

ISA

News Bulletin



March 2008

Iowa Seed Association

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Seed Board Hosts Iowa House & Senate Committee for Lunch

Iowa Seed Association board members hosted lunch for the Iowa House and Senate Committee on Tuesday, February 26, 2008. During the luncheon members of the House and Senate Committee were informed about the Iowa Seed Association and Iowa's seed industry. Committee members were also given a handout detailing the benefits and purpose of the Iowa Seed Association. In order to further relationships with the Iowa House and Senate Committee, ISA board members extended an invitation to the committee to attend the 2008 ISA Golf Event being held on June 26 at Coldwater Golf Links in Ames, Iowa.

ISA Participates in Ag Day at the State Capitol

The Seed Association participated in Ag Day held at the State Capitol Building on March 19, 2008. The goal of Ag Day is to encourage every Iowan to recognize and celebrate the contributions of agriculture in our everyday lives. The event did just that, by bringing together 22 diverse agriculture and life science groups from across the state to create a festive occasion for legislators, staff and the public. Participants set up displays and distributed food, goodies and information showcasing their organization. This year, we were honored to be joined by Secretary of Agriculture Bill Northey, who read an Ag Day proclamation. Thank you to all who participated in the event or listened in to the live broadcast on WHO Radio.



ISA set up an information display in the rotunda during Ag Day at the Capitol, which was held Wednesday, March 19th. Attendance at our display was terrific. ISA board members Tim Barry and David Treinen are seen here informing a visitor about the ISA.

ISU-CSI Announces New Website

The Iowa State University Corn and Soybean Initiative is pleased to announce the ISU Integrated Crop Management News, an online source for crop production news and information to provide greater access to Iowa State University Extension resources. This ISU Extension site will grow and change over the next few months, so please visit often. www.extension.iastate.edu/cropnews. New features of the site include:

- Weekly or daily e-mail notification of new articles
 - Quick access to crop production sites at Iowa State University
 - Easy-to-print single articles and weekly compilations
- Rapid response when a crisis occurs

Greg Tylka welcome your comments on the site, please send them by e-mail to cropnews@iastate.edu.

EPA REPORTS EMISSIONS DECLINED IN 2006, BUT HAVE INCREASED 14 PERCENT SINCE 1990

Greenhouse gas emissions in the United States decreased by 1.5 percent in 2006 from the year before, largely due to a warm winter and cool summer, rising fuel prices, and the use of more energy from renewable sources, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) said in a report released March 7. Overall emissions decreased in 2006 by 111.8 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent from the 2005 total of 7,313.7 million metric tons. The 2006 figure still represents a 14.1 percent growth in emissions since 1990. A large percentage of greenhouse gas emissions—6,078.4 out of 7,201.9 million metric tons—were produced by the energy industry, the report found. Carbon dioxide continued to be the most prevalent greenhouse gas, accounting for 83 percent of the United States' greenhouse gas emissions in 2006. The inventory reports U.S. emissions of the six main greenhouse gases: carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, and sulfur hexafluoride. Carbon dioxide emissions decreased by 1.9 percent since 2005, but the report noted an upward trend of increases of about 1.1 percent per year since 1990. The largest source of CO₂, and of overall greenhouse gas emissions, was fossil fuel combustion directly indicating changes for alternate energy sources is necessary. The EPA announced March 12 that it is tightening the primary national ambient air quality standard for ozone. The new standard is 0.075 part per million, which replaces the existing standard of 0.08 part per million. EPA estimates that the revised ozone standards—both the primary standard to protect public health and a secondary standard aimed at preventing environmental degradation—will yield health benefits valued between \$2 billion and \$19 billion. "America's air is cleaner today than it was a generation ago. By meeting the requirement of the Clean Air Act and strengthening the national standard for ozone, EPA is keeping our clean air progress moving forward," said EPA Administrator Stephen L. Johnson.

USDA Rural Development Announces 2008 Application Deadlines for Agency's Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvements Program

Guaranteed loans and grants are available from USDA Rural Development to help rural small businesses or agricultural producers looking to purchase renewable energy systems or make energy-saving improvements to their facilities or farms.

The first deadline for grant-only applications is April 15, 2008. The last date to apply for a guaranteed loan, for a combination guaranteed loan and grant, or for the second round of grant-only applications is June 16, 2008.

Grants of up to \$250,000 are available for energy efficiency projects and up to \$500,000 for renewable energy. Guaranteed loans of up to \$10 million can be written for both energy efficiency and renewable energy projects.

"This program can make a big difference to rural small businesses or producers looking to finance a renewable energy system or make energy saving improvements to their facility or equipment," said Mark Reisinger, USDA Rural Development State Director in Iowa. "I encourage interested business owners and producers to contact Rural Development to learn more."

During the past five years, nearly 230 projects in Iowa have received \$37 million in grants and guaranteed loan to help purchase renewable systems such as wind turbines, solar, geothermal, biodiesel, ethanol, anaerobic digesters or hydrogen, and make a wide variety of energy efficiency improvements to facilities.

Some of the improvements have included new insulation, installing automatic lights, and replacing motors, refrigeration, ventilation and electrical and HVAC systems. A popular use of the program has been to assist in the purchase of new, more efficient grain-drying systems.

Restaurants, grocery stores, bakeries, greenhouses, cold storage businesses, ethanol plants, manufacturing facilities, as well as any other business that requires a large amount of energy to operate, may benefit from an energy-efficiency upgrade that these funds could help finance.

Costs incurred before submitting an application for both grants and loan guarantees are not eligible. In addition, funds are not available for residential use.

Contact USDA Rural Development, please contact the USDA Rural Development office in LOCATION at PHONE NUMBER for more information. Further information on Rural Development programs is available by visiting the agency's web site at www.rurdev.usda.gov/ia.

SGS MWSS Acquires National Seed Health System Accreditation

SGS Mid-West Seed Services, Inc. (SGS-MWSS) has been accredited by the National Seed Health System, under the authority of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, to conduct seed sampling, visual inspections and several seed health laboratory tests that may be required in the issuance of a Federal Phytosanitary Certificate.

This accreditation will allow seed companies to have the seed intended for exports sampled by their state officials or SGS-MWSS staff and tested for phytosanitary requirements by SGS-MWSS. In addition to NSHS accreditation, SGS-MWSS is accredited by the International Seed Testing Association, allowing Orange International Certificates (OIC) and Blue International certificates (BIC) to be issued. With this combination of accreditations, SGS MWSS is your one stop testing source for domestic or export seed testing. Please contact Angela Carlson if you have any questions regarding this certification at 877-692-7611.

Get Ready to Tee of this Summer with the Iowa Seed Association!

The ISA Golf Tournament will be held on Thursday, June 26 at Coldwater Golf Links in Ames, Iowa.



The ISA Golf Tournament is a fundraising event for the ISA/ISU Endowed Scholarship Fund. Watch the mail for more information coming soon!

Symposium will Address Biotechnology and Law at Iowa State April 23

The public will have an opportunity to hear experts voice their perspectives on how regulation for biotechnology must be responsive to the rapid pace of technology innovation at the fifth annual symposium of Iowa State's Biosafety Institute for Genetically Modified Agricultural Products (BIGMAP).

The symposium, "Biotechnology Policy and Law," will be held Wednesday, April 23, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Gateway Hotel and Conference Center, U.S. Highway 30 and University Boulevard, Ames.

"The 2008 symposium will offer participants a chance hear a slate of speakers that are on the cutting-edge of research and policy in biotechnology," said Jeff Wolt, Iowa State University professor of agronomy and organizer of the event. "This symposium will offer valuable and timely information to anyone who is involved in the study or trade of genetically engineered (GE) crops or who simply has an interest in these issues," he said.

The morning session titled, "Biotechnology and Intellectual Property," will be chaired and moderated by former Governor and BIGMAP Distinguished Fellow Tom Vilsack. During the session, speakers will offer their perspectives on IP considerations for agricultural biotechnology and their policy implications.

Guy Cardineau, a research professor for the School of Life Sciences in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and a center faculty fellow for the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University, will address patent rights from the perspective of the inventor. Cardineau is an inventor with over 40 patents in plant sciences and has extensive experience in IP issues.

Jason Hunt will address litigation matters relating to the enforcement and defense of intellectual property rights in U.S. federal courts and Iowa state courts. Hunt is an associate with Dorsey & Whitney, LLP located in Des Moines. He works with both the Patent and the Trademark, Copyright, and Brand Management Groups.

The afternoon session will feature presentations on biotechnology innovation and regulatory challenges followed by a panel discussion moderated by Wolt.

Steven Strauss will talk about the "Impacts of Regulation on Research and Development of Genetically Modified Woody Biofuel Crops." Strauss is a Professor in the Department of Forest Science with joint appointments in the Genetics and Molecular and Cellular Biology Programs at Oregon State University.

Scott Hurd, U. S. Department of Agriculture deputy undersecretary for food safety and Iowa State University associate professor, will speak on emerging issues regarding the safety of animal biotechnology. Also speaking in the afternoon session will be Gregory Jaffe and Michael Hall. The speakers will address issues of both national and global importance relative to the regulation of plant biotechnology.

Registration for the event is \$150 (\$75 for ISU faculty/staff, \$25 for students or free for students not including lunch). For more information or to register, visit <http://www.ucs.iastate.edu/mnet/bigmap/quickregister.html>.

2008 Reminders and Up-Coming Events

- ◆ American Seed Trade Association 125th Annual Convention, Gaylord Palms Resort & Convention Center, Orlando, FL - June 21-25, 2008
- ◆ 2008 ISA Golf Event, Coldwater Golf Links, Ames, IA - June 26, 2007
- ◆ Iowa Seed Association Convention & Annual Meeting, Holiday Inn, Ames, IA - November 17-18, 2008
- ◆ ASTA Conferences, Hyatt Regency Chicago, Chicago, IL - December 9-12, 2008
 - 63rd Corn & Sorghum Seed Research Conference,
 - 38th Soybean Seed Research Conferences
 - Seed Expo
- ◆ Independent Professional Seedsmen Association Annual Conference, Indianapolis, IN - January 20-22, 2009
- ◆ Iowa State University's Seed Science Center is holding many workshops throughout 2008. Including Conditioning Workshops on: color sorting, commercial seed corn, seed treatment, soybean & small grain seed, commercial popcorn conditioning, gravity separation, research seed corn. Quality workshops including: purity testing, germination testing, and seed corn/soybean quality, will also be held. For more information on these workshops and registration forms please go to: <http://www.ucs.iastate.edu/mnet/seedscience/register.html>.

2008 ISA Golf Event

This year's ISA golf event will be held on June 26 at Coldwater Golf Links in Ames, IA. Watch the mail for more information coming soon!

The Iowa Seed Association has teamed up with Asmark Institute to offer you regulatory posters for 2008. The following posters can be purchased from ISA for a minimal price; Agrichemical Shipments (DOT), Worker Protection Standard (WPS), and Restricted-use Pesticide (RUP). You may order the set of three for only \$5.00 plus shipping and handling. Or if you would like to order individual posters, they will be \$3.00 plus shipping and handling. For more information or to place an order please call the ISA Office at (800)383-1682.



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