continues to work closely with EPA to ensure the ultimate benefit of grain, sweet and high biomass sorghum in the RFS2. Additionally, as NSP staff pores through this and other rules released this week, we will provide further analysis on RFS2's impact on the sorghum industry.

Biomass Crop Assistance Program Rule Available Online

USDA's Proposed Rule on the Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP) is now available online. The BCAP program assists financially in development of new biomass crops and the collection, harvest, transportation and storage of existing biomass crops. NSP has been involved with the BCAP program throughout development, testifying at hearings and submitting comments and testimony. The deadline for comments on the current rule is April 9, 2010 and NSP will submit comments. Access the Proposed Rule [here](#).

Advanta U.S. Acquires Crosbyton Seed Company

Advanta U.S. Inc. announced today that it has acquired Crosbyton Seed Company (CSC), located in Crosbyton, Texas. Crosbyton Seed is a leading breeder, producer and conditioner of hybrid sorghum planting seed products including both grain sorghum and forage sorghum. CSC President Nathan Boardman founded the company in 1972 and Executive Vice President and co-owner Donnie Swink joined the company in 1974. Together the two built CSC into one of the strongest and most respected sorghum seed businesses in North America.

Advanta CEO Ram Kaundinya said “We are extremely proud to welcome Nathan Boardman, Donnie Swink, and the employees of Crosbyton Seed to the Advanta family. Crosbyton Seed Company has an exceptionally strong grain sorghum business and their customer relationships are first class.”

The CSC acquisition makes the second investment in U.S. sorghum seed by Advanta following the 2008 acquisition of the business of Garrison & Townsend Seed Company of Hereford, Texas. This move further increases Advanta’s global sorghum business, which also includes current operations in Australia, Argentina, India and Thailand.

“The future of sorghum is bright,” Nathan Boardman, CSC President, commented. “We are very proud of Crosbyton Seed Company’s contributions to the sorghum seed industry and appreciative of our many customers over these past 38 years. With new technologies on the horizon today and a need for increased investments in research & development, we are pleased that Advanta sees sorghum as an important priority crop and brings a commitment of investing in improved products for our customers.”

NSP D.C. Fly-In to be Held Next Week

A delegation of 28 sorghum growers and industry leaders will travel to Washington, D.C. this weekend and next week to participate in the National Sorghum Producers D.C. Fly-In. The Fly-In is an annual event that gives producers and industry leadership an opportunity to voice their concerns and make the sorghum industry’s priorities known to their representatives and key decision makers in D.C.

On the Hill, the group will meet with members of Congress and Senators as well as other legislative decision makers. These representatives include Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Chair Blanche Lincoln, House Committee on Agriculture Chairman Collin Peterson and Ranking Member Frank Lucas. Delegates will also meet with representatives from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regarding the RFS2 which was released this week.

While in Washington D.C., a group of industry leaders will also attend Leadership Training sponsored by Syngenta. The leadership training will provide sessions on communication styles and media awareness. The group will also hear an update on ethanol policy and a briefing concerning the most recent developments in the sorghum industry.

President’s Budget Proposes Cuts to Agriculture

The White House released its budget proposal this week with major cuts to farm programs. The budget did not win friends with farm state lawmakers. Among other cuts, the proposal would lower payment limits and put new limits on conservation programs like EQUIP. The changes would require Congress to reopen the farm bill sooner rather than later to rewrite programs and reallocate funds.

Senator Blanche Lincoln (D-Ark), chair of the Senate Ag Committee, told the president thanks but no thanks.

“The farm bill is a contract with our farmers that they depend on to make business decisions. Changing the rules in the middle of the game would be detrimental to their operations and would cost us even more jobs in rural America,” she said. “I thank the president for his recommendations, but Congress writes the budget.”

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 Web site 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.

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Quote of the Week:

*"Last words are for fools who haven't said enough."
-- Karl Marx*

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