

HEADLINES

BANNER HEADLINES

- Congressional Leaders Support Partial Deregulation of Roundup Ready® Alfalfa.**
 Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has received a letter signed by 75 Members of Congress urging the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to allow limited planting of Roundup Ready® alfalfa. The bipartisan group supports action by USDA that would allow farmers to plant seed that's being held in inventory while the Department completes an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) related to the product.

The letter was supported by a coalition of agriculture groups that have encouraged timely completion of the EIS process on this biotech alfalfa variety. The groups include the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives (NCFC), National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF), and American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF). Land O'Lakes also supported the letter. The cooperative's subsidiary Forage Genetics International developed Roundup Ready® alfalfa in conjunction with Monsanto.

The letter comes on the heels of a recent Supreme Court ruling that found a lower court was in error when it, in 2007, prevented the USDA from allowing controlled planting of the genetically engineered alfalfa seeds while the USDA conducted an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). A draft EIS, developed by the USDA, found "no significant impact on the human environment due to granting non-regulated status to Roundup Ready® alfalfa."

"The members of Congress sending this letter should be commended for their dedication to ensuring that America's farmers and ranchers have access to all appropriate technologies needed to operate efficient and economically viable businesses," said NCFC President Chuck Conner.

Led by Congresswoman Lynn Jenkins (R, KS), Congressmen Wally Herger (R, CA) and Joe Courtney (D, CT), the letter was signed by many key House leaders. Co-signers include much of the House Agriculture Committee leadership, including Chairman Collin Peterson (D, MN) and Ranking Member Frank Lucas (R, OK), most subcommittee chairs and ranking members, and several others – for a total of 27 committee members.

"The extensive list of signatories clearly demonstrates how important this product – and other goods produced through modern biotechnology – are to American farmers," said Russell Williams, director of Regulatory Relations at AFBF. "Those who signed the letter should be praised for their support. AFBF now hopes the USDA will move expeditiously to allow farmers to use RRA under interim deregulation," he added.

Roundup Ready® alfalfa increases efficiency and lowers operating costs by reducing the need for chemical applications and improving yields. These efficiencies result in an annual revenue increase for growers of approximately \$100 per acre. After seven missed planting seasons, total lost farmer revenue is an estimated at \$250 million.

Dana Brooks, NMPF vice president of Government Relations, said, "As dairy producers experience tighter margins (due to higher input costs and lower milk prices), it is important that safe, beneficial technology is available to improve their efficiency. Such is the case with Roundup Ready® alfalfa, which has the potential to lower feed costs, by shrinking input costs, while increasing production yields. We appreciate the leadership of Representatives Jenkins, Herger and Courtney, and the commitment to agriculture shown by all of the leaders who signed this letter."

The letter comes at a pivotal time, as the fall 2010 planting season approaches. NCFC President Chuck Conner said, "By taking the requested action now, USDA can provide producers with certainty as they plan for the fall planting season and beyond."

Mark McCaslin, President of Forage Genetics International, emphasized that in agriculture "there is room for many different types of products," and that with proper production practices Roundup Ready® alfalfa can successfully co-exist with traditional and organic alfalfa, while providing:

- Greater productivity / improved yields;
- Enhanced quality (feed value);
- Production efficiencies (such as longer stand life); and
- Environmental benefits.

Land O'Lakes President and CEO Chris Policinski added: "We appreciate the support of the members of Congress who signed this letter because it shows their commitment to help American farmers increase food production and provide a growing population with wholesome, affordable food – both here in the U.S. and around the world."

COMPANY NEWS

- Land O'Lakes CEO featured in D.C. Publication**

Focuses on Link Between International Development and U.S. Economic Vitality

Land O'Lakes President and CEO Chris Policinski's comments on the importance of leveraging investment in international development to build stronger markets for U.S. goods abroad were featured (July 1) in *Roll Call*, a long-standing Washington D.C. news publication.

In a guest column supporting funding for U.S. foreign assistance programs, Policinski, who serves on the Board of the prestigious U.S. Global Leadership Coalition, stressed the importance of global economic development to U.S. economic vitality.

"When jobs are scarce and economic times are tough, we can't ignore the fact that the fastest-growing markets for America's goods are in developing countries," Policinski wrote. "These countries represent 40 percent of U.S. exports already, but there are more people overseas who would buy American products if we just opened the doors."

Policinski asserted that targeted investment abroad can create additional opportunity - and jobs - at home. "We can create thousands of jobs for working Americans by developing new markets," he wrote. "This is the time to invest in even more vigorous international development, so we can put more Americans to work by opening growing markets around the world."

Visit <http://www.rollcall.com/news/47946-1.html> to view Policinski's complete column.

AG NEWS

- **Co-op Leaders Encouraged to Share HEADLINES.** Co-op leaders are reminded that HEADLINES can be a valuable information resource for your members. Please feel free to distribute the publication or individual stories (which can be easily copied and pasted into e-mails or publications) with your members. HEADLINES also is posted on www.landolakesinc.com
- **Calibrate Introduced by Forage Genetics International.** Forage Genetics International announced the introduction of a dairy nutrition technology - called Calibrate™ - that provides insight to dairy producers and nutritionists to help achieve a new, industry standard for nutrition consistency. Calibrate™ is a proprietary, comprehensive nutrition analysis technology that matches laboratory testing of forage and starch inputs with optimal, herd-specific nutritional goals.

The new Calibrate™ consistent nutrition technologies will be available through licensed agreements with dairy producers and the nutritionists with whom they work to balance their lactating cow rations.

Through forage sample testing, the Calibrate™ program measures ruminal starch digestibility on a proprietary GPN™ scale and provides more precise information for a producer or nutritionist to balance rations.

Calibrate™ consistent nutrition is a proprietary industry-leading method of delivering insights and recommendations to producers and nutritionists, allowing more control over dairy herd rations. For additional information, call 800-635-5701.

DAIRY NEWS

- **Wisconsin Plant Crafts First Place Cheddar at the World Championship Cheese Contest.** The cheesemakers from Land O'Lakes in Kiel, Wis., are world champions after being named best of class in the Cheddar (aged two years or longer) category at the World Championship Cheese Contest. The entry scored a cumulative 99.5 out of 100 points after being evaluated on categories such as flavor, body, texture, salt, finish and packaging, by a panel of expert judges from around the world.

Kiel's cheesemakers also placed third in Monterey Jack, seventh in medium Cheddar, tenth in Cheddar (aged less than two years), and twelfth in Sharp Cheddar. The aged Cheddar win is a repeat victory for the group, which also received the gold medal in 2008. The Kiel dairy foods plant makes Land O'Lakes branded products, as well as quality value-added dairy-based ingredients for food manufacturers worldwide.

FOUNDATION / PHILANTHROPY NEWS

- **Land O'Lakes "First Run" Program.** Through a program called "First Run" (an initiative that is part of the company's larger "Feeding Our Communities" initiative), Land O'Lakes has committed to donating a truckload of fresh product to a food bank each month in 2010 to help alleviate hunger nationwide. The First Run program encourages collaboration with Land O'Lakes supply chain partners to maximize capabilities.

In June, a donation of LAND O LAKES® American cheese slices was made to the Community FoodBank of New Jersey. For this delivery, supply chain partners have donated the costs involved in shipping.

The Community FoodBank of New Jersey is the state's largest distributor of food/groceries to non-profit agencies. Each month, the Community FoodBank helps to feed 750,000 people via 1,600 member agencies in 18 of New Jersey's 21 counties.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT DIVISION NEWS

- **Land O'Lakes/Philippines Receives Presidential Honor.** The Philippines government has awarded Land O'Lakes International Development Division with a Presidential Citation for implementing programs that have "uplifted the lives of the Filipino people," while supporting the government's policies focused on increasing food security and productivity.

Land O'Lakes Country Director Qazi Yawar Naeem and Business Development Manager Alan Racoma were presented with the award, signed by President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, at the Presidential Palace in late June. Land O'Lakes received the prestigious commendation in response to nominations from the National Dairy Authority and the Philippines Department of Agriculture.

Land O'Lakes has led a range of development programs in the Philippines for the past eight years, which have improved children's education and health, and played a formative role in developing the country's indigenous dairy industry.

- **International Development Division Staff Leads Hunger Debate at Congressional Roundtable.** "More than one billion people, one sixth of the world population, go hungry each day," Zaheer Baber, Regional Director in Land O'Lakes International Development Division (IDD), told an audience including U.S. Congressman Keith Ellison (D, MN) and former Congressman and Minneapolis Mayor Don Frasier.

Baber was participating in a discussion at a Foreign Affairs Roundtable meeting. The Foreign Affairs Roundtable is a quarterly meeting hosted by Rep. Ellison as an extension of his seat on the Foreign Affairs Committee of Congress. Representatives from Land O'Lakes International Development Division regularly attend.

"Agriculture requires technology to lessen the strain on our resources and provide global food security," noted Mike Gerba, IDD Senior Program Manager, in a presentation led by Baber and Gerba.

"This whole question of hunger is a global issue. We need to sit and discuss it together," said Baber. This forum strives to accomplish that by bringing together representatives from diverse stakeholder groups.

Those groups include the International Leadership Institute (which provides civic education programs and technical assistance to developing nations), the University of Minnesota School of Public Health, and the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (which works locally and globally to promote fair and sustainable food, farm and trade systems).